

Bound to Prisoners

With our churches closed over Holy Week, one of the most moving images came from Rome on a dark Good Friday evening. In an empty St. Peter's Square, normally thronged with pilgrims and tourists, Pope Francis, presiding over the Way of the Cross, faced crucifix alone. Yet Francis was not alone. Two small groups, representing prisoners and healthcare workers, assisted him by taking turns to carry the cross between the stations. In addition, Francis asked fourteen people – prisoners, guards, and the chaplain – from Due Palazzi prion in Padua, an area badly affected by COVID-19, to write meditations for each station. Francis sought to remind the world of the desperation of many prisoners but also the faith, hope and love which can flower in prison. Stories of imprisonment are central throughout the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. Foundational to the Christian story is the arraignment, imprisonment, and public execution of prisoner Jesus, son of Mary. We can see, then, why those in prison have been central to Francis' ministry since he was elected to the papacy. Just two weeks after his election, Francis celebrated Holy Thursday Mass in a youth detention facility in Room. He washed and kissed the feet of twelve young inmates, including two girls and two Muslims. Francis' chosen site was a place of detention, not the usual Lateran Basilica. This Holy Thursday ritual has become a feature of his papacy. Prisoners Week is an opportunity for Christians to pray for the needs of prisoners. It had its beginnings as a Roman Catholic initiative started by Bishop Victor Guazzelli over forty years ago but has quickly been adopted by all the churches. In Ireland, prisons have developed into a catch-all for the future of wider social policy. People who need mental health treatment are to be found in Irish prisons.

For example, as much as 10 per cent of the prison population at any one time require a secure placement for serious, mental illnesses or disorders. Rather than treat them, we have offered them public payment of fines almost doubled. This mostly happens because people simply don't have money. Almost one in every four people committed for fine non-payment is female. While Travellers make up 0.7 per cent of the population, about 20 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men in prison are Travellers. If you are poor, mentally unwell or socially marginalised, our courts will treat you differently then if you are wealthy and connected. This is not justice. If the consequences of poverty are marginalisation is imprisonment, there is no hope for improvement. Before we can even talk about the rehabilitation of the prisoner, we must first address the rehabilitation of a society that prescribes such a harsh treatment to its most vulnerable. Pope Francis addressed this when he said: '... a conviction has spread that through public punishment the most disparate social problems can be resolved, as if for the most diverse illnesses the very same medicine is recommended.' The theme for Prisoners Week, which begins with Prisoner Sunday on 11th Oct, is 'United in Lockdown'. Many of us joked that our quarantine period was as bad as a spell in prison, but those humorous comments are not realistic. Reflecting on the meditations from prison in an empty St. Peter's Square, Francis said that they made him feel 'like the brother of those who made mistakes and those who accept to stand beside them'. This Prisoners Week, may we stand side by side with them in prayer.

- Keith Adams, Jesuit Centre, Dublin

Community Help – Helen Kilfeather 0872069310

Hi everyone, hope everybody is minding themselves, I know it's a difficult time we are all going through, but we will get through this. Times like these make us appreciate what we have and who is in our lives and we should be thankful for being here. I have been lucky in what I have and feel I need to do something for those who are struggling so I am putting this out there and if ye can help in any small way thank you. Families are under pressure especially this time of the year and the arrival of Santa in the next few weeks so I'm looking for donations of new toys and new children's clothing any age (not worn), even if you could donate something new for mums and dads (hope you understand they need to be new due to COVID) I will be giving them to local charity in Sligo. Thank you.

Parish of Ahamlish and Inishmurray *Grange ♦ Cliffoney ♦ Mullaghmore*



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32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Prisoners Sunday

“We want you to be quite certain about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope.”

1 Thess 4: 13

Visit us on [ahamlish.com](http://www.ahamlish.com)

&

Ahamlish Parish Sligo Facebook Page.

Join us every Sunday at 12 noon for Mass through our FB Page

Caring for our Common Home: Coming together with *Laudato Si* (Pope Francis' letter to the world on the environment) With presenter Ms Jane Mellett, *Laudato Si* Officer, *Trócaire*.

1. Connection: The Big Picture of the Web of Life. February 16th
2. Action: Getting down to Working for our Future. February 23rd

These four evenings will explore the climate crisis: the science, the spirituality and some of the solutions. A short presentation will be followed by questions and a facilitated discussion. February 16, 23. 7.30 – 8.30pm via Zoom. Co-hosted by the Galilee Spirituality Centre, Pastoral & Faith Development Services (Diocese of Elphin) and *Trócaire*. Details, bookings, link: info@galilee.ie

Accord – Relationship Counselling

Accord is open for relationship counselling in these difficult times. Professional Counsellors are available to help explore any difficulties you may have in your relationship in a safe and friendly atmospheres. Please contact Ann at 071-9145641 for more information. All HSE guidelines observed for Counselling.

