

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ROSCOMMON

PARISH NEWSLETTER

13th January 2019



As Jesus was baptised the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven.

The Baptism of the Lord.

‘Baptism barrier’ is a word combination that has taken on the character of a weapon in the so-called battle for children’s enrolment in primary schools. Infant Baptism is referred to as a form of ‘religious conscription’ and ‘flouts human rights’ is another issue in the news. There are people who follow the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and prepare for adult baptism. While it is important to accommodate the diversity of views, it is also necessary to give expression to our own religious traditions, rituals and customs. People of faith are too easily and unfairly dismissed as intolerant, out of step, unenlightened, irrelevant and narrow minded. The rights of all, including people of religious faith require respect. This is what pluralism is about. While the State is the principal funder of education, this does not permit it to fund education in a manner that violates people’s rights to express and exercise their hard won religious freedom.

Baptism brings with it responsibilities. It is here we need the Holy Spirit to hand on the faith as none of us can do this alone. Sharing faith is a grace of the Holy Spirit and it is the main reason that parents freely choose to bring their children for baptism, so that they may receive the Holy Spirit who mysteriously dwells in their hearts and in the gift that is the life and love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Faith is best transmitted and ‘handed on’ through the example of parents and family members with the emphasis on the local dialect that is the accent of the language of love in your home as a family. The school and the parish are in partnership with the home in this mission.

Jesus himself said: **LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME. DO NOT STOP THEM.**

Parents, over many generations have responded to this invitation.

It is a small but significant ‘epiphany’ that enables parents and families to see

‘the heavens opened’ in the splash and downpour of grace.

Baptism reveals God’s single loving heart that beats with love.

Each one is called by name to hear: **“You are beloved, you are my delight.”**

Every Baptism is a call to live and love forever.....

John Cullen.

Mass Intentions for the coming week:

MONDAY	8 am	No Morning Mass
	10 am	Deceased members of the Legion of Mary
TUESDAY	8 am	No Morning Mass
	10 am	Dennis Doran & deceased family members
WEDNESDAY	8 am	No Morning Mass
	10 am	Paddy & Bridie Lydon
THURSDAY	8 am	No Morning Mass
	10 am	Padre Pio Mass for Peace
FRIDAY	8 am	No Morning Mass
	10 am	Seamus Cahill
SATURDAY	10 am	Pauline & Tom Mullen



We also remember Mary, Katie & Peter McDermott, Bridget Neilan & deceased family members, Brian Gerard Mongan, Patrick Mongan & deceased family members, & Thomas Horan whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Building WALLS of division:

We begin the New Year with a Government shutdown in the USA over the building of a wall to keep migrants and displaced people from entering the country. This is in stark contrast to the message engraved on the Statue of Liberty: *“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.”*

Building walls is an ancient tactic. The walls of Jericho bring us back to the Book of Joshua in the Bible. The Wailing Wall in Jerusalem is a sacred place for Jews, Muslims and Christians. The Romans built what is known as Hadrian’s Wall in the year 122 as a defensive military post in the North of England. It is a popular tourist site today! The Great Wall of China dates back to the Ming Dynasty of 1300. The North Koreans built a militarised zone across the Korean peninsula to separate the North from the South of the country. The Berlin Wall was toppled in 1990, but it was a barrier that divided East and West Germany for years. The Israelis built a massive wall (700 km) as a security defence in 2000, which to this day divides Palestine and leaves Palestinians without a homeland.

Jakelin Caal died at the age of 7 on 8th December. Felipe Alonzo Gomez died at the age of 8 on Christmas Eve. Both were from Guatemala and were in custody of the US Border Patrol. These deaths are the result of a systematic set of policies to make life for asylum seekers difficult and unbearable. It is a shameful assault on human dignity.

It seems that we have not learned that WALLS divide people. Respecting the rights of people is paramount to eliminating the cause of enforced migration. An honest dialogue is the only response to the migration issue. WALLS ARE NOT THE ANSWER. As we begin 2019 our world needs to choose courage over cowardice and decency over despair.

John Cullen

Parish Youth Ministry Leadership Training Course: The Diocese of Elphin is planning to run a Parish Youth Ministry Leadership Training Course in order to offer parishes the opportunity to have trained parish volunteers who will be in a position to support their priest and parish with youth and young adult ministry. As part of the promotion process there will be two Information Sessions for those interested, as well as Priests and Parish Pastoral Council Members. The details for these sessions are as follows:

Tuesday 29th January 2019 in Summerhill College Sligo at 7:30pm

or

Thursday 31st January 2019 in Abbey Hotel Roscommon at 7:30pm

If you are interested please come along to one of these sessions and also let your parish priest know. For further information please contact: Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, t: 087 9880690, e: frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2019.**

**CONFIRMATION**

- **Saturday 23rd March @ 11 a.m.**

**FIRST CONFESSION:**

**Gaelscoil**

- **Thursday 7th March @ 6 pm.**

**St. Coman's Wood Primary School**

- **Thursday 14th March @ 7 pm.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:**

**Gaelscoil**

- **Saturday 11th May @ 11 a.m.**

**St. Coman's Wood Primary School**

- **Saturday 18th May @ 11 a.m.**

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Gaelscoil de hÍde – Open Morning

Gaelscoil de hÍde will be hosting an open morning on Saturday, 26th January from 11a.m. – 1p.m. There will be a formal address by the principal at 11:30a.m.

Parents of children considering enrolling in the school for September 2019 or 2020 are very welcome to attend along with their children. Come and see what Gaelscoil de hÍde has to offer your child. Fáilte roimh gach duine.'



BLOOD DONOR CLINIC On **Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th January 2019**, from 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm IN THE ABBEY HOTEL, ROSCOMMON. (HELP ENSURE ESSENTIAL BLOOD SUPPLIES ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE BY GIVING BLOOD REGULARLY). DONOR LINE: **1850 731 137.**

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*'Beware of half-truths. You may have got hold of the wrong half.'*

**ALTAR SOCIETY: Group iii is scheduled for the coming week.**

**Lunch for Retired Nurses,** Roscommon Branch, will take place on Tuesday the 15th of January at 1.00 pm in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon. Please contact Teresa on 0861272390 or Kathleen on 0872980982 to confirm your attendance as the Hotel will require a number for those having lunch.



**Physio pilates** returns 6 week term...

Monday 14th Jan in Dale Centre Derrane @9:30am. Thursday 17th in Quad youth Centre Roscommon @ 9:30am. To book call 0872238237

**Sean N6s Dancing Classes** (for all ages and levels of ability) commence Friday, January 18th at 8pm in Hannon's Hotel, Roscommon. For more info call Rian Biesty on 0862124423

**Grinds: Maths, Business, Accounting, LCVP & Ag.Science.**  
**Contact: 087-6222147**

**Traditional Music Classes:** The long-standing traditional music classes, run by Roscommon Town Branch of Comhaltas, continue on Monday nights in the Dr. Hyde Centre from 6.30pm. Further info from Bill at 086-3345 817.

TEN THINGS **GOD** WANTS YOU TO REMEMBER.....

I will give you rest.  
I will bless you.  
I will strengthen you.  
I will provide for you.  
I will answer you.  
I will be with you.  
I believe in you.  
I love you.  
I call you by name.  
I will never forget you.

*John Cullen*

**Sunday's Offertory Collection: €3,281.00**

Thank You