

SHRULE & GLENCORRIB PARISH NEWSLETTER - SUNDAY 7th MAY 2023Parish email: parishofshrule3@gmail.com Parish Web: www.shruleglencorrib.com**Fr. Vivian Loughrey PP**, Parochial House, Ramolin, Shrule, Co. Mayo H91 V2FK (☎ 093 31262)Newsletter (Vol. 27 – 41) # 1,445 – Newsletter submissions: newsletter@shruleglencorrib.comExtended Newsletter Available at www.shruleglencorrib.com & www.mayo.ieAll Masses available on: **Radio**:101.4 FM – **Facebook**: Shrule Parish – **Web**: churchtv.ie**PARISH OFFICE****Shrule** - Parochial House, Tuesdays 10.30am to 12-noon**OPENING HOURS****Glencorrib** - Curates House (Sunny Days), Wednesdays 10.30am to 12-noon**5th SUNDAY OF EASTER - (YEAR A) MASS DATES, TIMES & INTENTIONS****ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, SHRULE - Dedicated 1832**

Sat	6th May	8.00 pm	Parish Community
Sun	7th May	11.00 am	Tony Heneghan, Dalgan Sean McGath, parents Richard & Barbara McGath, sister Teresa Gerpasher
Tue	9th May	9.30 am	NO MASS
Wed	10th May	9.30 am	NO MASS
Thu	11th May	9.30 am	NO MASS
Fri	12th May	7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 7pm to 7.55pm
		8:00 pm	James & Mary Murphy, Vincent Murphy, Wakefield
Sat	13th May	8.00 pm	Nan & Paddy Reilly, Brodella
Sun	14th May	11.00 am	Martin (Mattie) Joyce. Ballymartin

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GLENCORRIB - Dedicated 1876

Sat	6th May	6:30 pm	Joe & Mary Farrell & DM Farrell
Sun	7th May	9.30 am	Jim & Kathleen & Pat Fitzgerald, Mochara
		3.00 pm	Sunday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 3pm to 4pm
Wed	10th May	10:10 am	NO MASS
Fri	12th May	6:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 6pm to 6.55pm
		7:00 pm	Private Intention
Sat	13th May	6:30 pm	Tom Biggins, daughter Mary & DM Biggins Family, Wellpark Mick Toher, Ballynalty
Sun	14th May	9.30 am	Patrick & Michael Corbett & DM Corbett Family

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED & NO MASSES TUESDAY TO THURSDAY THIS WEEK

CHURCH ROTAS FOR MAY	SHRULE	GLENCORRIB
LAY READERS – Vigil Mass	Sean Frehan	TBC
LAY READERS – Morning Mass	Breege Walsh	Roy Cecil
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - Vigil Mass	Rita Davin	Mary Myler
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - Morning	Mary Bohan Keane	Sharon McGaugh
ALTAR SOCIETY	Shrule/Churchfields	Moyne/Toorard

**Prayer for Reflection**

Dear Lord, give me the eyes to see and ears to hear. I know there is light in the darkness that makes everything new. I know there is new life in suffering that opens a new earth for me. I know there is a joy beyond the sorrow that rejuvenates my heart. Yes, Lord, I know that you are, that you act, that you love, that you indeed are Light, Life and Truth. People, work, plans, projects, ideas, meetings, buildings, paintings, music, and literature can only bring me real joy and peace when I can see and hear them as a reflection of your presence, your glory, your kingdom. Let me then see and hear. Lord, show me your vision, become a guide in life and impart meaning to all my concerns. Amen.

(from *The Only Necessary Thing*)
'Following Jesus' Henri Nouwen

EASTER DUES – THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Easter Dues envelopes are now available at the back of the church for those who do not use the envelope system. If you are using the envelopes available at church, and are planning to apply for charity tax rebate, please write your name and envelope number on envelope.



