

Thought for the week

Do not lose heart - Continued from last week.

This year, the month of November, in which we traditionally remember the dead and pray for the bereaved, will be particularly poignant. We sense a huge yearning for consolation and hope in the heart of our people. We are especially mindful in 2020 of those grieving families, who, because of restrictions, have been unable to experience the customary spiritual and community supports which are so much part of our Irish tradition. On 1 November at 3.00pm the bishops and priests of Ireland will lead a short service of prayer to dedicate the month of November to 'Remembrance of the Dead and Prayer for the Bereaved'. We invite the whole country to unite in this moment which will be followed by parish liturgies throughout the month of November, reaching out as much as possible to those who cannot be physically present. Advent and Christmas are likely to be very different this year. Advent, as a time of patient, hopeful waiting and longing, will have a particular resonance in these times, while the much-needed joy of Christmas may well be tempered by the impact of restrictions. Pope Francis, in *Fratelli Tutti*, presents the example of the Good Samaritan and urges us to draw close to the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. We are conscious that the pandemic has seriously impacted the livelihoods of many Irish families. The plight of poor and homeless people, and the needs of our elderly and vulnerable, have been thrown into stark relief. The pandemic is a global phenomenon. It has impacted most severely on people around the world who are already seriously disadvantaged in terms of poverty and lack of access to healthcare. Although we are faced with difficult challenges in our own lives and our own land, let us not forget the need for solidarity with all our brothers and sisters who are suffering throughout the world. The courage, compassion and generosity of Irish people during the pandemic - especially that of our health workers, carers, priests and others working in essential services - has been uplifting and inspiring. Let us not 'pass by on the other side', but, in the example of Christ, open our hearts and reach out our hands in response to their great need.

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

30th. Sunday in Ordinary Time. 25th October



PARISH CENTRE

The Parish centre will be closed during level 5 restrictions.

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Love

The Pharisees continue their harassment of Jesus in today's Gospel by asking him which commandment is the greatest. What follows is the most famous verses of the New Testament: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul ... And ... You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' We probably can't hear this enough. Love is the greatest commandment and this is a radical statement. Because this love is agape love, i.e. a love of those we don't even know or even like! It is a love that binds all of humanity.

We cannot separate love of God and neighbour; they are like two sides of a coin; they only work together. If we do not treat others with compassion, then how can we say we love God? Jesus often spoke about approaching the altar whilst holding a grudge against someone (Mt 5:24) and continuously challenged those who were hypocrites. Those critical of social justice movements in the church often say we should not be involved in doing 'social work'. But this is exactly what we must do because this is how we love God, by loving our neighbour who is suffering, who is oppressed, who is in pain. We can love God and love people, there does not have to be a dichotomy. There is a beautiful practice in India of using the mystical phrase 'Namaste' in greetings, which means: 'the Divine in me greets the Divine in you'. Usually this is accompanied by a deep bow towards the person. How wonderful it would be to really see God present

in each other and, more importantly, in those that society would rather cast aside. In this way we are being true to the greatest commandment. *'May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.'*

St Therese of Lisieux

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead.
So why should you?

Anniversaries - with love we remember

Saturday 24th. October: Ballyconnell: Hugh Nolan, Liscolman; James & Margaret Nolan, Liscolman; Donal Troy, Killabeg; Joe Gahan, Boley; Michael Whelan, Kingscross

Sunday 25th. October Ballyconnell: Tom & Rosie Kealy, Red Bog. Hugh Nolan, Liscolman; James & Margaret Nolan, Liscolman; Donal Troy Killabeg; Joe Gahan, Boley

MASS SCHEDULE during Level 5 lockdown via webcam



Saturday: Ballyconnell at 7.30;

Sunday Ballyconnell at 10.30

Wednesday 28th. Mass in
Ballyconnell at 9.30.

During Level 5 lockdown, our Parish office will be closed. If you want anniversary masses said at the weekend masses you can leave them into the Post box at the Parish centre or you can contact Fr. John via email or on the mobile. If you need mass cards you can contact Fr. John. Fr. John will be in the Parish office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings for a couple of hours.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

PARISH LOTTO

Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Results for Wednesday 21st October 2020

€20,000 Jackpot: No Winner

Numbers: 07, 15, 17, 21

31 Match 3s win €33 each - we've had our first winner.

<u>WINNER</u>	<u>PROMOTER</u>	<u>PARISH</u>
Mary Donoghue	Willie Whelan	Clonmore

The Hook of Faith Zoom Conference

The team at 'The Hook of Faith' (www.thehookoffaith.com) are pleased to announce a Zoom Conference for the month of October that focuses on 'EVANGELISING IRISH CULTURE TODAY'. Each session will be led by an expert speaker followed by 10 mins of Q and A. Each session will begin at 8pm. We hope that as many as possible participate in this event for the missionary month of October.

Coolkenno GAA Lotto: Last week's numbers: 13, 15, 20, 26

Winner: No Winner. This week's jackpot €10,000.

Next Draw: 26th. October In Club house

Lucky Dip Winners: Dan Fitzpatrick; Doris Butler,
Brian Rossiter; Cathal Friel.