

Ferbane Parish Bulletin

Sunday 15th August 2021

The Assumption

Fr. Peter Burke - (090) 6454380 • Fr. Michael Morris - (090) 6454309 • www.ferbaneparish.ie

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, FERBANE

SATURDAY 14th AUGUST - 7pm

SUNDAY 15th AUGUST - 11am

1. John & Molly Maher, Delvin Park.
2. Celine O'Byrne & dec'd members of the O'Byrne family; John Cunningham & dec'd members of the Cunningham family.

Mon. 16th: 10am

Tues. 17th: 10am

Wed. 18th: 10am - People's Mass.

Thurs. 19th: 10am

Fri. 20th: 10am

Sat. 21st: 10am

SATURDAY 21st AUGUST - 7pm

1. Christy Devery and deceased family members.

SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST - 11am

1. Frank Grogan (1st A).
2. Tommy Cooney, Athlone Road (6th A).

SS. PATRICK & SARAN, HIGH STREET

SUNDAY 15th AUGUST - 12 noon

1. Jimmy Cox.
2. Fr. John Sugrue (9th A), his parents Michael & Josephine, his nephew John & niece Emer and deceased relatives.
3. Tom Claffey, Lislooney (Months Mind).

SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST - 12 noon

1. Eddie Connaughton (Months Mind).
2. Oliver Coleman (Months Mind).

ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT, BOORA

SUNDAY 15th AUGUST - 9.30am

SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST - 9.30am

1. Michael Rosney and deceased family members.

MASSES - All ceremonies can be heard on 106.5FM Parish Radio. All our weekday and weekend Masses can now be viewed on our livestream link www.ferbaneparish.ie. Parish bulletin is available on www.ferbaneparish.ie.

COLLECTIONS - Offertory and Shrine = €2,160. We deeply appreciate your continuing generosity at this difficult time. If you wish to offer financial support to the Church by electronic transfer our bank details are as follows:- **BIC:** ULSB IE 2D. **IBAN:** IE28 ULSB 9857 2021 5400 50. Please note your box number or your name when transferring money.

DEATHS - Please pray for the repose of the souls of Clare Higgins, Ballyvora, Ferbane who died in Wales and Peter Horan, Gallen View. RIP.

TISARAN CEMETERY - Blessing of graves online after 12 noon Mass today, 15th August.

GOOD LUCK - To Cathal Flynn, Darragh Flynn, Harry Balsiger and the Offaly Under 20 team as they go for glory in the All-Ireland Final in Croke Park today.

GALLEN UNITED - *Lotto Draw* (Prize fund €19,200 = Jackpot €9,200; Star Prize €10,000). Winning numbers in last week's draw 8, 10, 16, 23. Bonus 4. No jackpot winner. No match 3 winner. Two book prizes. Next draw on Tues, 17th August.

FERBANE G.A.A. - *Lotto*: Winning numbers in last week's draw 5, 21, 26, 29. Bonus 6. No jackpot winner. Three match three winners. Next week's jackpot is €4,200. Next draw on Tuesday 17th August at 10pm.

HIGH STREET/BELMONT WOMEN'S GROUP - Outdoor Cake Sale & Raffle after 12 noon Mass on Sunday 29th August. Items for sale

including some Shannonbridge pottery. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Also **Outdoor Information Night on Monday 30th August at High Street Community Centre**. Information, chat and cup of tea. All welcome.

LAOIS OFFALY EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD - Will be running **FREE** courses in the Autumn in the LOETB Centre, Banagher. All courses are 6 - 8 weeks in duration: **DIY/Woodwork** - 16th Sept. at 10am. **Introduction to Haircare** - 21st Sept. at 10am. **Introduction to Healthcare** - 15th Sept. at 10.30am. **IT Skills** - 22nd Sept. at 2.30pm. We will also be running other **FREE** courses in the different communities. Contact 085 8054579 and Email gcunningham@loetb.ie for more information.

PLEASE SUPPORT OFFALY HOSPICE CHARITY SHOP, Offaly Street, Tullamore - Our shop is open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am to 4.30pm. All donations of ladies, gents and childrens clothes and shoes along with Bric-a-Brac welcome. Contact Chris on 083 0994754.

SVP - Confidential helpline 087 9272877.

PARISH OFFICE - Wednesday from 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm. **Bulletin deadline is 3pm on**

Wednesday. Tel: 090 6454309 or Email: parishoffice@ferbaneparish.ie.

BISHOP'S LETTER - I am acutely aware that young people and families have been looking forward for some time to the Sacramental celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Some parishioners have understandably expressed their disappointment with the ongoing postponement. This is especially the case because our church buildings have been consistently maintained as safe places throughout the coronavirus pandemic, and this high standard is a result of your dedicated and ongoing hard work, and that of your parish committees. Over the last few months we have had an impressive uptake in vaccines, this is particularly timely as schools prepare to reopen in a few weeks. To preserve the benefit of our collective sacrifices to date, I believe that it is important to continue to follow official public health advice in relation to gatherings in the face of the continuing pandemic. I am, therefore, asking all of our parishes to observe the current guidelines and to wait until the appropriate time to hold these ceremonies.

Hopefully, as the vaccination programme advances, the time will come very soon, to celebrate these important and joyful Sacramental occasions.

Bishop Francis Duffy.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

'Of all women you are the most blessed'

Mary is explicitly mentioned in only five of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. We don't know the dates of her birth or her death and yet her light shines like a beacon down the ages. She is 'everywoman'. She is the woman for all times and seasons. She is the most famous woman in history who has inspired more art and music than any other woman. In our own time, she has appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine more often than any other woman.

Without Mary, there is no Gospel. She is the one who is present where she is needed the most. She is there for her Son in all the pivotal moments of his journey from the hill country of Judea to the Hill of Calvary. She is constantly leading others to Him. 'Her greatness consists in the fact that she wants to magnify God, not herself' (*Pope Benedict*). When Jesus challenged His followers to live, give and forgive like Him, she showed by her humble service that it was possible. Jesus cannot be understood without His mother. 'The reason why Christ is unknown today is because His mother is unknown' (*Newman*).

From the sixth century the belief grew, that because Mary's life and work were so closely united to that of her Son, she was not separated from Him in death. Orthodox Christians hold that she died first and was then taken directly to be with her Son while some in the Catholic tradition believe that she was not allowed to experience death, at all. The Assumption was finally defined as a dogma of faith by Pope Pius XII on November 1st 1950 when, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit he pronounced that: 'The Virgin Mary having completed the course of her earthly life was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory'.

As the shadows lengthen and the shades of autumn appear, we salute Mary 'the highest honour of our race' and allow her to come close. 'Mary is a sign of sure hope and solace for the pilgrim people of God' (*Lumen Gentium*). We see in her what we can all become with God's grace. She is 'an echo of the heart of God' (*St. Elizabeth of the Trinity*). She is 'our tainted natures' solitary boast' (*William Wordsworth*). She has opened the world's door to God. She has opened earth to heaven. 'One ship has rounded the headland. We are the little ships following her home' (*Joseph Cassidy*).