



**NEWSLETTER** *FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B*  
A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY



18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018

Fr. Mark English P.P.  
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**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.**

**Saturday 6pm.** John, Martha, Susan & Margaret McKenna; Pat Joe Davitt.

**Sunday 11:30am.** Niall O'Keefe (MM); Seamus, David & William Leech.

**Bank Holiday Monday 10am. Feast of St. Joseph**

**Wednesday 9am.**

**Friday 9am.**

**Saturday 6pm.** James & Kathleen Leech, Margaret Gorman & Johnny Fitzsimons.

**Palm Sunday 11:15am.** At St. Joseph's cemetery Blessing of Palms with procession to St. Joseph's church

Angela Cooney (MM); Bridget Carley (MM).

**ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.**

**Sunday 10am.** Billy Farrell.

**Tuesday 9am.**

**Thursday 9am.**

**Palm Sunday 10am.** Valerie Murtagh (MM), Mick & Mary Murtagh.

Confessions: Fridays after Mass and Saturdays after Vigil Mass.



**MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION (basket): ST. JOSEPH'S €395.00 ST. BRIGID'S €235.00**  
**PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND (weekly envelopes): €925.80**



**INTO YOUR HANDS O LORD WE COMMEND:** Johnny Macken, Mullingar

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** in St. Joseph's Tue. 1pm-9pm. & St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:  
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

**TO ASSIST NEXT WEEK**

**ST. BRIGID'S Ministers of Holy Communion:** 10am. Declan Weir, Noel & Marie Greville.

*Minister of the Word:* 10am. Liz Naughton.

**ST. JOSEPH'S Ministers of Holy Communion:** 6pm Jennifer Flood & Mary Gilsean. 11.30am. Mary Briody & Marie Leavy.

*Ministers of the Word:* 6pm. Paul Dunne. 11:30am Annette Farrell.

Thanks to the Ministers of the Word for their participation last weekend in what was an excellent workshop in Maynooth on 'Proclaiming the Word of the Lord'. The new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be commissioned on Holy Thursday at the Mass of Our Lord's Supper. All Ministers of Holy Communion are requested to attend this Mass which recalls the institution of the Eucharist. New rotas for both ministries will be available next weekend.

**CHOOSE LIFE - ISSUE NO. 7**

"I'm so thankful the Eighth Amendment was there to protect me from making a quick and rash decision when I was experiencing a crisis pregnancy. I often think if I had local access to abortion when I was feeling vulnerable I could have made a decision that I would have regretted later". *Emma Maloney, 25, from Co. Kildare, mother of Rossa aged two.*

**What will happen if the Eighth Amendment is repealed?**

The Eighth Amendment protects the right to life of pregnant women and unborn babies *equally*. Without it, Ireland's abortion rate will rise dramatically. Statistics from the Department of Health UK reveal over 185,000 abortions were performed in 2016. When abortion was legalised in the UK in 1967, no one could have predicted that in just 50 years 1 in 5 British babies' lives would end in abortion every year. Similar rates are seen in Sweden (1 in 4), France and Spain (1 in 5), Italy and Portugal (1 in 6).

**Choose Life 2018** Is a newsletter designed by the Catholic Communications Office. Its purpose is to encourage discussion in families on the value of every human life. Find us online at www.chooselife2018.ie or contact us at info@catholicbishops.ie

**All kindly check in at the sacristy before Mass**

**PALM SUNDAY** Holy Week begins next weekend with the celebration of Passion Sunday and the commemoration of Our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. The Liturgy for the 11:30am Sunday Mass in Rathwire will begin at 11:15am from the Cemetery followed by the procession with the blessed palms to St. Joseph's church. Those unable to participate in the procession are asked to gather with their palm branches in the church for 11:15am. The assistance of some stewards for road safety would be much appreciated.



**NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018**

Many thanks for the generous collection given last weekend of €825.

**THE ICON OF THE HOLY FAMILY** As part of our parish on-going preparations for the World Meeting of Families, two Icons of the Holy Family are available from one Sunday to the next, over the months until the visit of Pope Francis in August, for families to take for a week and perhaps invite their extended families or neighbours round to their home for a celebration of the rosary and refreshments. A pack is provided to guide the family if they are wondering what to do! Fr. Mark will gladly attend the house gathering if you would like him to. Please sign in at the church sacristies to book your week to host the Icon of the Holy Family or contact the Parish Office.

**REGISTRATION** of parishioners and their families who wish to participate in the programme of events for the World Meeting of Families will take place after Masses on the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> April. You will have to register even if you wish only to attend the Papal Mass so as to guarantee tickets (free) and for security and logistical issues etc.

*Keep up to date with the preparations by logging on to [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)*



*The Diocesan celebration of the Chrism Mass takes place at 7pm on Spy Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March in the Cathedral of Christ the King Mullingar. Everyone is welcome to attend. Special invitation to those families who have relatives ministering as priests in the diocese or abroad.*

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

At Masses next weekend candidates for confirmation will present their letters for Bishop Michael, which will be presented to him on the evening of the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral.

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2018** There are a few seats remaining if anyone is interested in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 organised by Navan Travel with Fr. Mark as Spiritual Director. For more details see [www.travalue.ie](http://www.travalue.ie) or contact by email [info@travalue.ie](mailto:info@travalue.ie) or call 0469068600 / 1890289255.

**KILLUCAN S.V.P.**  
Tel: 086-0706571  
Check out Vincent's Shop

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING**  
See the church notice boards and diocesan website.

**COMMUNITY NOTES**

**St. Pio Pilgrimage 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018.** Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his receiving the stigmata & 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death; visiting Benevento, Pietrelcina, San Giovanni & Rome with Fr. Michael Kilmartin PP Longwood as Spiritual Director; for full itinerary contact Mary Briody 0876336513

Let us continue with the catechesis on the Holy Mass.....  
Obedient to Jesus' commands, the Church organized the Eucharistic Liturgy into moments which correspond to the words and the actions performed by him on the eve of his Passion. Thus in the preparation of the gifts, the bread and the wine — that is, the elements which Christ took into his hands — are brought to the altar. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we give thanks to God for the whole work of redemption, and the offerings become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This is followed by the breaking of the Bread and Communion, through which we relive the experience of the Apostles who received the Eucharistic gifts from Christ's own hands (cf. General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 72).

*Pope Francis, General Audience, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

**OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018**

God, our Father,  
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,  
One family, in the Spirit of your love.  
Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind,  
gentle and generous,  
welcoming to those in need.  
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care,  
Especially those for whom we now pray:

[We pause and remember family members and others by name].

Increase our faith,  
Strengthen our hope,  
Keep us safe in your love,  
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.  
Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.  
Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.  
Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.

*Please join in singing our Hymn for Lent*

**Forty Days and Forty Night**

Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild;  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted still yet unbeguiled.

Let us thy endurance share  
And from earthly greed abstain,  
With thee watching unto prayer,  
With Thee strong to suffer pain?

