

Questions - *A Reflection by Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald. S.P.S.*

I would like to know more about what Jesus did and said. St. John doesn't help me there. Did you notice what he said in last Sunday's Gospel? He said - "there were many other signs that Jesus worked and the Apostles saw but they are not written in this book" What a shame! It would be nice to know more about the miracles of Jesus. I would also like to know more about Mary and Joseph. What were their everyday lives like? How and when did they die? Alas, we must keep wondering. St. John goes on to say that he has written his account so that we might believe in Jesus and so be saved. Jesus too, left many questions unanswered. In St. John's Gospel - Chapter 16 - he says "I still have many things to tell you. But you cannot bear them now. When the spirit of truth comes he will guide you into the whole truth"

It was only after Pentecost, when they received the Holy Spirit, that the Apostles came to understand more fully that it was only through believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we achieve salvation. Down through the years many questions and disputes arose about various aspects of the Faith. These were generally clarified at church councils. We can say that in those councils the Holy Spirit's unseen presence and guidance was at work leading the church to the truth. In each successive generation new issues emerge which demand clarification and guidance. We are all well aware of the issues that are currently hotly debated in the Church. It is not the case that there are winners or losers in these debates. Rather, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church will be led to the truth.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

Ballyfin Parish Lotto 14th Apr

Nos. Drawn 14 16 24 25

No Jackpot Winner of € 10,000

6 Match 3 - Each Rec. € 167

Next Week's Jackpot €11,000

1st Anniversary Remembrance

Declan Doocey, Abbeyleix and Castletown.

Declan died on 5th May 2020

We keep Declan's family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

At request of Mountrath Golf Club.

Mountrath Parish Lotto 15th Apr.

Nos. Drawn 6 13 15 23

No Jackpot Winner of € 19,000

16 Match 3 - Each Rec. € 63

6 Local Winners

Paddy Quarney

Mary Arthur

Josie & Tommy Kirwan

Mary Mortimer

Davy Tobin

Pamela Killeen

Brendan Carroll

M Fennell

Aran Gaughan

Betty Phelan

Caroline Farrell

Jerry Dooley

Next Week's Jackpot € 20,000

St. Fintan's Parish Mountrath and Ballyfin

Sat. 17th - Sun. 18th April 2021 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald C.C. (087) 605 5783 Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Visit Home Page of Parish Website for Links to Webcams

Mountrath Parish Radio transmits on FM 104.5

www.mountrathballyfinparish.ie Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com



Painting: *Le Saintes Femmes au Tombeau*,
1890, William Adolphe Bouguereau

We think of the strength of the women in the Gospel following the death of Jesus.

They were not paralyzed by the tragedy, nor did they flee. For love of the Master, they went to the tomb to anoint his body. Like so many women in this pandemic, they were able to hold it together, to get around obstacles in their path and keep hope alive in their families and in the community. Because they did so, they were the first to receive the astonishing news: "He is not here; for he has been raised" (Matthew 28:6).

The Lord first announced the New Life to women because they were present, attentive and open to new possibilities.

From *Let Us Dream, The Path to a Better Future* - Pope Francis in conversation with Austin Ivereigh

The Celebration of Confirmation 2021

As we are still in lockdown and most of the restrictions which were put in place at Christmas have yet to be lifted, we don't have a lot in terms of good news for our Confirmation candidates and their families. But our Confirmation preparations are still going ahead. – at school and in the home and we live in hope of better days ahead. Next week, Please God, we will be announcing Parish plans to network with our candidates for Confirmation and families. This will take the form of a "Zoom" meetings with all Candidates and families. In the meantime we have ordered a copy of the booklet "You shall be my Witness" for each Candidate. – When these booklets arrive we will distribute them through the schools. – also, there will be copies available in our churches. The link for the Zoom Meetings will be circulated by email to the candidates. – Confirmation Enrolment Forms were sent out through the Schools about six weeks ago. – We still await some of these forms to be returned. – Just to say, once again, If you are a candidate for Confirmation in Ballyfin Parish this year and have not yet returned the completed Enrolment Form to the Parish Office, we have no way of contacting you.

If you wish to present yourself for Confirmation in Ballyfin Parish this year and have not received an Enrolment Form, please contact us and we will forward a copy to you.

