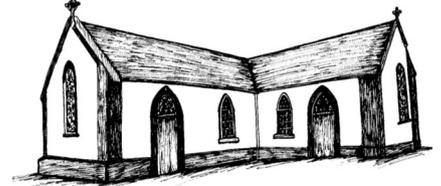
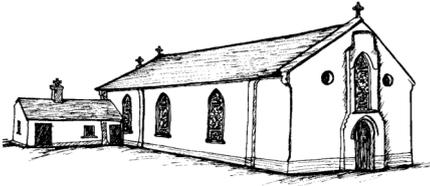


# Kingscourt Parish Bulletin



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Priest on Duty: Fr. Gerry.

## **POPE REFLECTS ON SUFFERING, HOLINESS OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS**

Do medieval Spanish mystics, who are also lyric poets, have anything of use to say to the modern Catholic?

Benedict XVI offered an affirmative answer to his own question at the weekly general audience in Paul VI Hall, during a catechesis on the figure of Spanish mystic St. John of the Cross (1542-1591).

The discourse on St. John, who was a priest of the Order of Discalced Carmelites and companion of Carmel reformer St. Teresa of Jesus, was the third in a series of catecheses on the doctors of the Church.

The Pontiff asked, "does this saint with his lofty mysticism, with this arduous way to the summit of perfection, have something to say to us, to the ordinary Christian who lives in the circumstances of today's life, or is he only an example, a model for a few chosen souls who can really undertake this way of purification, of mystical ascent?"

He noted that to answer the question, one must first keep in mind the "hard life" that John of the Cross lived, and to realise that it "was not a 'flight through mystical clouds,'" Recounting some of the aspects of the life of John of the Cross, Benedict XVI began with the difficult role the saint played in the Carmelite reform. He noted that in 1577, the reformer was imprisoned for six months, "subjected to privations and physical and moral constraints" by the Ancient Observance of Toledo, "which was the result of an unjust accusation."

After escaping, the Pope continued, John of the Cross began to take on "increasingly important posts in the order, eventually becoming provincial vicar," and a member "of the general government of the Teresian religious family."

In 1591, John of the Cross was about to embark on a mission to Mexico, when he became seriously ill, and subsequently died.

"John faced with exemplary serenity and patience enormous sufferings," the Pontiff said, "both as reformer of the order, where he met with much opposition, as well as provincial superior, as in the prison of his brothers of religion, where he was exposed to incredible insults and bad physical treatment."

"It was a hard life," he noted, "but precisely in the months spent in prison, he wrote one of his most beautiful works."

"And thus we are able to understand, "Benedict XVI affirmed, "that the way with Christ, the going with Christ, 'The Way,' is not a weight added to the already sufficient burden, but something completely different, it is a light, a strength that helps us carry this burden."

"If a man has a great love within him," the Holy Father continued, "it's as if this love gives him wings, and he endures life's problems more easily, because he has in himself that light, which is faith." The act of allowing oneself to be loved by God, he added, "is the light that helps us to carry our daily burden."

Benedict XVI also noted that St. John of the Cross, "is considered one of the most important lyric poets of Spanish literature." He said that the saint's most

important works include "Ascent of Mount Carmel," "Dark Night of the Soul", "Spiritual Canticle," "Living Flame of Love."

In the "Spiritual Canticle," the Pope said St. John "presents the path of purification of the soul," and that he continued this same topic, offering more detail of "the transforming union with God," in the "Living Flame of Love."

In the "Ascent of Mount Carmel," the Pontiff said that St. John of the Cross "presents the spiritual itinerary from the point of view of the progressive purification of the soul, necessary to ascend to the summit of Christian perfection, symbolised by the summit of Mount Carmel."

And finally, the Holy Father said, in the "Dark Night," the poet, "describes the 'passive' aspect, that is, God's intervention in the process of 'purification of the soul.'"

## **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord:**

**Jimmy Donnelly**, Drumbracken and Cornamagh, and **Paul Smith**, Wilkinstown.

**Baptisms:** Next Baptism preparation meeting will take place in the **Parish Centre** on **Thursday, 7th April**, at **8.00p.m.** Baptisms in the parish take place in **Kingscourt Church** at **12.45** on **2nd** and **4th** Sundays of the **month**.

## **The new Translation of the Missal**

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** **And with your spirit.**

**P.** Lift up your hearts.

**R.** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R.** **It is right and just.**

**The dialogue at the start of the Preface prepares us for the mystery we are about to celebrate. The changes in the new translation are very minor.**

**Fr. Gerry** will be visiting the homes of **Main St.** and **Church St.** this week.

**A number of people from Co. Cavan have emigrated to Australia** in recent times. **Fr. Thomas Devereux is the Chaplain** to the Irish Community based in Sydney at **St. Patrick's Church, Bondi**. He can be contacted at **0293651195** or email **stpatbon@bigpond.net.au** We remember all our parishioners overseas.

St. Mary's Conference of **St. Vincent de Paul** thank the parishioners of Kingscourt, Muff & Corlea, who contributed so generously to the annual collection.

We once again remind people **not to walk their dogs** in the cemetery at any time.