Congratulations to the students who made their **Confirmation** last Wednesday May 3rd, in St. Joseph's Church, Shrule with Bishop Michael Duignan. A special word of thanks to their teachers; Miss Divily, Mr. O'Connor and Miss Heneghan along with the parents & volunteers who ran the 'Be My Witness' program for supporting and preparing the students for this special day in the faith journey of the students. Please remember these students and their families in your prayers.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let the Conversation begin! Parish Groups Meetings

This week saw the start of meetings with parishioners and faith communities of the diocese. A total of seven groupings of parishes and chaplaincies have been established that cover the diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh, and Kilfenora, and each parish is invited to select four or five representatives to participate in this important dialogue. Our parish group meetings began this week and will continue throughout the month of May, culminating in our final meeting on June 1st.

This week, the parishes of Claregalway, Oranmore & Shrule met on May 2nd, and Spiddal, Leitirmóir, Rosmuc & Bearna met on May 3rd. As well as the clergy of these areas, the Bishop and facilitator, Fr. Gerard McCarthy were also in attendance. The purpose of these meetings is to foster a dialogue as a faith community between bishop, priests, religious and people so as to plan for the future. These initial meetings are intended to broaden the conversation, include the voice of parishioners and to discern, reflect and pray about where God is calling us at this time to transition and change so that as a faith community, we can continue to proclaim the Gospel in our communities and world.

While it is now generally recognised and acknowledged that the Church is facing radical changing times and challenges, and there is no immediate solution or quick fix; the hope to return 'things to the way they were' is not realistic or for many, even desirable. That said, the changes that have occurred and are occurring are beginning to create awareness of the importance, relevance and contribution of faith belief and values to the person, community, and society overall.

This is reflected in the various themes and topics which are emerging from youth to family and volunteers to learning from other dioceses' experiences of similar processes. While in the past, and even in the present, owing to the structure of church, many in the faith community were 'passive' in parish life; there is growing recognition that if a faith community is to remain present, the witness and mission of our vocation to proclaim and witness the Gospel will depend on our local faith communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those from Shrule & Glencorrib who made time to attend the meeting last Tuesday, and for their input and contributions. As we begin the conversation about the future, during this month of May, we ask Mary, our Mother, to give us the courage to say 'yes' to where God is calling us. Our Lady, Queen of Knock, pray for us.

Congratulations to the students of Glencorrib N.S. who made their **First Holy Communion** this weekend, Saturday 6th in Church of the Immaculate Conception, Glencorrib. A proud day for the students, parents & guardians along with their families. The hard work throughout the year paid off, and I would like to thank the group coordinator, Catherine Shaughnessy, the parents and guardians and the students themselves for their participation and involvement. Please remember these students and their families in your prayers.



Prayer For First Holy Communion

Thank you, Lord Jesus, Oh thank you for giving yourself to me. Make me strong to show your love, wherever I may be. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay, Close by me forever, and love me I pray. Bless all of us children, in your loving care, and bring us to heaven, to live with you there.



Riddle me this:

You walk into a room that contains a match, an oil lamp, a candle and a fireplace. What would you light first?

(Last week's answer: ton)

WESTERN ALZHEIMERS TEA DAY & LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBITION



We are excited to invite you to our **annual Western Alzheimers Tea Day and Art Exhibition** which returns on **May 20th at the Glencorrib Community Centre from 5-9 pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy tea, view the work of local artists, and support a charity close to our hearts, Western Alzheimers.

Dementia & Alzheimer's are heart-wrenching conditions for the sufferer and their loved ones, and we all need to come together to support them in every way we can.

For more information, please contact Kevin on 0863782156. We hope to see you there!

Calling all local artists from Shrule, Glencorrib & Kilroe areas!

We're seeking artwork in **drawing, painting, print and photography** for a group show on the weekend of May 20th, 2023. **Please drop off your art at Glencorrib Community Centre on Sunday, May 14th, 2023 between 4-5 pm.**

For more information, please text 0868419792 or 0868988921.



Message of Pope Francis for Day of Prayer for Vocations: Vocation: Grace & Mission

(Full letter available in online Newsletter; printed here in 4 parts over 4 weeks – Part 1 of 4)

Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people!