If you have any queries or concerns about the celebration of Confirmation in Ballyfin Parish this year, or if you feel that we can help you in any way, you are welcome to contact me at any time. My phone number is 087 241 1594

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and
ever rejoice in His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Trócaire and Poetry Ireland Annual Poetry Competition

Trócaire and Poetry Ireland have launched their annual poetry competition which this year will focus on the theme 'Pathways to Peace'. The closing date for entries is Friday 7 May 2021. This year's competition invites poets to explore the theme of conflict from a local to global perspective. With this year's theme Trocaire hopes to highlight the plight of families who have lost their homes and loved ones to war and are rebuilding their lives through love and friendship. Fleeing their homes, families trek through dangerous territory with no food or water for themselves or their children. When they reach safety, the struggle continues to earn money, grow food and attend school. But with pathways to peace and the support of others, they are able to start new lives based on love, friendship and kindness, and to try and put the pain of war behind them and begin again. This competition is free to enter and is open to young people, children and adults alike, at all stages in their writing careers. Poems in English or Irish, written or spoken word, are welcome. Full details on how to enter are available on Poetry Ireland's website.
For more information visit www.trocaire.org.

Easter Blessing

The Lord is risen, Alleluia!
We are a chosen and promised people, redeemed by the love and mercy of God.
We celebrate our faith and hope in the love of God which has been revealed to us in the resurrection of his son.
The promise of eternal life has been given to us.
This is our faith, we are proud to profess it and to celebrate it.

As we celebrate Easter, we pray that each of us may know the presence, the love and the joy of the risen Lord in our hearts, our lives and our families.

Thanks to all who joined us in prayer on the Webcams and Parish Radio.
Thanks to all who made our celebration of Holy Week and Easter possible by their preparation of the liturgies, sacristans, Ministers of the Word, you in Music Ministry and you who participated in the Liturgies. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Once again, Thank you for your generous support, contributions and goodwill which have help to sustain Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes during these difficult times.

New Secure Built-in Wall Safe installed in Mountrath Church.

Ever since the beginning of the lockdown when Parish celebration of the Eucharist was not open to the public – the question is being asked by so many - where can we leave our parish envelopes each week.

Well this issue has been addressed during the week. A very secure, purpose built - build in, wall safe has been installed inside the main door of the church in Mountrath (just inside the left internal entrance door)

If you wish to deposit – safely - Parish Weeekly Envelopes - Parish Dues, (for the support of the Priests of the Parish) - Trócaire Collection – or any of the other contributions for the support of the Parish you are most welcome to use this safe. If depositing contributions towards the Trócaire Collection we ask that the contents of the Trócaire Box be placed in an envelope – simply marked - Trócaire – and the envelope placed in the new wall safe.

The Easter Collection

(For the support of the priests of the Parish)

- Thank you - We wish to take this opportunity to express a word of thanks and gratitude to you for your very generous support of the Easter collection. We are deeply touched by the consideration, kindness and thought of every individual contribution made to this Collection. It is a real source of encouragement for each of us. We are all the more grateful given the circumstances of our time, and the many individual challenges faced by families. Please know your generous support is never taken for granted. Again our renewed gratitude and deep appreciation.

Fr. P.J. and Fr. Joe

Wish to donate to the Parish using the new Online facility ??

Message from Bishop Denis,

Kildare and Leighlin Diocese has put in place a very secure and easy to use system which enables parishioners to make donations to their Parish and Diocese. As Bishop I know the deep loyalty and affection all of you have for your parish and priests. Your generous response to the many appeals at Parish and Diocesan level is deeply appreciated. I hope you find this easy to use facility convenient for your ongoing donations. + Denis

To donate, using the new online facility, - Go to www.kandle.ie
On the Home Page Click on “Donate to Your Parish” and select Parish

A number of people have asked me to reproduce this item again –
1st Published in the Parish Newsletter in March of this year

Possible ways of supporting the Parish:

⇒ Weekly Envelopes ⇐

⇒ Direct payment - Cash/Cheque ⇐

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable to “Mountrath Parish” - or “Ballyfin Parish”

Please indicate - Parish Fund or Clergy Fund (for support of the priests of the Parish) Cheques can be posted to – Parish Office, Parochial House, Ballyfin, Co. Laois.

⇒ Online Facility at www.kandle.ie (See Across) ⇐

⇒ Standing Order or Transfer directly to our Accounts ⇐

The following are our Bank Account Details

Mountrath Parish

Bank of Irealnd Mountrath Branch Ac. Number (90 18 29) 72 74 7250

Ballyfin Parish.

A I B Portlaoise Branch Ac. Number (93 32 79) 00 20 30 30

Please include your own name as the reference.

⇒ Support Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos ⇐

Sincere thanks to everyone involved in Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos:- Organising Committees, Promoters, Shops and others who facilitate the sale of Lotto Tickets and most importantly, you who purchase a Lotto ticket every week.

We extend a very sincere “thank you” for your loyal support and your unending generosity.

If you have any queries or would like to speak with us regarding donating to the Parish or participating in the charity tax donation scheme, just ring me on 087 241 1594

Stay connected with us. - Parish Website www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie
- Links to Webcams are on Home Page of Parish Website.

