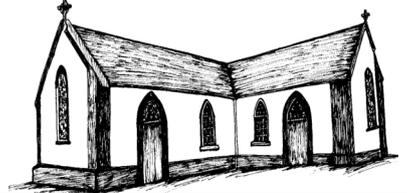
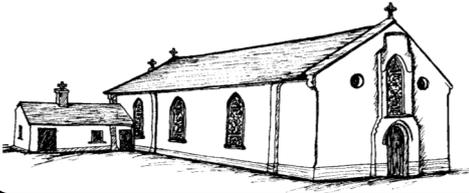


# Kingscourt Parish Bulletin



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Priest on Duty: Fr. Gerry.

## **BENEDICT XV1 SPEAKS OF WRESTLING GOD'S BLESSING**

Prayer requires trust and closeness with a God who desires to bless us, though he remains mysterious and seems unattainable, says Benedict XV1.

He drew from Genesis 32:22, where Jacob wrestles with God. "It is not an easily interpreted passage, but it is an important one for our life of faith and prayer," he said.

The Holy Father recalled the story of Jacob—how he had stolen his twin's birthright and tricked his father into giving him his blessing. After all this, when he is ready to face his brother, he is "suddenly attacked by and unknown figure who wrestles with him for the whole night."

This battle "becomes for him a singular experience of God," the Pontiff said.

He explained: "The text does not specify the aggressor's identity; it uses a Hebraic term that generically indicates 'a man,' 'one, someone,' it therefore has a vague, undetermined definition that intentionally keeps the assailant in mystery. Only at the end, once the battle has ended and that 'someone' has disappeared, only then will Jacob name him and be able to say that he has wrestled with God,"

Benedict XV1 noted how the episode unfolds "in obscurity" with not only the assailant's identity hidden, but also the battle's progress.

"Reading the passage, it is hard to establish which of the two contenders succeeds in having the upper hand," he noted. "The verbs used often lack an explicit subject, and the actions progress in an almost contradictory way, so that when one thinks that either of the two has prevailed, the next action immediately contradicts it and presents the other as the winner."

Jacob asks for his adversary's blessing; then the rival, instead of submitting, asks Jacob his name.

"Here the battle undergoes an important development," the Pope explained. "To know someone's name, in fact, implies a kind of power over the person, since the name, in biblical thinking, contains the most profound reality of the individual; it unveils his secret and his destiny. Knowing someone's name therefore means knowing the truth of the other, and this allows one to be able to dominate him."

When Jacob reveals his name, it is therefore a form of surrender, the Holy Father clarified.

"But in this act of surrender, Jacob paradoxically also emerges as a winner, because he receives a new name, together with an acknowledgement of victory on the part of his adversary, who says to him; "Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

The Pope explained how in Hebrew, the name Jacob alludes to his "problematic beginnings," and the verb "to deceive, to supplant."

"Now," he said, "in the battle, the patriarch reveals to his opponent, through an act of entrustment and surrender, his own reality as a deceiver, a supplanter; but the other, who is God, transforms this negative reality into something positive: Jacob the deceiver becomes Israel; he is given a new name that signifies a new identity. But also here, the account maintains its intended duplicity, since the most probable meaning of the name Israel is 'God is mighty, God triumphs.'"

So Jacob triumphs, but "his new identity, received by the same adversary, affirms and testifies to God's triumph."

"When in turn Jacob will ask his contender's name, he will refuse to pronounce it, but he will reveal himself in an unequivocal gesture, by giving him his blessing. That blessing which the patriarch had asked at the beginning of the battle is now granted him. And it is not the blessing grasped by deception, but that given freely by God, which Jacob is able to receive because now he is alone, without protection, without cunning and deception. He gives himself over unarmed; he accepts surrendering himself and confessing the truth about himself. And so, at the end of the battle, having received the blessing, the patriarch is able finally to recognise the other, the God of the blessing."

Benedict XV1 said the account of Jacob's struggle "becomes for the believer a point of reference for understanding his relationship with God, which in prayer finds its ultimate expression."

"Prayer," he said, "requires trust, closeness, in a symbolic 'hand to hand' not with a God who is an adversary and enemy, but with a blessing Lord who remains always mysterious, who appears unattainable. For this reason the sacred author uses the symbol of battle, which implies strength of soul, perseverance, tenacity in reaching what we desire. And if the object of one's desire is a relationship with God, his blessing and his love, then the battle cannot but culminate in the gift of oneself to God, in the recognition of one's own weakness, which triumphs precisely when we reach the point of surrendering ourselves into the merciful hands of God."

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

**Jane Welch**, Scotland.

## ***Reborn through water and the Holy Spirit:***

**Melissa Elizabeth Laura Byrne**, Cornamagh.

Next **Baptism preparation meeting** will take place in the **Parish Centre** on **Thursday, 7th July**, at **8.00p.m.** Baptisms take place in Muff on **Saturday 25th June** at **4p.m.**

**Lectio Divina**—a way of praying the scriptures, with particular reference to next Sundays Mass Readings, takes place in the Parish Centre on Monday at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Fr. Gerry will visit at the homes of **The Kells Road** these weeks.

**Lough Derg three day pilgrimage 2011:** You may begin your pilgrimage on any day of the week from Wednesday, 1st June until Saturday, 31st August. Cost €55 includes boat fare & accommodation. For bookings or info [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org) [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org) 071/9861518.