This is now the sixtieth time that we are celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, established by Saint Paul VI in 1964, during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. This providential initiative seeks to assist the members of the People of God, as individuals and as communities, to respond to the call and mission that the Lord entrusts to each of us in today's world, amid its afflictions and its hopes, its challenges and its achievements.

This year I would ask you, in your reflection and prayer, to take as your guide the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission". This Day is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world. Led by the Spirit, Christians are challenged to respond to existential peripheries and human dramas, ever conscious that the mission is God's work; it is not carried out by us alone, but always in ecclesial communion, together with our brothers and sisters, and under the guidance of the Church's pastors. For this has always been God's dream: that we should live with him in a communion of love.

"Chosen before the creation of the world"

The apostle Paul opens before us a remarkable horizon: in Christ, God the Father "**chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will**" (**Eph 1:4-5**). These words allow us to glimpse life at its fullest: God has "conceived" us in his image and likeness and desires us to be his sons and daughters. We were created by love, for love and with love, and we are made for love.

In the course of our lives, this call, which is part of the fibre of our being and the secret of our happiness, comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit in ever new ways. It enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, fills us with amazement and sets our hearts afire. At times, the Spirit comes to us in completely unexpected ways. So it was for me when, on 21 September 1953, as I was on my way to an annual school celebration, I was led to stop by a church and go to confession. That day changed my life and left a mark that has endured to the present day. **God's call to the gift of self tends to make itself known gradually: in our encounter with situations of poverty, in moments of prayer, when we see a clear witness to the Gospel, or read something that opens our minds.** When we hear God's word and sense that it is spoken directly to us, in the advice given by a fellow brother or sister, in moments of sickness or sorrow... In all the ways he calls us, God shows infinite creativity.

Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock

The diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfernora. **Sunday 21st May**, gathering at the shrine of Our Lady for **2pm**.

Bus leaving Galway Cathedral @ 11am, Claregalway @ 11:30am. Leaving Knock @ 5:15pm.

Contact 0877573944 / 0872048497

Or email knockgkk@gmail.com

Schedule of Ceremonies:

2:00pm: Rosary

2:30pm: Anointing of the sick at Knock Basilica

3:00pm: Concelebrated Mass at Knock Basilica

followed by Benediction & Rosary Procession



PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THOSE WHO DIED ON THIS WEEK IN FORMER YEARS

Surname	Christian	Village	Date Died	Age	Cemetery
Harkin	Francis	Shrule	06/05/1918	36	Shrule
Hennelly	Sara	Glencorrib	06/05/1934	82	Killursa
Garvey	James	Gortbrack	06/05/1938	73	Killursa
Prendergast	Michael	Shrule	06/05/1949	76	Shrule
Cottingham	Mary	Mount Henry	06/05/1950	78	Killursa
Naughton	Una Winifred	Rostaff	06/05/1977	76	Moyne
Kavanagh	Malachy	Shrule	06/05/1990	70	Shrule
Fitzgerald	Edward	Ballycurrin	06/05/2007	87	Shrule
Biggins	Tom	Wallpark	06/05/2012	70	Moyne
Garvey	Anne	Gortbrack	07/05/1983	70	Killursa
Browne	Sara	Shrule	07/05/2008	94	Shrule
O'Murchú	Aibhistín	Rostaff	07/05/2008	80	Moyne
Varrelly	Mary	Mohorra	08/05/1933	29	Shrule
Duddy	Thomas	Ramolin	08/05/1953	74	Shrule
Conroy	Michael	Kilroe	08/05/1955	87	Ross Abbey
Davin	Winifred	Brackloon	08/05/1970	72	Shrule
Moughan	Michael	Tubberciaráin	09/05/1935	86	Shrule
Naughton	Brigid	Brodella	09/05/1952	83	Shrule
Prendergast	Harry	Shrule	09/05/1998	81	Shrule
Heneghan	Tony	Dalgan Road	09/05/2021	78	Shrule
Martin	Mary	Shrule	10/05/1938	27	Shrule
Mitchell	Patrick	Dalgan	10/05/1958	83	Shrule
Moughan	David	Cahernabrock	10/05/1961	84	Shrule
Carroll	Martin	Longhill	10/05/1964	88	Shrule
Reilly	Nan	Brodella	10/05/2008	77	Shrule
Flynn	Martin	Old Ballynalty	11/05/1917	35	Moyne
Moughan	Bridget	Pulbee	11/05/1937	78	Moyne
Fitzgerald	Patrick	Mochorra	11/05/1958	82	Shrule
Flynn	John	Moyne	11/05/1971	89	Cloughanover
Kenny	Patrick	Toorard	11/05/1994	77	Moyne
Hughes	Mary	Mochorra	12/05/1986	47	Shrule
Murphy	Kathleen	St.Mary's Road	12/05/1997	83	Shrule
Burke	Padraic	Moyne	12/05/2014	72	Killursa
Conroy	Mary	Mochorra	13/05/1967	81	Shrule
King	Katie	Ballycurrin	13/05/1989	86	Killursa
Canavan	Thomas	Ballycurrin	13/05/1996	91	Killursa
Joyce	Martin	Ballymartin	13/05/2007	80	Shrule
O'Sullivan	Kathleen	The Parks	13/05/2016	89	Killursa
Biggins	Bridget	Rosdaff	14/05/1938		Moyne
Walsh	Mrs.	Brodella	14/05/1940	68	Shrule
Keville	Thomas	Lakefield	14/05/1951	80	Moyne
Corbett	Patrick	Gorthatubber	14/05/1965	68	Shrule
Coyne	Michael	Old Ballynalty	14/05/1965	67	Moyne
Greaney	Margaret	Ramolin	14/05/1971	76	Shrule
Hogan	Michael	Rostaff	14/05/1984	80	Moyne
Behan	Gerry	Kilmihil, Co. Clare	14/05/2003	47	Moyne

Historical SGK (Shrule-Glencorrib-Kilroe) will have their next monthly meeting in Glencorrib Community Centre on **Tuesday 9th May @ 8:00pm**. New members are very welcome.

Galway Diocesan Rosary Group meets every evening at 7:30pm to recite the rosary via Zoom. The Rosary Group is administered by Fr Martin Whelan, Diocesan Secretary and CC in Oranmore. If you would like to join the Rosary Group, just email galwaydiocesanrosary@gmail.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE PARISH?

Readers of the Word; Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Altar Society volunteers, Choir, Musicians and Parish Secretary are needed. If you are interested, please call into the sacristy after Mass or during parish office opening hours or email parishofshrul3@gmail.com



**WESTERN ALZHEIMERS TEA DAY & LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBITION
IN GLENCORRIB COMMUNITY CENTRE ON
SATURDAY 20th MAY FROM 5pm to 9pm.
ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE
WESTERN ALZHEIMERS ASSOCIATION**



In the times we live in, we all know of a loved one (family or friend) who is suffering from Dementia or Alzheimers. It is a terrible illness and so sad for the sufferer. We all need to do our bit to help them and their families. Therefore we will be recommencing our annual Western Alzheimers Tea Day in Glencorrib Community Centre on Saturday 20th May from 5pm to 9pm.

Also on the same evening, we will have an Art Exhibition from our local artists.

All are invited to join us for a wonderful evening of tea drinking, art viewing and supporting a charity close to all our hearts, Western Alzheimers. Thank You.

for more info ☎ Kevin on 0863782156



LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBITION

In conjunction with the Western Alzheimer's Tea Day, in Glencorrib Community Centre on Saturday 20th May 2023, 5 – 9 p.m.

