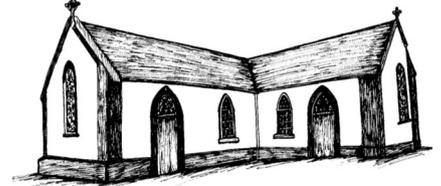
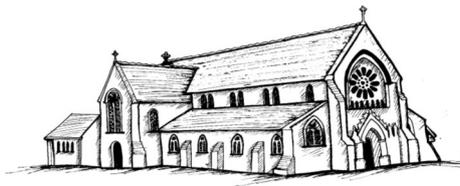
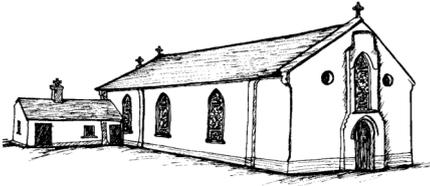


Kingscourt Parish Bulletin



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visit www.kingscourtparish.ie 042/9667314

Priest on Duty: Fr. Gerry.

BENEDICT XVI OFFERS SIMPLE PLAN FOR SANCTITY

Being a saint really is not all that complicated, according to Benedict XVI, who offered a simple three-step recipe: Go to Mass on Sunday, begin and end the day in contact with God, and make decisions according to the Ten Commandments.

The Pope offered this simple guide during a recent general audience, as he concluded his two-year series of catecheses on saints and doctors of the Church.

Citing Scripture and the Second Vatican Council, the Holy Father tried to present what is "the most essential" for reaching sanctity.

He said: "What is the most essential? Essential is that no Sunday be left without an encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist — this is not a burden but light for the whole week. Never to begin or end a day without at least a brief contact with God. And, in the journey of our life, to follow 'road signs' that God has communicated to us in the Decalogue read with Christ, which is simply the definition of charity in specific situations.

"I think this is the true simplicity and grandeur of the life of holiness: the encounter with the Risen One on Sunday; contact with God at the beginning and end of the day; in decisions, to follow the 'road signs' that God has communicated to us, which are simply forms of charity. This is true simplicity, grandeur and profundity of the Christian life, of being saints."

Everyone is called to holiness, the Pope affirmed.

"How can we journey on the path of holiness, how can we respond to this call? Can I do so with my own strength?" he asked. "The answer is clear: A holy life is not primarily the fruit of our own effort, of our actions, because it is God, the thrice Holy, who makes us saints, and the action of the Holy Spirit who encourages us from within; it is the life itself of the Risen Christ, which has been communicated to us and which transforms us."

Me, too?

The Bishop of Rome proposed more questions: "Can we, with our limitations, our weakness, reach so high?"

He recalled the line-up of saints presented by the Church in the liturgical year — from every period of Church history, belonging to every age and state of life: "the concrete faces of all peoples, languages and nations. And they are very different among themselves."

And the Pope pointed to other "saints," who are also "road signs": "the simple saints, that is, the good persons that I see in my life, who will never be canonized. They are ordinary people, to say it somehow, without a visible heroism, but in their everyday goodness I see the truth of the faith. This goodness, which they have matured in the faith of the Church, is for me a sure defense of Christianity and the sign of where the truth is."

It is the communion with saints, canonized or not, that enables cultivating a "firm hope of being able to imitate their way and share one day the same blessed life, eternal life," he reflected.

The Holy Father concluded with an invitation to be open to holiness.

He said: "I would like to invite you to open yourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit, who transforms our life, to be, we also, pieces of the great mosaic of holiness that God is creating in history, so that the Face of Christ will shine in the fullness of its brilliance.

"Let us not be afraid to look on high, to the height of God; let us not be afraid that God will ask too much of us, but let us be guided in all our daily actions by his Word, even if we feel that we are poor, inadequate, sinners: He will be the one to transform us according to his love."

A VISION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Schools are important places. We spend a lot of time in them. This includes a significant proportion of that most formative period in life between 4 years of age and 18 years of age. The informal education received at home and in the community is of crucial significance. The formal education of children in schools has its own integrity related to the stage of development of the pupils. When schools are working at or near their best they are a truly remarkable human achievement. Young children have a safe place to learn and play and pray; adolescents grow into a deeper intellectual, emotional and moral world; teachers use their personal and professional abilities to nurture and challenge new generations; parents, members of boards of management and other adults give of their time and money to support the educational enterprise.

Catholic schools in Ireland are a living expression of a long and varied tradition of education inspired by the life of Christ. Such schools emphasise the dignity of the human person as a child of God called to work with other persons in creating an inclusive community in service of the common good; where knowledge is sought and respected while faith is nurtured and challenged.

Today all schools find themselves in challenging circumstances due to enormous social, cultural and economic changes. In an age dominated by media and information technology, significant new pressures are brought to bear on children and adolescents, on family structures, on religious practice, on community life and, not least, on behaviour in the school classroom. In this new cultural context every school needs to redefine its identity so that it is not just reacting to the latest trend or fashion but that it can truly articulate its self-understanding.

