

# Abbeyleix & Ballyroan Parish NEWSLETTER

Parish Office 057 87 30844

June 7th, 2020

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## Trinity Sunday

### Black Lives Matter ..... All Lives Matter

We are seeing now in the cities throughout America, the kind of violence that comes after justice is denied, and after oppression has lived in a land and amongst a people for far too long. What you see on American streets now is a cry from the oppressed. It's a cry from those who have been left out and looked over for far too long. They are exercising their 1st Amendment Rights. We don't condone rioting. We don't condone burning. We don't condone looting. And we don't condone irresponsible lawlessness. But neither can we condone racism and injustice, which has been in the American community for over 400 years, starting even before it became a nation in 1776.

America's national sin is injustice. America's national sin is systemic racism. America's national sin is the denial to give opportunity to those who have been oppressed, left out, locked out, and given almost nothing to survive on for over 400 years in this nation. What we're seeing in America, is a new band of activism. Young blacks, young whites, young browns, college students who are out of school now because of COVID-19. They are now fed up and tired, and they're standing tall. They're standing toe-to-toe with authorities asking for denied justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King said that protest is simply the voice of the unheard. People like George Floyd, who suffered by a brutal murder, have been unheard too long. Millions across the Globe are standing now to demand justice. What you're seeing now is simply America being called upon to pay taxes for the racism and injustice that's gone on for far too long. If society wants to stop paying the taxes for the wrong, then it also has to sit down and hammer out a new agenda where everybody's included.

Racism is a virus that is not contained just in the U.S. but in every community across our planet. Here in Ireland in recent days I have listened to many testimonies regarding how people are judged and prejudiced because of the colour of their skin and unique ethnicity. The scandal of the Direct Provision System in this Republic will be lamented by future generations. It's tolerated by the establishment because of the toxic silence of xenophobia on the ground.

Coronavirus has given us all an incredible opportunity to experience something of the vulnerability that so many of our brothers and sisters of humanity have lived with always. With newly opened eyes, we should be meeting each other with compassion and empathy and accountability. And yet, hate and polarization dig in, and we squander the life-giving wisdom we could gain.

There is COVID-19 and there is the deadly virus of white supremacy. Each has their super spreaders. Science has guided us in flattening the curve of one. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit, She who dwells in all people and creates unity across diversity, will offer the vaccine and cure for the other.

*Matthew 25:35-40*

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me in, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

Join Fr. Paddy for Sunday Mass through the Parish Website, on the Parish Facebook page or on Fr. Paddy's twitter or facebook page. Live Masses and messages of hope are all posted daily.

 [Abbeyleix and Ballyroan Parish](#)

 [@frpaddybyrne](#)

 [Fr. Paddy Byrne](#)

The Parish Office hours for this week are Monday - Friday 10am - 1pm



The Parish Church is now open daily. Please remember to use Social Distancing, and be mindful of hand hygiene. Please feel welcome to come light a candle. The Church is a place of prayer. It is a living sanctuary of hope at this time.

Signed Mass Cards are available in the Parish Office, SuperValu and Clelands for €6 each. Please call the Parish Office during opening hours to leave your intention for Fr. Paddy



We pray for the soul of Fabian Carroll, Farmleigh, Abbeyleix.  
May his soul Rest In Peace.



Public Mass will commence from June 29th.

We very much look forward to re connecting in a safe way with one another.



### Anniversary Masses

Please continue to book loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time with Gráinne on 057 87 30844 and Fr. Paddy will remember your loved ones during Masses and name them as usual at our Sunday celebration.

We remember the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

John Whelan, Rathmoyle (Months mind)  
Eileen Holohan, Ballyroan  
Eugene Dunne, Watercastle

Danny Burke, Tunduff  
Pady Brennan, Oldtown, Abbeyleix  
Jacqueline Doocey, (Months Mind)

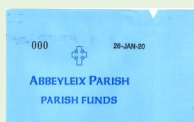


### Baptisms for May 2020

If anyone would like to book a Baptism over the coming weeks, Fr. Paddy is most accommodating in relation to time or any other needs. If you wish to arrange a Baptism please contact Fr. Paddy on 087 9948505 or Gráinne on 057 87 30844



Donation Buttons on Kandle Website: There are now two electronic 'Donate Buttons' on the front page of the diocesan website [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie). 'Parish Collections': This button allows a donor to donate to any of our Parishes towards the Weekly collection or the Clergy Collection.



### Parish Contributions

A sincere word of appreciation to all who made contributions in this very difficult time to our Parish. If you wish to make any contribution to the Church during this time, please do so by posting a sealed envelope marked for the attention of Fr. Paddy Byrne through the letter box of Knocknamoe House. Outside office hours, please post your envelope through Fr. Paddy's letter box. Thanking you.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offer direct, personal assistance that is non judgemental and based on the need of the individual or family.

Confidential Helpline Number: 087 6247868



### Parish Office Hours:

Office Hours : Monday - Friday 10am - 1pm