**This Week's Collections: Plate: €1,435.  
Envelopes €2,244. Many thanks to all.**

## LITURGICAL NOTES

**18th/19th June.**

**Vigil 6 p.m.:** Willie & Agnes Gaynor, Ervey.  
**Vigil Muff 7.30 p.m.:** Nancy McMahon, Carragh.  
**9 a.m. Corlea:** Hugh & Rose Duffy, Tullybrick.  
**10.30:** Eamonn McKenna & Michael & Bridie.  
**12.00:** Mary & John Sheehy, Cortubber.  
**5 p.m.:** Mass in Polish.

**25th/26th June.**

**Vigil 6 p.m.:** Katie Pierce, Rocks Road.  
**Vigil Muff 7.30p.m.:** Michael Rooney & son, Pat.  
**9.a.m. Corlea:** Bernard & Rose Ann Donnelly, & son, Benny.  
**10.30:** Tom O'Rourke.  
**12.00:** Gerard Lynch, Castleknock. First Anniv.

**Tuesday 10:** Victor Sherlock, Dublin Road.  
**Wednesday 10:** For the intentions of Sr. Bernadette Daly, RSM.

**Thursday 10:** Julia Doyle & Barney Finnegan.  
**Friday 10:** Kathleen & Frank Monaghan, Enniskeen.

**Cavan Ploughing** intend to host the county ploughing championships in **Kingscourt on May 7th, 2012**, with proceeds to the local Churches. They are currently seeking a suitable site within the parish for the competition. If you can help, please contact Patrick at 087 6114259.

**Laragh Muff N.S.** hold their annual Graduation ceremony on Tuesday next at 7.30.p.m. in Muff. All welcome.

**Saint Joseph's N.S., Kingscourt** mark their annual Graduation ceremony on Wednesday next at 7.30p.m. in the school. All welcome.

**Carrickleck N.S.** hosts a school Mass on Thursday next in the school at 2p.m.

**The PPC** meet at 8 p.m. at the Parish Centre on Thursday next.

**Corlea N.S.** hosts a school community Mass on Sunday next at 9.00 a.m. All welcome.

**The Sunday Mass Collection** on next weekend will be this parish's contribution to the hosting of the international **Eucharistic Congress** in Dublin in June 2012. Your usual generosity is anticipated.

**Community Masses** as part of this parish's preparation for Eucharistic Congress 2012 continue this week. The theme of the Masses is "Building Community with Christ and with one another." All are welcome and no invitation is necessary. Just come along!

**June 24th** Community Mass in Cabra View at 7.30p.m. All are welcome.

We wish all Dads a very **Happy Fathers Day.**

**The following arrangements** have been agreed during the period of works which will take place at The Church of the Immaculate Conception commencing **from this Monday, June 20th.**

**Weekday Mass** will take place at the Parish Centre.

**Sunday Masses: Vigil** on Saturday, and **10.30 & 12 noon on Sunday** will be celebrated in **The Community Centre**. Your co-operation in parking is requested. There is ample parking provision at The Centre. Parking for those who are **elderly** or **those with needs** will be available at **the entrance doors to the centre**. We are thankful to the Community Centre Committee for providing the free use of the Centre to the parish during the period of the works. Vigil Mass in Muff and Sunday morning Mass in Corlea as usual.

**Baptisms** will take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 4 p.m. in **Muff**.

**All Weddings** will take place in Muff or Corlea Churches.

**All Funeral Masses** will be celebrated in Muff or Corlea Churches.

**Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will take place at the Parish Centre.

**The First Friday evening Mass** will take place at the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Muff at 7pm.

The annual Mass honouring **St. Oliver Plunkett** takes place in Loughcrew, Oldcastle, next Sunday, at 3 p.m.

**The International Eucharistic Congress** are holding a Diocesan Workshop at Dowdstown House, Navan, on 22nd June at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

**The Parish Eucharistic Congress Committee** will represent the Parish of Kingscourt at the National Eucharistic Congress on June 25th next in Knock.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES:

**Knock Summer Festival 2011—'Fuel for the Journey' 24th-26th June.** The Knock Summer Festival takes place this June in Knock Shrine. The festival is a three day event and there will be talks, workshops, prayer, reflection, music and much more happening. It is a chance to come away and explore, ignite and celebrate your faith. The festival is for all people ages 18-35 and the cost of the weekend is €70. (This includes all food and accommodation). For info contact 0904388100 [www.knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival](http://www.knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival)

**Youth 200 Summer Festival**, Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, Thursday 4th—Sunday 7th August, 2011. For young people age 16—35, an opportunity not to be missed to experience the Catholic faith and meet many new friends. Donation only. Free buses available. For info. contact 085/8289231 or book online: [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

**Our Lady's Hospital, Navan** is hosting an Orthopaedic Hip/Knee 1 km walk on Saturday, 9th July, 2—6 p.m. for patients who had hip or knee replacements over the last number of years. Families and friends welcome. Music, food, fun and festivities on the day. For registration call 046/9078516.

**Library:** Book change has taken place. New members welcome. Membership free.

**Summer Camp:** Community Centre 3rd—29th July, 10a.m.-2p.m. Mon.-Fri. for children 6—12 yrs. €4 per day.

**Kingscourt GAA** present **'The Pitch'** in Matt Talbot Hall Friday, 8.30 p.m. Tickets €10 from Pat Faulkner.

**Tidy Towns** judging takes place shortly. Help tidy up your area. Volunteers required for Tuesday/Thursday nights 7 p.m. Call 087/9638076 for details.

**Stars Lotto Result: 20, 23, 24, 27.** No winner. Next jackpot **€6,000.**