

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

2.06.2024

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### The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	6.00 pm	Intention of Helen Gillespie
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Michael Butler RIP
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Richard Moloney RIP
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Bill & Nell O'Keeffe RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Gerald Tolan RIP
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Jane Melhuish RIP
		12.00 noon	REQUIEM FOR RITA MARSHALL RIP
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Ann Bandy RIP
		1.30 pm	REQUIEM FOR GERALDINE KING RIP
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	K. Abraham RIP
		8.15 am	Breda O'Connor RIP
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Breda O'Connor RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



**SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 10.15 -10.45 am and 5.15 - 5:45 pm

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16,22-26

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 3:9-15; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £504    Dona: £95    Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese: £376

**Thank you for your generosity.**

**Friday is the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Mirille Byrne, Peter Honiball, David Lancaster, Jim Simpson, Camilla Jane, Sophie Abbott, Michelle Dielt, Helen Gillespie, Harold Forrest, Maria Brooks, Tony Kearney, Ella Doll, Paul Curd, Lola Samengo-Meehan, Maureen House, Joan Wand, Samuel Bezants, Terry Stanley, Glenn, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Lena, Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, John Smith, Ian Threlfall, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Noel & Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Geoffrey Clarey, Sarah Hancox, Simon Sims, Barbara Dancy, Joan Curley, Ellen Pye, Moya Gilbert, Frederick Childs, Bridget Stapleton, Roger Gochmanski, Marion McCabe, Julia Rippin, Rita Healy. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS** to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay.

**4. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will be received by fourteen of our children next Sunday during the 10.30 am Mass. Please pray for: Nancy Cahillane, Ornella Cocchiarella, Jude Devlin, Rose Greenaway, Adeline Howell, Verity Lumsdon, Arla Macauley, George Macauley, Corbin Ramiro, Alexia Stepney, Amelia Stepney, Karla-Noemi Timotin, Paul-Marian Timotin, Luke Tucker.

**5. D-DAY 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Thursday 6th June will be the eightieth anniversary of the D-Day landings in 1944. To commemorate this key event in our history, there will be a parish celebration on that day of hymns, songs and readings. It will take place in the church at 7pm, to be followed by light refreshments in the Barn. All are most welcome to join us in marking this important occasion

**6. THE CAKE SALE** raised £200. Thank you to everyone. Gabriel will remember all who donated when at the shrine in Lourdes.

**7. ROSARY FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE HOLY LAND** will be prayed on the second Saturday of every month at 5.00pm. The next one is next Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> June. Please put the future dates in your diary and make a special effort to come and pray for justice and peace.

**8. MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. At all three Masses this weekend there will be a ceremony of Renewal of Commitment on the part of the Eucharistic Ministers. Those who will be away are asked to make their renewal at some other time.

**9. HANDMADE CARDS FOR FATHER'S DAY** (which is on 16<sup>th</sup> June) are now available in the Shop. All proceeds from the sale of these cards goes to the Parish Project in Kalingalinga.

**10. TO ALL WHO HOLD A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.** From the Diocese. 'Please be aware that our online Safeguarding Training is changing. All volunteers must complete the CSSA Level 3 course which can be accessed via this link <https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/courses>. Please see our new Safeguarding Training Poster (in the Front Porch). The CSSA Level 3 course is now the only training we are offering. The training has been piloted and has received positive feedback including: *'It is Church related training. It is just one course with both Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults included. We no longer need consent from volunteers as they will enrol themselves for the training.*

**11. A MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIRMAN OF ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL:** Some of our children from English Martyrs Primary School will be making their First Holy Communion on next Sunday at English Martyrs Church. This will be a joyous occasion for the children and one that we know they are looking forward to celebrating. Since September 2023, a new Religious Education Directory (RED) of teaching was introduced to all Catholic schools. This involved our school having to purchase new RE materials and resources at considerable cost to the school. Current spending is over £1,000. We are appealing to your generosity for financial support to buy new resources which the school will need to purchase for the start of the new academic year 2025/26. You might also like to know that English Martyrs School had their new Catholic Schools Inspection (CSI) in February and received a 'Good' rating overall with one of the three categories as 'Outstanding'. This was for 'Collective Worship'. This highlights the excellent RE teaching by the Head Teacher, all the staff and the children. We will arrange for a copy of the CSI report to be put on the school notice board for you all to read. Please be generous in your support to all the children at English Martyrs School. Thank you. (The collection from the First Holy Communion Mass will go to English Martyrs School.

**12. MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION POINT** is one of the small boxes under the notice board to the right in the Front Porch. It now costs £19.15 to feed one child for a year! Your donations will always be much appreciated.

**FATHER LIAM SAYS:** One of the most exciting objects to be discovered in Ireland in recent years was a book of Psalms dating back 1,200 years. It is now known as the Fadden More Psalter because it was found in a bog in Fadden More in County Tipperary. The operator of a mechanical digger spotted the book in the bucket of the machine – though it certainly did not look like a book. He contacted the owners of the bog and they gathered together the fragments and covered them with wet peat. Then they notified the staff of the National Museum of Ireland. This discovery was made in July 2006 in a vast area of peatland. It was quite astonishing that an object so small and brown – the same colour as the bog – should come to light.

The A4-sized manuscript originally contained sixty pages of vellum – a parchment made from animal skins. It would originally have contained the complete text in Latin of all one hundred and fifty of the Psalms of the Bible. About 15% had survived. The pages were contained in a tanned leather cover which also survived. This cover would have been the early medieval equivalent of a folder. The vellum pages alone would have required the skins of thirty calves. The senior conservationist working on the restoration of the Psalter describes its survival as miraculous as normally vellum 'shouldn't survive – it should gelatinise away'.

What was this Book of Psalms doing in the bog? The work that had gone into its production was enormous. The making of the vellum and the painstaking work of writing out all those psalms so beautifully was a tremendous labour of love. So why was it abandoned? It is thought that it came from a monastery that existed not far away in Birr. Like many monasteries of the time it may have been attacked in one of the many Viking raids. Perhaps a monk had hidden it and didn't live to tell the tale! We will never know.

All large monasteries would have had a scriptorium where precious manuscripts – especially books of the Bible – would have been laboriously copied. The most widely used book of the Bible would have been the Book of Psalms. The singing of the Psalms at various hours of the day and night was a very important part of the life of the monks. The Book of Psalms was the great prayer book of the Jewish people. It was the prayer book of Jesus himself. The fact that this 8<sup>th</sup> Century manuscript survived in such inauspicious circumstances testifies to the care and devotion of those who fashioned it. Could you imagine a book of today surviving – in the ground – for over a thousand years into the future! This is 'the first early medieval manuscript to come to light in two hundred years anywhere in Europe' according to Mr Gillis, the chief conservator working on the Psalter.

The whole Christian landscape in Ireland was studded with monasteries for hundreds of years. They provided much employment for the people living nearby as well as being major centres of learning and health and social provision. They had a huge influence on the spiritual life of the people. Many could not join the monks in the singing in Latin of the Psalms. Psalters were few and expensive and many could not read. But the praying of the Rosary was an adaptation of praying the Psalms. Until twenty years ago there were fifteen mysteries of the rosary made up of the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. (Pope John Paul II added the Mysteries of Light) People meditated on these events of the Life of Christ while reciting ten Hail Mary's – or a decade – at each Mystery. The full Rosary of fifteen Mysteries would involve reciting one hundred and fifty Hail Mary's – the same number of Psalms as there are in the Psalter.