

Fr. Kevin McNamara, P.P. ☎ 089/4044816. Presbytery & Office ☎ 068/49308; Secretary: Jacqueline. Assumption Radio 99.9fm from Moyvane Church. Signed Sympathy Mass cards, Get well Mass cards and Blessed Candles available at Hollys. Blessed candles also available in the Parish Office.

Church of the Assumption Moyvane - Saturday 30th Jan to Sunday 7th Feb - Radio

Sat 30 th	7.30pm	Gerald O'Shea, Muckcross, Killarney (Rec Dec)
Sun 31 st	11.00am	Eily Mai O'Flaherty, The Village (Anni)
Mon 1 st	7.30pm	FEAST OF ST. BRIGID - Special Intention (surgery)
Tues 2 nd	7.30pm	Denis Mulvihill (Anni), his loving wife Tess, their son Ben and their grandson Denis Jones
Wed 3 rd	7.30pm	Tom & Nellie (Ellen) O'Connor, Glin Road (Anni) & Con O'Connor, Glin Road & Birmingham
Fri 5 th	7.30pm	Margaret Sweeney, New Houses, 90 th Birthday Blessings
Sat 6 th	7.30pm	Sheila O'Carroll, Deer Lodge, Killarney & l/o Moyvane (Months Mind)
Sun 7 th	11.00am	Jack Shine, Glin Road (1 st Anni)

Church of Corpus Christi Knockanure - Sunday 31st Jan to Sunday 7th Feb- Tannoy

Sun 31 st	9.30am	Irene O'Keeffe, Kilmeaney, Kilmorna (Anni)
Sun 7 th	9.30am	Mary Savage, Charleville (1 st Anni) (mother of Brenda Clancy, Lisaniskea)



PRIEST ON DUTY THIS SUNDAY: Canon Declan O'Connor ☎ 087/0908949.

OFFERTORY, SHRINES & DUES: Offertory €1,025; Shrines Moyvane €390; Dues €190.

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY: To the Stack family, Upper Aughrim on the death of their loving mother Mary whose funeral was during the week. Sympathy also to Fr's. Joe & Jim Finan, Lavagh, Co. Sligo as Mary was their sister. We also had the funeral of Bernie Walsh, Moyvane North, wife of the late Jackie Walsh. Our prayerful support to Florrie Mullin (sister-in-law) and family, the Cody family, Dublin and also her sister Eileen Curran, Dublin. To her nephews, nieces, kind neighbours, home helps and all who helped Bernie and Jack over the years. To Carmel McGrath & loving family, Ahalahana & to Erin Stack, Bruach Na Gaile and the Stack family, Carrueragh on the death of John whose funeral took place on Thursday. John was inspirational to one and all as to how he lived and coped with his illness. Not only did he give us all courage and blessings through it but he collected a phenomenal sum through his fundraising for the Palliative Care Unit in UHK. He will never be forgotten. Our prayerful support and sympathy also to Pat Flavin (originally from Trien) and his wife Anna Marie on the death of Anna Marie's mother Philomena Walsh, Mallow whose funeral took place mid January in Mallow. May Mary, Bernie, John and Philomena rest in peace.

POPE BENEDICT XVI & CONSCIENCE

There is a new biography of Pope Benedict XVI by Peter Seewald. I like it and indeed it gave me a different and rather pleasant image of a Pope, who up until now, I had question marks over. In 1944, aged 17, Joseph Ratzinger was drafted into a labour unit in his native Germany. In the middle of the night they were lined up still half asleep by an SS Officer who made each of them step forward before the whole troop to get them to 'volunteer' for the Nazi Army. Ratzinger like a few others, said he intended to be a Catholic Priest. He was dismissed with abuse, but swallowed it happily because he was



delivered from the 'voluntary service' and its consequence. A few months later, shortly before the war ended, he decided to walk out of the barracks and make his way home. This was desertion and could have meant death. When as Pope, he came to Birmingham to beatify John Henry Newman, it was a lovely experience for Benedict. The power of Newman's understanding of conscience as the voice of God, guided and helped his fellow anti-Nazis during the war. Without a doubt Newman's teaching filled Benedict with integrity to make brave decisions at the right time. While he had no protection against the SS or of being shot, he was close to God. Joseph Ratzinger was bad at physical games and never obviously robust. Abdicating might have been the best thing he did, but it was undoubtedly brave. It might have seemed like giving up. His conscience shaped and guided him. When one is in tune and honest with one's conscience God can do great things. May the Lord continue to bless Benedict in the evening time of his life.