It is undoubtedly true to say that Catholic education is more than schooling. Rooted in an understanding of the human person as a child of God, redeemed by Christ and destined to share in God's own life forever, it is a lifelong process of human growth and development in response to God's call. It begins in the home, continues in the school and matures through involvement with the Christian community in the parish. These three dimensions of home, school and parish must work together if Catholic education is to truly attain its goal of forming mature human persons in the image and likeness of Christ. But schools remain critically important. One of the most notable characteristics of Catholic education is a respect for faith and reason. This helps to explain why such schools are so popular throughout the world. Faith and reason can live and thrive in the same person; while one cannot be reduced to the other they both can play a dynamic role in forming and educating a mature person. The church continues to be involved in education as it forms a central part of its mission and because there are parents who wish to have their children educated in a context which respects both faith and reason. We hope that those educated in such a context will be able to make a dynamic contribution to our democratic society, to the life of the church and to the dialogue of faith and culture.

The Catholic Schools Partnership invites responses to this position paper. The responses will help The Council of the Catholic Schools Partnership reflect on the nature, purpose and future of Catholic Schools. Please forward responses to office@catholicsschools.ie or Catholic Schools Partnership, Columban Centre, Maynooth, by May 16th.

**This Week's Collections: Plate: €1,420.
Envelopes: €2,275. Many thanks.**

LITURGICAL NOTES

7th/8th May.

Vigil 6 p.m.: Pat Hegarty, Shamrock Drive.

Vigil Muff 7.30p.m. Patrick & Teresa Tierney, Coroneary & Patrick Clarke, & parents, Laragh.

9.a.m. Corlea: Peter McCabe, Lisagoan.

10.30: Tom Harney, Fana Rua.

12.00: Harry Irwin, Church St.

14th/15th May.

Vigil 6 p.m.: Jimmy Smith, Dublin Road.

Vigil Muff 7.30 p.m.: Pat O'Connor & his son, Pat.

9.a.m. Corlea: Patrick, Nancy & Michael Finlay, Taghart.

10.30: Jimmy Muldoon, Collops.

12.00: Sean Smith, Northlands.

Tuesday 10: Cissie McCullagh, Collops.

Wednesday 10: Thomas & Mary Gargan & dec. fam.

Thursday 10: Hugh & Kathleen Califf & son, Hugh.

Friday 10: Patrick McCaul, Lisagoan & dec. fam.

Baptisms: Next **Baptism preparation meeting** will take place in the **Parish Centre** on **Thursday, 3rd June**, 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:

Confiteor: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **striking the breast, all say** through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

New Missal

To you, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord: that you accept and bless these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you firstly for your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant Benedict XV1, our Pope, and Michael, our Bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

This is the new beginning of the Canon of the Mass. The new translation brings out the beauty and mystery of the text. The Church is personified through the use of 'her' which reminds us that the Church is a mother to be **loved not a thing to be used.**

Fr. Gerry will continue visitation to the homes of An Tor Aonarach this week.

We welcome the **First Holy Communion children** and their parents to their final preparation Mass before Holy Communion. Please remember the children and their families in your prayers.

A meeting of the **School Chairpersons** takes place at the Parish House on Thursday at 7.30 p.m.

Next Sunday is Vocations Sunday. You are invited to pray for our students studying for Priesthood. The special envelope in your box is for the support of the education of our future priests.

Rosary at the Grotto for the month of May on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Over the past few months we have experienced ongoing difficulties with **all e-mails** to the parish. The matter has now been resolved and parish e-mails have returned to normal. Sorry for any inconvenience caused. info@kingscourtparish.ie



The work of restoration on our Church which is now planned to proceed this summer was outlined in last week's bulletin.

We are now earnestly requesting the financial support of all parishioners in Kingscourt and those parishioners who now may be living elsewhere to make a special contribution to help fund this project.

A number of practical suggestions as to how the monies for this worthy project might be raised have already been made.

One suggestion is that the funds could be organised if:

- 350 people gave €1,000. This would bring in €350,000.
- 700 people gave €500. This would bring in another €350,000.
- 1000 people gave €100. This would bring in the remaining €100,000 of the total required.

While this is not the only way in which monies needed to complete the work could be raised, nonetheless, it does provide a concrete example of how it might be done. However, whatever fund raising method is used, ALL contributions will be gratefully received and receipted.

On other previous occasions many parishioners donated a substantial interest free loan to the parish. This might also be a consideration for some.

We are very grateful for the enormous generosity and support of the people of this parish at all times. We look forward to the successful completion of this project in the months ahead.

COMMUNITY NOTICES: **The Parish Repository Shop** will be open weekends 7/8 May & 14/15 May and stocks excellent First Holy Communion gifts at cost price.

Active Retirement Meeting Friday, 13th May, 8 p.m. All members please attend.

Social Services 4 day outing to Westport—4th—7th July. Booking with Sadie O'Reilly, Main St.

Chiropodist will be in attendance in Matt Talbot Hall on **1st** and **3rd Saturday** of each month.

Annual Pilgrimage to Knock 15th May, leaving Kingscourt at 8.30 a.m. Early booking required. Fare €20. Contact Geraldine at 087/9643884 after 6 p.m. or 042/9378504 after 6 p.m.

The Parish congratulates **Francis McKenna, Mary Smith, Paddy Prenderville, Joseph O'Reilly** and **Bernadette Smith** who won the All Ireland Pioneer Quiz which was held in Kingscourt last weekend.

The Parish congratulates **Paul Brady** and **Michael Finnegan** who recently won the All Ireland doubles senior handball final.

Lough an Lae I.C.A. meeting Wed., 11th May, 8 p.m.

Garden Club meeting Wed., 11th May, 8 p.m. in Blakes. Talk on birds and bird watching.

Stars Lotto Result: 11,20,27,28. Next jackpot €4,800.