We are holding a Local Artists Exhibition

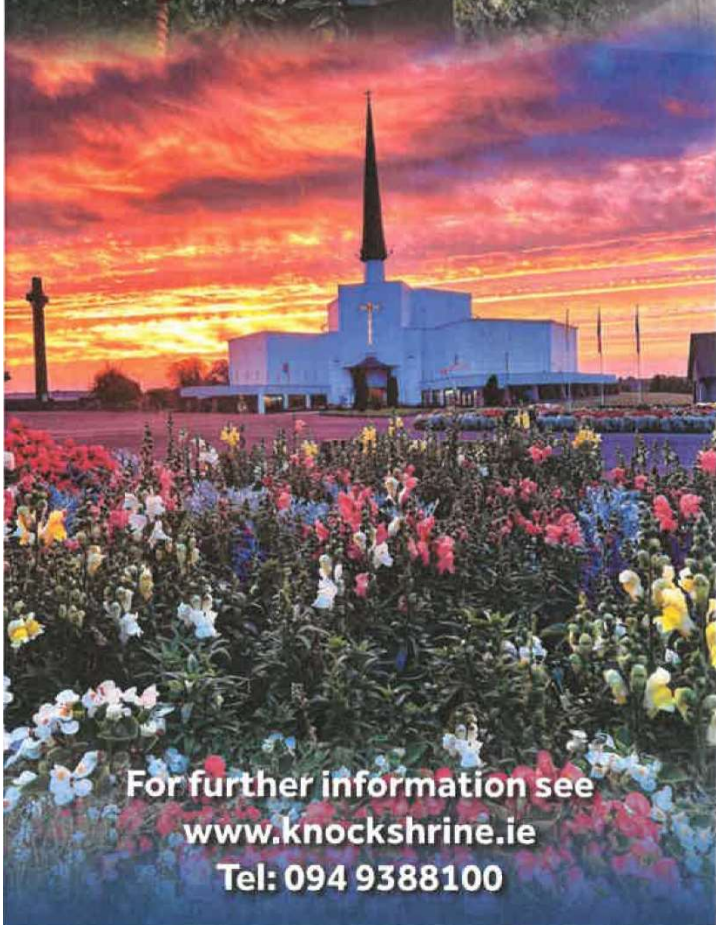
CALL FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

From the Shrule, Glencorrib & Kilroe areas. Drawing, painting, print and photography. For group show on weekend 20th May 2023.

Art works to be dropped off at Glencorrib Community Centre on **Sunday 14th May 2023** between **4-5 pm**. (No works will be accepted before or after this time). For further info via text to – 0868419792 / 0868988921

KNOCK

Ireland's International Eucharistic
and Marian Shrine



For further information see
www.knockshrine.ie
Tel: 094 9388100

Achonry, Clonfert & Galway Diocesan Pilgrimages to Knock Shrine

Sunday
May 21st, 2023



Schedule of Ceremonies

- 2.00pm: **Rosary**
- 2.30pm: **Anointing of the Sick at
Knock Basilica**
- 3.00pm: **Concelebrated Mass at Knock
Basilica followed by Benediction
& Rosary Procession**

**Bus leaving Galway Cathedral
on Sunday 21st May at 11.00a.m.
Claregalway at 11.30a.m.
Leaving knock Shrine at 5.15p.m.
Contact: 0877573944
0872048497
Or Email: knockgkk@gmail.com**

VISIT KNOCK MUSEUM (Admission Free)

The Galway Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place on **June 27th to July 3rd**. The fare is €850 for 6 nights which includes transportation to and from Galway/Shannon. Insurance is optional at €39 or pilgrims may have their own travel insurance. Further information can be got from Fr. Martin Moran, Killannin, Rosscahill, - 087/2508959. Bookings – Reservations – Enquiries to: Joe Walsh Tours, 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2; email: info@joewalshstours.ie

Family Support Drop-in Clinic

Are you dealing with a difficult issue at home? Do you need a friendly ear to voice your concerns? Solas Family Resource Centre in conjunction with Tusla and Foroige are offering a **Family Support Community Drop-In Clinic on the first Wednesday of every month commencing on the 3rd of May. No appointment needed** just call in for a cup of tea and a chat. We will provide a safe and confidential space to discuss your issues and concerns, we can support or link you with other services, provide information and guidance. For more information please contact John on 093-36446 or Eamonn on 086-1713384.