THE SEARCH FOR GOD

"A KIND OF PRAYER" is a delightful poem by Cyril Egan on the search for God. It is about a man who is forever looking for something. One day someone asks him what he is looking for. "I'm looking for God" he replies, adding quickly:

Don't tell me I'll find him in my heart,
(Though in a sense that's true)
And don't tell me I'll find him in my fellow man,
(Though in a sense that's true too)
What I'm looking for is a God.

Making a five-sense breakthrough to humanity, He is looking for God whom he can touch and see and feel, in other words an experience of God. How seldom, if ever, do we hear a sermon on the problem of unbelief, and yet people are constantly coming to Priests (including myself) with serious doubts about the existence of God! I strongly feel, as Priests, we must surely have some message for them. I know of one instance where a woman troubled with problems of faith came to a Priest and asked him desperately if there was anything she could do. His reply surprised her. "Yes, there is", he said. "How about trying to love your neighbour a little bit better, in deeds rather than words? Put your heart into it. This tremendous advice ties in with what St. John wrote "Whoever loves.....knows God" (John 4:7) Challenging, painful and difficult times, may all of us continue to be patient, kind and loving in our individual search for God:

CAN'T HAVE GOD ON OUR OWN TERMS

"I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see,
I sought my God, but my God eluded me,
I sought my neighbour and I found all three"

That little anonymous verse is very important and a vivid reminder to all of us that we can't have God on our own terms. How we respect and treat each other is central to our closeness to God. In one of his lovely plays Padraig Pearse, God rest him, tells the story of Mac Dara, the singer who returns home and tells his old schoolteacher about his loss of faith. "Once, as I knelt by the class of Kilgobbin, it became clearer to me that there was no God. Why pray after that?" I burst into a fit of laughter at the folly of men in thinking that there is a God. I felt inclined to run through the Villages and cry aloud, "People, it is all a mistake, there is no God....." Then I said to myself, "Why take away their illusion?" If they find out that there is no God their hearts will be as lonely as mine. So I walked the roads with my secret in silence. To which the schoolteacher replied, "Mac Dara, I am sorry for this. You must pray, you must pray. You will find God again. He has only hidden his face from you". "No", said Mac Dara, "He has lovingly revealed His face to me.....the people, the silent suffering people..... In them I saw or seemed to see again the face of God"

In the people and his concern that his unbelief might disturb their lovely simple faith Mac Dara rediscovered the beautiful face of God. Where is your search for God, these Covid days taking you? Are you hurting people or helping them?

POWER OF PRAYER

Abraham Lincoln, the great American President, was a strong believer in prayer. One day a friend asked him how he could afford to spend so much time doing this. Lincoln replied, "I would be the greatest fool on earth if I thought that I could sustain the demands of this high office without the help of a strength which is far greater than my own" Prayer helps all of us. This week please keep in your prayers all with sickness at this time.

ST BRIGID, PRESENTATION OF THE LORD & ST BLAISE

As we enter into the month of February, three very special Feast Days will have a very low key atmosphere this year. Monday 1st St. Brigid, secondary patron Saint of Ireland, Tuesday 2nd is the Presentation of the Lord, this Feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary the Mother of the Lord. With candles in their hands people go out to acclaim Him, like Simeon who recognized Jesus as a light to reveal God to all Nations. This also marks World Day for Consecrated Life (all those in Religious Orders). Wednesday 3rd is the Feast of St. Blaise, which is normally the blessing of throats which will not take place this year. Please make the aforementioned celebrations in your own unique way.

NOTICES

A DELAY IN GETTING THE UNIQUE PARISH MUGS: There is a delay in getting the unique parish mugs due to a big back log in deliveries but the minute we have them we will let you know.