**This Week's Collections: Plate: €1,441.  
Envelopes: €2,789. Many thanks.**

## LITURGICAL NOTES

<p><b>12th/13th March.</b>  <b>Vigil 6 p.m.:</b> Philip Finnegan, Corlea.  <b>Vigil Muff 7.30p.m.</b> Ted, Julia &amp; James Reilly, Coravelis.  <b>9.a.m. Corlea:</b> Eugene, Martha &amp; Jimmy Boylan.  <b>10.30:</b> Paddy Freeman, Lisasturrian.  <b>12.00:</b> Paddy Cahill. Month's Memory.</p>	<p><b>19th/20th March.</b>  <b>Vigil 6 p.m.:</b> Johnny Malone, Lisnagrew.  <b>Vigil Muff 7.30p.m.:</b> Eugene Tully, Moyar.  <b>9.a.m. Corlea:</b> The People of the Parish.  <b>10.30:</b> Paddy &amp; Rose Reilly, Clonturkin.  <b>12.00:</b> Edward, Peg, Eamonn &amp; Valerie Carolan, Mount St. Joseph.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 8p.m.:</b> Terry, Alice &amp; Francie Kane &amp; dec. family.  <b>Wednesday 10:</b> Matt &amp; Mary Muldoon, &amp; son, Matthew.  <b>Wednesday 6 p.m.:</b> Marie Clarke.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 7.30 p.m.:</b> James Bashford, Rocks Rd.  <b>Thursday 9 a.m.:</b> Michael &amp; Mary Ann O'Reilly.  <b>Thursday 10.30:</b> Lil McCabe, Church St.  <b>Thursday 12.:</b> Brigid, Eugene &amp; Benny Lennon.  <b>Friday 10:</b> Jack &amp; Annie Hegarty.</p>

We welcome the **First Holy Communion students** and their parents at some of the weekend Masses.

The **Parish Lenten Novena** commences on this Tuesday night at 8 p.m. The guest speaker is **John Loneragan**, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison. All welcome.

**Lá Fhéile Padraigh/St. Patrick's Day:** Thursday next is St. Patrick's Day. Mass at 6 p.m. in Kingscourt and 7.30 p.m. in Muff (Vigils on Wednesday).

**Thursday:** 9 a.m. Corlea, 10.30 a.m. & 12 noon in Kingscourt. Please support our **St. Patrick's Day Parade**.

**St. Joseph's Day:** All parishioners are invited to Mass in St. Joseph's Church, Corlea, on Saturday next, March 19th, at 11 a.m., to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph (Funeral permitting).

**Kingscourt Bereavement Support Group:** A five week Healing Programme continues in the Parish Centre at Kingscourt Parochial House each Wednesday at 8 p.m. until Wed., 6th April. This programme is open to all, especially those who are bereaved, even if loss of a loved one was many years ago. You are most welcome to attend this Healing Programme. Contact the Parochial House—042/9667314. **Confidentiality assured.**

### COMMUNITY NOTICES:

**Active Retirement Outing to Galway,** March 27th. Money to be in now! Contact Betty Callaghan, Eilish Cassidy or Nuala Mackin.

**Corlea School Enrolment Day**—Fri, Mar. 25th, 1—3 p.m.

**Foróige Youth Club:** Fridays 7p.m. in Community Centre.

**Daffodil Day:** Volunteers needed for Fri., 25th March, to sell daffodils. Phone Victoria Rowntree 9667140.

**Social Services Whist** Matt Talbot Hall Tuesdays 8.45p.m.

**Shave R Dye:** Wed. 16th Mar. at 9 p.m. in Murtagh's with Kingscourt Stars in **aid of Cancer**.

**Pilates** in Community Centre 14th March 8.15 p.m.

**Shercock Drama Festival** will run from Thursday, 17th—Friday 25th March, in St. Patrick's Hall, Shercock.

**Kingscourt AED** table quiz Friday, 25th Mar., in Murtagh's Lounge at 9 p.m. Team €20. Committee: D. McNally, T. O'Rourke, J. Smith, S. Sheenan, P. Prendeville, P.J. Donoghue, A. Yorke.

**Grow** offers support to people who suffer from depression etc. in Catherine McAuley Centre, Kells, Tuesdays from 7.30 p.m. **Young adults** Thursdays 7.30 p.m. Contact Mary 086/02017198. [www.grow.ie](http://www.grow.ie)

**Stars Lotto Result:** . 3,12,15,20No. Next jackpot €3,200.

**Handball & Racquetball** Lotto Result: 3,6,18,19. Next jackpot €5,100.

**Shekletons** wish to thank all who supported them during the last 160 years of business and regret their closure in recent times owing to the current financial climate. Contact details 087/2521404 087/24291149.

### LENT IN OUR PARISH:



1. **Morning Prayer of the Church** will be celebrated each morning in Kingscourt Church at 9.45. a.m.
2. **The Annual Lenten Novena** will take place in Kingscourt Church on the **Tuesday nights** at 8 p.m. Please note there is **No morning Mass**.
3. **Additional evening Masses** will be celebrated Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. in Muff and on Thursday evening at 8 p.m. in Corlea.
4. **The Lenten Garden** prepared in the Parish Prayer Space will assist us in prayer and reflection this Lent.
5. We encourage all parishioners to consider giving even 30 minutes to **Eucharistic Adoration** on the Tuesdays of Lent. Adoration takes place from 10 a.m.—7 p.m.
6. We encourage parishioners this Lent to **bring a stone/rock and leaving it at the altar**, symbolising the weights and the worries that many carry at this time and entrusting them to the Lord this Easter. Let us remember each other in prayer before the Table of the Lord.
7. This year's **Trócaire** box tells the story of Digna Portilla Amador. She is five years old and lives with her family in north east Honduras, in a small community called La Confianza. The community is extremely poor. Families work together to secure their land, farm it and earn an income. However, yields are so low that they barely make enough to pay for basic essentials like food and clothing. We invite you, this coming Lent, to journey in solidarity with Digna and her family as they struggle for justice, peace and dignity in their community. We welcome speakers from **Trócaire** on the weekend **26th/27th March**. **Trócaire boxes** are available in all the Churches.
8. **Lectio Divina "The Gospel in our lives and times"** is a way of praying and reflecting on the Word of God, especially on the Sunday readings. It will be made available on the Monday evenings of Lent at 7p.m. in the Parish Centre commencing this **Monday night**.