LEGION OF MARY CONFERENCE:

WHO IS SHE? What can we learn from early Irish Christian Marian devotion and how can we love Jesus as His mother loves Him?

Saturday, 13th May 2023, 9.30am – 4.30pm

All Hallows Campus, Dublin

All queries and bookings

to mariaassumptadublin@gmail.com

THREE-DAY PILGRIMAGE IN LOUGH DERG

Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June 2023. Bus departing Renmore church at 7.15am on Friday (pick-up points can be arranged if required). Cost €130 including bus. For more information and bookings please contact Anne on 086 838 1633 or Patrizia at 086 407 3192.

HOLY LAND CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE

Independent pilgrimage organiser James Treacy is arranging a Galway/Mayo pilgrimage to the Holy Land for Christmas 2023, taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, the Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee, Last Supper Room, Garden of Gethsemane, and the Mount of Olives. Full day in Bethlehem on Christmas Day.

Please contact James Treacy at 061 921470 or Email jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com for further information.



Join our Marriage Preparation Team

Contact

marriagepreparation@accord.ie

Accord is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation facilitators. Marriage facilitators are part of a team that prepare couples for the sacrament of marriage. Couples find our courses fun, engaging and very relevant, while facilitators gain valuable life skills. If you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact marriagepreparation@accord.ie or call 01-5053112 for more information.

Word in your ear...

In most parishes this weekend parents will be presenting their little children for First Holy Communion. It really is 'the Feast of the Holy Innocents'. The little children enter into the spirit of the feast without reservation! But this celebration would not be possible without the enthusiastic cooperation of the teachers. The teachers' contribution to this sacramental preparation is truly inspirational. Any school in which I have served down the years I have always enjoyed working closely with them.

The most obvious feature of the teachers' relationship with the children is their obvious care for them. In discussions with the local Head Teacher here this week, I was sad to hear that it is getting increasingly difficult to recruit teachers, or at least to retain them once recruited.

This is a worrying development. Education is a bit like the health service. Even within the context of an economic downturn, the demands on the service are actually increasing. This is a debate that should concern and involve us all.

I obviously believe that there is a spiritual as well as a practical aspect to education. And the teachers play a critical role in ensuring that children learn the curriculum. But they must also nurture rounded, responsible young people who are aware of the big issues facing our world and our local communities.

I was reading an article in an English journal which dealt with similar problems facing the English educational system. Earlier this year 26% of schools had to re-advertise after failing to appoint the first time around. In London it was 44%. Perhaps part of the answer is that if teaching really is a vocation, rather than a job, teachers fear that they might become so disconnected from what they were called to do and to be, that they would rather stay where they are? Today, running a school can be like running a business.

Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944) was a French writer, poet, journalist and pioneering aviator. He received several prestigious literary awards for his novella *The Little Prince* (*Le Petit Prince*). His writings are translated into many languages. He was keenly interested in education. He wrote that if you want to build a ship "don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work"; that will put them off. Rather, he wrote "teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea." That will spur them on to build the ship.

And isn't that what we honestly have to do to reinvigorate a sense of vocation and vision for those called to lead our schools? Don't we need to place before them the reality that what their job is really about is fashioning the lives, minds and spirits of a future generation, cutting through all the administrative burdens which many teachers increasingly face in the workplace - but particularly so in schools.

Last Wednesday Pope Francis released two caged doves in St Peter's Square. The dove symbolises the Spirit of Freedom and Wisdom which the little First Holy Communion children embrace on their Big Day. Freedom to realise your true vocation is a daily struggle for many of us.

For teachers, with the extra responsibilities they have for nurturing the young lives of others, the need to be free to realise that vocation is perhaps greater. We hope you all have a holy, joyous weekend with your families.