All our Churches are open daily, so your very welcome to come pray. Always sanitise your hands as you enter and exit. Keep your distance and wear a mask.

God still calls.

This year we have seen:

- Four ordinations to the Diocesan Priesthood
- Eight ordinations to the Permanent Diaconate (with another two to be re-scheduled once COVID Level 5 restrictions are eased)
- Thirteen new students commencing study for the priesthood between Maynooth and Propaedeutic Programs in Spain.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

The Lord is Our Hope – A Pastoral Message from Bishop Kevin

“It has been, without doubt a very difficult and stressful year. Many people have lost loved ones and a great many more have been sick. I want you to know that you are always in my prayers and that, all over the Diocese, people are praying for you every day”. Read Bishop Kevin’s message in full on www.elphindiocese.ie

The Vocational Mission of our Catholic Schools

The mission of the school is to support the mission of parents, not to replace them. If Catholic schools are faithful to their ethos, then everything they do will be about helping every young person to see life as a gift from God and to consider how he or she can use their particular gifts in the service of God and of humanity. In that context there should be nothing unusual about suggesting that some of them may be called to priesthood or religious life.

Bishop Kevin Doran – Discipleship and Mission In Changing Times (Pastoral Letter 2020)

Farewell

We would like to thank our neighbours at Muninane and Newtownward for their kindness over the years especially to Jim and Maura O.Boyle for the use of their home during the sale of the house at Newtownward. As we are leaving the Grange area we would like to say good bye take care of yourselves and each other. Love always Teresa Regan and family Newtownward.

Masses Grange

Sun 8 th Nov	12.00	Rose Mullarkey (7 th Anniversary)
Sun 15 th Nov	12.00 On Facebook on Ahamlish Parish Sligo	John Bruen, Streedagh Charles Lafferty Nana Kilfeather (11 th Anniversary) Gerry + Nancy Gilmartin Deceased of the Coyne + McCann Families Danny O’Connor, Ballyscannell (17 th Anniversary) Jerry + Mary Lalor, Mick + Margaret Dillon, Timahoe, Laois
ALTAR SOCIETY	November:	Christina McGarry, Eileen McGowan, June Wolfe, Una Brennan
Sunday Collection:	€490	<i>Missions: €35</i> <i>Cliffoney Collection: €675</i> <i>Missions: €50</i>

Please remember in your prayers:

Frances Currid (nee McGowan) 1937 – 2020 Weston, Ma. + formerly Valley Stream, NY, USA died Nov 4th. Frances was the daughter of the late Michael + Frances (Staff) McGowan of Brooklyn, NY. Frances graduated from Bushwick High School, and valedictorian of the Class of 1954. Graduate of Brooklyn College. Taught elementary school + retired in 1990, 48 married to Bernard P. Currid who died on 31/12/2016. Survived by her 3 children, daughter Kathleen (Currid) Zanetti, a son-in-law Henry Zanetti of Willington Park, NY, son Brian Currid + son-in-law Wilhelm Werthern, Berlin, Germany and son Kevin B. Currid + daughter-in-law Jennifer Perrigo of Newton. Four grandchildren Raffella + Michael Zanetti + Grace + William Currid.
Funeral Mass at Corpus Christi Church, Newton at Nov 9th. Burial in Newton Cemetery. Bernie + Frances met at a dance in Grange Hall while on holiday with their grandparents in Grange. Funeral Mass online at ccsbparish.org.

Thanks for your donations which I really appreciate at the difficult time for many people. You can continue to give in the usual way or on at ahamlish.com or by direct debit or by handing it in to through the letter box, parochial house, Grange.

Pope’s Intention For November – Artificial Intelligence

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

Sunday 8th November - 32nd Sunday

Prayer: That those called to serve the Lord and His people as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life will be blessed with holy zeal in their calling to preach the gospel in every season.
Lord Hear Us

Thought: I believe that if God finds a person more useless than me, He will do even greater things through her because this work is His. -Mother Teresa

Star of The Sea Centre Mullaghmore

Due to the introduction of Level -5 Restrictions, all events scheduled to take place in Star Of The Sea Centre, Mullaghmore, from Wednesday 21st October to Wednesday 2nd December, inclusive, have being postponed until further notice. Please contact Louise or Frank for more information on 071 9176722.

November Masses for the Dead

As normal, I offer six Masses during the month of November for all those on the list of the dead. The list + envelopes can be obtained in each church porch.