

CHARLESTOWN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23RD. JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY MASSES: 9.30 am & 12 noon, Charlestown. 10.30 am., Bushfield

VIGIL MASS 8 pm., Charlestown.

WEEKDAY MASS 10 am. Evening Mass, First Friday only 8 pm., Charlestown.

CONFESSION Saturday after the 10 am Mass & 7.30 to 7.50 pm.

ADORATION Monday 10 am to Friday 11 pm.

Fr. Johnston 094 9254315; 085 7789936. E-mail tjohnston@achonrydiocese.org. Fr. Doherty 094 9255973 [L. S. *MCN Media.tv*]

CHARLESTOWN MORNING MASSES

Sunday	23rd.	09.30	Mary and Jack Regan, Lurga.
Sunday	23rd.	12.00	John O'Neill, Barnacogue [3rd. Ann.] Bill Hopkins, Lurga [1st. Ann]
Monday	24th.	10.00	School Children of the Parish, their parents, teachers & school staff.
Tuesday	25th.	10.00	Special Intention as arranged. Conversion of St. Paul.
Wednesday	26th.	10.00	Tom Ward, St. Christopher's Close. Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bishops.
Thursday	27th.	10.00	Personal Intention.
Friday	28th.	10.00	People of the Parish. St. Thomas Aquinas.
Saturday	29th.	10.00	Personal Intention.
Sunday	30th.	09.30	Personal Intention.
Sunday	30th.	12.00	Margaret O'Donnell, nee Colleary and deceased of the O'Donnell family, Cloonaughill

CHARLESTOWN EVENING MASSES

Saturday	22nd.	20.00	Tommy Cox, Lurga [23rd. Ann.]
Saturday	29th.	20.00	Anne Duffy, Killeen, Swinford [1st. Ann.]

St. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BUSHFIELD

Sunday	23rd.	10.30	People of the Parish.
Sunday	30th.	10.30	Personal Intention.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19 **Psalm 70** (2) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 **Gospel** Luke 4:21-30

MEMORIAL RUN:

Walkers and Runners are invited to participate in the Colm Horkan Memorial Run 2022 which will take place on February 12 from 9.30 am. The race will be a mix of a physical run (walk, jog, cycle) in Charlestown and a virtual run for people unable to make it on the day. The 5K route in Charlestown is suitable for families and casual walkers. Participants may also enter for a 10K or Half Marathon anywhere in the world. Entry is now open and intending participants may register by visiting <https://www.popupraces.ie/race/colm-horkan-memorial-run-2022/>. Funds raised will go towards the development of a new all weather pitch to be named the Colm Horkan Memorial Pitch.

CANCER SUPPORT:

Mayo Cancer Support offers a range of emotional supports to people with cancer and also to their families. For further information, call 094 9038 407.

CLASS RE-UNION:

St. Nathy's College Leaving Cert Class of 1981 is hoping to have a class re-union in August of this year. Call or text Marty Groarke at 087 635 0034

SUNDAY OF THE WORD:

Two years ago Pope Francis established the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time as 'Sunday of the Word of God'. His purpose in calling for this day was to give greater attention to the Word and how we proclaim it, honour it and know it. Two great saints from the early church had this to say about the Word of God, the Scriptures.

'*Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ*', St. Jerome.

'*Christ is as truly present in the Word as in the consecrated Bread and Wine*', St. Augustine.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

This Sunday, 23rd. January marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. During this week the aim is to celebrate the unique contribution of Catholic Schools, primary and post-primary, make in supporting and living out the Gospel message of Jesus, the Good News of God's love. This year's theme is '**Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full**'.

On Monday or indeed any day during the coming week schools are welcome to join in, via the webcam, for the 10 am Mass from St. James's Church. The link is *MCN Media.tv/Charlestown*.

Each day has an individual theme:

Monday: Living Life to the Full with God. **Tuesday:** Living Life to the Full Together.

Wednesday: Grandparents Day, Celebrating Being Together Again.

Thursday: Living Life in Wonder and Awe. **Friday:** Living Life and Facing the Future.

THOUGHTS FROM BISHOP PAUL FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:

In Achonry Diocese there is a strong tradition of Catholic education. We are very fortunate to have such committed principals, teachers, staff, and Diocesan support persons who continue to pass on the faith in these changed and changing times. For their commitment and dedication to this privileged task of passing on the faith we thank them sincerely.

Despite increased secularisation, so evident in our society, the passing on of a healthy faith to our children remains a critical challenge to all of us who are committed to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. The current debate around education is healthy as it has encouraged us to reflect further on the meaning and outlook of Catholic education today. Catholic schools welcome children of other faiths and none, they are welcoming communities precisely because they are Catholic.

As we celebrate *Living Life to the Full* in our Catholic Schools this week may we be inspired to change the world by promoting and living Gospel values!

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS:

In light of the easing of restrictions announced by the Government on Friday last, Bishop Paul offers the following reflections:

Restrictions on the numbers allowed to gather indoors are no longer in place as social distance is not required *so increased numbers are welcome in our churches*.

The passing of baskets from one to another for the collection is not good practice at the moment *so we will continue to use the Offertory Collection boxes here in the parish*.

The sanitising of churches after every Mass is not required at this time. *However, here in the parish we will continue to sanitise the church on a regular basis*.

In order to ensure our parishioners continue to feel safe the following items should be noted:

Face coverings should continue to be worn. The government guidelines mention 'face coverings' for 'retail and public transport' However I believe it is still good practice to encourage the wearing of face coverings in our churches. Most people are accustomed to this practice anyway. The government is to revise this at the end of February.

The bishop concludes with '**a thank you for your generosity in responding to this crisis over the past two years and for ensuring our parishes were as safe as could be in the circumstances**'.

I want to offer a sincere thanks to all the volunteers and stewards here in the parish for their dedication to the task in hand. It was a wonderful co-operative effort and I am truly grateful to them and to all involved in any way in preparing, cleaning and helping to make the church a safe place for all.

Thanks to those who so faithfully attended Mass, when possible, during the restrictions and thanks too to those who kept contact with the worshipping community through the webcam.

We thank God for bringing us to this stage and we pray that very shortly this whole unpleasant and for so many, a sad, sad experience will be behind us.