-Dick Lyng, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Ballyboden

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2023 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Vocation: Grace and Mission

Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people!

This is now the sixtieth time that we are celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, established by Saint Paul VI in 1964, during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. This providential initiative seeks to assist the members of the People of God, as individuals and as communities, to respond to the call and mission that the Lord entrusts to each of us in today's world, amid its afflictions and its hopes, its challenges and its achievements.

This year I would ask you, in your reflection and prayer, to take as your guide the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission". This Day is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world. Led by the Spirit, Christians are challenged to respond to existential peripheries and human dramas, ever conscious that the mission is God's work; it is not carried out by us alone, but always in ecclesial communion, together with our brothers and sisters, and under the guidance of the Church's pastors. For this has always been God's dream: that we should live with him in a communion of love.

"Chosen before the creation of the world"

The apostle Paul opens before us a remarkable horizon: in Christ, God the Father **"chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph 1:4-5).** These words allow us to glimpse life at its fullest: God has "conceived" us in his image and likeness and desires us to be his sons and daughters. We were created by love, for love and with love, and we are made for love.

In the course of our lives, this call, which is part of the fibre of our being and the secret of our happiness, comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit in ever new ways. It enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, fills us with amazement and sets our hearts afire. At times, the Spirit comes to us in completely unexpected ways. So it was for me when, on 21 September 1953, as I was on my way to an annual school celebration, I was led to stop by a church and go to confession. That day changed my life and left a mark that has endured to the present day. **God's call to the gift of self tends to make itself known gradually: in our encounter with situations of poverty, in moments of prayer, when we see a clear witness to the Gospel, or read something that opens our minds.** When we hear God's word and sense that it is spoken directly to us, in the advice given by a fellow brother or sister, in moments of sickness or sorrow... In all the ways he calls us, God shows infinite creativity.

The Lord's initiative and his gracious gift call for a response on our part. **Vocation is "the interplay between divine choice and human freedom", [1]** a dynamic and exciting relationship between God and the human heart. The gift of vocation is like a divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found. This is the fundamental structure of what we mean by vocation: God calls us in love and we, in gratitude, respond to him in love. **We realize that we are beloved sons and daughters of the one Father, and we come to see ourselves as brothers and sisters of one another.** Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, when at last she "saw" this clearly, exclaimed, "At last I have found my calling: my call is love. Indeed, I have found my proper place in the Church... In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love". [2]

"I am a mission on this earth"

God's call, we said, includes a "sending". There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found. **God's call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!" (1 Cor 9:16).** And the First Letter of John begins with the words, "What we have heard and seen, looked at and touched – the Word made flesh – we declare also to you, so that our joy may be complete" (cf. 1:1-4).

Five years ago, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, I spoke to every baptized person, saying, **"You need to see the entirety of your life as a mission" (No. 23). Yes, because each and every one of us is able to say: "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).**

Our shared mission as Christians is to bear joyful witness wherever we find ourselves, through our actions and words, to the experience of being with Jesus and members of his community, which is the Church. **That mission finds expression in works of material and spiritual mercy, in a welcoming and gentle way of life that reflects closeness, compassion and tenderness, in contrast to the culture of waste and indifference.** By being a neighbour, like the Good Samaritan (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37), we come to understand the heart of our Christian vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to serve, not to be served (cf. *Mk* 10:45).

This missionary activity does not arise simply from our own abilities, plans and projects, nor from our sheer willpower or our efforts to practice the virtues; it is the result of a profound experience in the company of Jesus. Only then can we testify to a Person, a Life, and thus become "apostles". Only then can we regard ourselves as "sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising, healing and freeing" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).

The Gospel icon of this experience is that of the two disciples journeying to Emmaus. After their encounter with the risen Jesus, they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?" (*Lk* 24:32). In those disciples, we can see what it means to have "hearts on fire, feet on the move". [3] This is also my fervent hope for the coming World Youth Day in Lisbon, to which I joyfully look forward, with its motto: "Mary arose and went with haste" (*Lk* 1:39). May every man and woman feel called to arise and go in haste, with hearts on fire.

