

PARISH LOTTO

Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Results

The lotto will resume on Wednesday 6th. January.

Thought for the week

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel

1. John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation, and the beauty and wonder of the world: 'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'
2. We often listen to a reading from the gospels. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like a light that shines in the darkness. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most life giving for you and for others
3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world - speaking the truth for the world to hear, like as a witness to testify to the light. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives and words.
4. 'No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him know.' Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God, and to believe in a God who is a God of love. Who, or what, has helped you along this journey?

John Byrne OSA

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Christmas -3rd. January 2021



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Taking Root

We talk about having 'roots' as a way of describing our connection to a place or people. Being rooted somewhere means we are part of that place. When we are ready to settle down, to become part of a community, maybe to buy a house or start a family, we talk about 'putting down roots'. It means we are making this place our home. It is a rich metaphor from the plant world. The roots of a tree or plant represent its relationship with the soil it is planted in and the elements around it. The deeper the roots, the more connected a plant is to its environment. It becomes part of the place where it's planted. We use this expression in everyday language too - when an idea 'takes root' in us, it is something that becomes a part of us, inseparable from our very selves. Today's first reading speaks of the wisdom of God 'taking root in a privileged people'. It describes it another way as 'pitching a tent'. These images offer us a way into understanding the complex language of today's gospel, which talks about God's relationship with us by sending Jesus: 'The Word was made flesh, he lived among us'. By becoming human, God put down roots not just in our physical world, but in humanity itself. God pitched a tent among us and became one of us. It is a connection that cannot be broken - the roots go too deep. We are in God, and God is in us. This is the mystery we celebrate in this season of Christmas - that in Jesus, God became part of the very world that God created, and part of us: 'He was in the world that had its being through him.' We are indeed a privileged people! 'Christ asks for a home in your soul, where he can be at rest with you, where he can talk easily to you, where you and he, alone together, can laugh and be silent and be delighted with one another.'

Caryll Houselander

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

Peace starts with a smile

Anniversaries - with love we remember

Sunday 3rd. January 2021 - 10.30 Ballyconnell: Kathleen Conroy,
Tinahealy; Cecelia Gahan;



Mass Schedule

Mass schedule

Due to the current restrictions we will just have mass on Sunday in Ballyconnell via our Parish webcam

Weekday masses beginning on Monday 4th. will be at 10.00 on our Facebook Page.

Coolkenno GAA Lotto: Last week's numbers: 19, 24, 26, 28

Winner: No Winner. This week's jackpot €10,800.

Next Draw: 21st. December in Club house

Lucky Dip Winners: Roisin Dolan; Brian Plunkett; Siobhan Keogh;
Eileen Mullaney

MENTAL HEALTH BY John Cullen

If people were falling and breaking legs and shoulders across the county, editorials would be demanding an inquiry. Health and safety requirements would change with newly adopted protocols and policies. But when reviews about mental health issues affecting many people of all ages - with the instance of prescription drugs, there are reserved reactions and sluggish responses to this stark reality. One GP's comment is insightful: The patients we see don't really have depressive illness; they have 'rotten life syndrome.' Amid chronic pain, anxiety and social isolated alienation, dependency on pills becomes a constant companion in the darkness of deprivation. The Covid-19

pandemic brought to the surface the need for mental health support for those who were in hospital with the virus as well as those who were front-line carers entrusted with looking after those hospitalised with the virus. The philosopher Gabriel Marcel (1889- 1973) distinguishes between a problem and a mystery. A problem is generic. You see a broken window or a computer glitch and it needs fixing. It is a straightforward solution. A mystery is unique. It is one of a kind that you have never managed before. It has multiple origins and you cannot understand it from outside. You need to bring your whole life experience to enter it. Often it is the flip-side of something good and wonderful. Mental Health is often treated like a problem. But I wonder if it might be better understood as a mystery. The mind is a physical thing - but it is not like a leg, arm or rib cage. Its trials are seldom ones that medicine alone can fix. Such struggles are unique to each person's story.

I saw a graffiti message spray-painted on a wall in London which was a quote from Gandhi (1869-1948): I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet. Perhaps it is helpful to reconsider most of the world's woes as mysteries rather than problems. The core of our faith teaches us that God sees the world - not as a problem to be solved - but as a mystery to be entered into. Christianity maintains that Jesus doesn't fix everything at arms

length of social distancing, but comes among us, humbly entering and sharing our mystery. Mental illness can seldom be fixed in an instant. The language of problem and solution can lead to stigmatising and labelling people in unhelpful ways. Amid multiple policy and community strategies, we need patience and endurance, a sense of awe and discovery to be aware - to borrow from a line - by W. B. Yeats (1865-1939) 'that I being poor' need to 'tread softly' and enter the mystery of our own mind before tiptoeing into the mind of another lest I 'tread on their dreams.' William Shakespeare (1564-1616) fuses mind and heart together with this relevant question: Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased; Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow. Raze out the written troubles of the brain. And with some oblivious antidote cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous stuff which weighs upon the heart? (Macbeth Act 5, scene 3)