Called together and convened.

The evangelist Mark relates the moment when Jesus called to himself twelve disciples, each by name. He appointed them to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the message, to heal infirmities and to cast out demons (cf. *Mk* 3:13-15). **The Lord thus laid the foundations of his new community.** The Twelve were people from different social classes and trades; none of them was a person of influence. The Gospels speak too of other callings, like that of the 72 disciples whom Jesus sent out two by two (cf. *Lk* 10:1).

The Church is an *Ecclesia*, the Greek word for *an assembly of persons called and convened, in order to form the community of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ committed to sharing love among themselves (cf. *Jn* 13:34; 15:12) and spreading that love to all others, so that God's kingdom may come.*

Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries. Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small *domestic church* and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops – placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God. **Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness.** Viewed in this light, the Church is a vocational "**symphony**", with **every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in "going forth"** to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God.

Grace and mission: a gift and a task

Dear brothers and sisters, **vocation is a gift and a task, a source of new life and true joy.** May the initiatives of prayer and of activity associated with this Day strengthen an awareness of vocation within our families, our parish communities, our communities of consecrated life, and our ecclesial associations and movements. The Spirit of the risen Lord dispels our apathy and grants us the gifts of sympathy and empathy. In this way, he enables us to live each day born anew as children of the God who is love (cf. *1 Jn* 4:16) and in turn to offer that love to others. To bring life everywhere, especially in places of exclusion and exploitation, poverty and death, in order to enlarge the spaces of love, [4] so that God may reign ever more fully in this world.

May the prayer that Saint Paul VI composed for the first World Day of Vocations, 11 April 1964, accompany us on our journey:

"O Jesus, divine Shepherd of souls, you called the apostles and made them fishers of men. Continue to draw to yourself ardent and generous souls from among the young, in order to make them your followers and your ministers. Give them a share in your thirst for the redemption of all... Open before them the horizons of the entire world... By responding to your call, may they prolong your mission here on earth, build up your Mystical Body which is the Church, and be 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world' (Mt 5:13)".

May the Virgin Mary watch over you and protect you. With my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 30 April 2023, Fourth Sunday of Easter.

FRANCIS

Tuam Archdiocese

JOB VACANCY

DIOCESAN PASTORAL RESOURCE PERSON

The Archdiocese of Tuam seeks applications from suitably qualified persons for the full-time position of **DIOCESAN PASTORAL RESOURCE PERSON**.

This contract position will be for two years. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

In addition to being a baptised Catholic, applicants will ideally have:

- a proven record of active engagement in parish life
- a qualification in theology or another relevant discipline
- an understanding of the role and function of pastoral councils
- an interest in youth ministry
- an ability to provide training and ongoing support for those involved in pastoral councils and in other parish ministries
- a commitment to further training to meet the need of evolving ministries
- a level of proficiency in the Irish language
- excellent communication skills
- computer and IT skills
- a driving licence and use of a car
- an openness to evening and weekend work.

Please contact the **Diocesan Secretary, Archbishop's House, Tuam, Co. Galway, H54 HP57** (admin@tuamarchdiocese.org) to request the application form.

Application forms to be returned by 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 12th May 2023



Tuam Archdiocese **JOB VACANCY**

DIOCESAN ACCOUNTANT

The Archdiocese of Tuam seeks applications from suitably qualified persons for the full-time position of **DIOCESAN ACCOUNTANT**.

The successful candidate will be responsible for, among other things, preparing accounts, co-ordinating the audit process, making returns to the Charities Regulator, overseeing investments, preparing an annual cash-flow and reviewing and updating as necessary, supporting diocesan and parish officials in the implementation and use of SURF on-site and remotely, and certain HR matters.

Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Application letter with up-to-date curriculum vitae to:

Diocesan Secretary, Archbishop's House, Tuam, Co. Galway, H54 HP57
by 5.00 p.m. on 12th May 2023.



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