



Riverstown Parish

Riverstown - Sooley - Gleann



Riverstown Parish Newsletter

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
July 15 / July 16, 2023

www.massonline.ie



**“Listen, anyone
who has ears”**

Matthew 13: 15

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GOD’S WORD IN GOD’S WORLD

*(Scripture lessons summarized -15th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Isaiah 55: 10-11,
Romans 8: 18-23, Matthew 13: 1-23)*

The readings of this 15th Sunday are about the transforming power of the word of God when read, preached, and lived. They also warn us not to be disappointed at the absence of immediate results. We must take a positive and optimistic view of our missionary efforts, as we keep on bearing witness to Christ’s Gospel. The parable of the sower in today’s Gospel challenges us to listen intently to God’s Word, to be open to it, and to allow our lives to be shaped by its power. The parable reminds us that our reception of God’s Word is determined by the condition of our hearts.

In the first reading, Isaiah consoles the Jewish slaves in Babylon, assuring them that, like rain and snow which water the earth so that seeds may sprout and grow, God’s word will accomplish His purpose, in this case by returning the exiles to their homes in peace as God has promised. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that just as seeds must fall into the earth and die to produce an abundant crop, the pain and sufferings God permits in our lives work in us for our redemption. Paul wants us to wait for our eternal reward while we continue sowing the word of God diligently and suffering for the Lord, as he did. And today’s Gospel teaches us that the word of the Lord is the seed, and our hearts and minds are the soil. The seed’s good spiritual yield in one’s life depends on how fully and willingly one accepts and responds to the word of the Lord. The yield arising from the positive response will be abundant beyond all imagining. The parable tells us to do our part by preparing fertile soil in our hearts in which the word of God can germinate, grow, and yield 30, 60, or 100-fold.

Life messages: 1) We need to assess our use of the word of God. We need to read the word of God every day, starting with a prayer to the Holy Spirit for the gifts of attentive reading and the ability and willingness to apply the message we receive to our daily living. When we listen to the word of God as read and preached in the Church during the Holy Mass, we need to pay full attention to the message given by God Who uses the priest as His instrument. We also need to ask God’s special grace to remove all types of blocks, like laziness, anxiety, worries, and the burden of unrepented sins, any of which can prevent the word of God from influencing and transforming our lives. When we receive Jesus (the Word of God and the Source of the word of God), in Holy Communion, we need to ask Him to transform our lives so that we may see Him in everyone, for we are all His brothers and sisters who need to share His unconditional love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness with each other. 2) We need to keep our spiritual soil fertile and prepared for the word of God: We need to keep our hearts open to the word of God instead of closing it with pride, prejudice, and, with God’s grace, to uproot the “weeds” of evil habits and addictions, evil tendencies, hatred, jealousy, fear, and greed. We should not allow the trials and tribulations of this world, the cares of this world, our ambitions, or our desires for worldly success and happiness to choke out the messages that God gives through His word. And Jesus challenges us in the parable of the sower to sow seeds of encouragement, joy, and reconciliation regardless of how unpromising the “soil” on which it is scattered seems to be, and to imitate the seed’s total giving of self that becomes the harvest of Gospel justice and mercy.

ROSARY SERVICE IN SOOEY CHURCH

Special Rosary Service held every Thursday at 2.30 pm in Sooeey Church. Most welcome to attend the same. Those who cannot make it to the Church may join us on www.massonline.ie

CEMETERY MASSES IN BALLYNAKILL, SOOEY AND TAUNAGH

The Annual Mass for all the deceased who are laid to rest in Ballynakill Cemetery will take place this year at 8 pm on Wednesday, 19th July, and in Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Sooeey at 11 am on Sunday, 30th July (Garland Sunday). And the Annual Mass in Taunagh Cemetery will take place at 7 pm on Wednesday, 16th August. We will be remembering all the dear departed members of our Parish Community during these Cemetery Masses. All are welcome to attend.

May they rest in God's eternal peace.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION, ELPHIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

A Church Gate Collection in aid of the assisted pilgrim section of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be taken up in our church this weekend (the 15th/16th July). This year 30 assisted pilgrims from the Diocese will travel to Lourdes and all monies collected at church gates will be used to help defray the costs of this section of the pilgrimage. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

JUBILEE OF MARRIAGES



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Inviting all couples celebrating the Anniversary of their Marriage, especially those marking their **Silver, Ruby, Golden and Diamond Anniversaries.**

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2023 AT 2:30PM
Saint Colmcille's Church, Rathcormac, Co. Sligo

SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 2:30PM
Saint Mary's Church, Ballygar, Co. Galway

On both days, Mass will be followed by light refreshments for all in attendance.

All couples celebrating an Anniversary will receive a certificate, we ask them to please register their details at:

www.elphindiocese.ie

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine takes place on Sunday 20th August with Anointing of the Sick at 2.30 pm and Mass at 3.00 pm in the Basilica.

Mass Schedule - Riverstown Parish

Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A – 2023

DAY / DATE	CHURCH	TIME	INTENTION
Sat July 15 Vigil Mass Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	08.00 pm	John Coen, May Coen and Molly Taylor Bernard and Bridie Kelly, and the deceased members of the Kelly and Davey families Andrew Mc Goldrick
Sun July 16 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Soeey	11.00 am	
Tue July 18 Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Wed July 19 Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time	Ballynakill Cemetery	08.00 pm	Cemetery Mass
Thu July 20 Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Fri July 21 Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time	Soeey	10.30 am	
Sat July 22 Vigil Mass Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	08.00 pm	John and Agnes Kelly, Martin and Bridget Cregg, and the deceased members of the Kelly and Cregg families Thomas Mc Donagh (5 th Anniversary), and the deceased members of the Mc Donagh family
Sun July 23 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Soeey	11.00 am	Jack Henry

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THE NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE will take place in Knock on Sunday 23 July - the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. All are welcome for this wonderful celebration of family and faith through the generations. The Principal Celebrant and Homilist will be Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Chair of the Bishops' Council for Marriage and the Family. Music will be by the combined choirs of Knock Shrine who will be joined by Dana. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** For more information see www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

ACCORD

Accord is currently taking booking for Pre-Marriage courses. Please contact the Sligo Accord Centre at 071-9145641 or www.accord.ie The Pre-Marriage course should be booked at least 6-8 months before the wedding. Also, Marriage counselling services are available by contacting the Accord telephone number.



GARLAND WEEKEND AT TOBERNALT HOLY WELL 2023

Theme: United in Prayer

Friday 28th July

10.00 am - Morning Mass in St John's Church, Carraroe
Private pilgrimage in preparation for the Weekend

Saturday 29th July

6.30 pm - Individual Confession
7.00 pm - Evening Mass – Keeping a Sacred Tradition

Sunday 30st July

6.00 am - Dawn Mass – Remembering Penal Ireland
10.00 am - Morning Mass – Remembering our Deceased, family, relatives and friends
12.00 noon - Noon Mass – Come and Pray – Prayers for Healing

Walk in Prayer from Darkness to Light

A Camino from St. Anne's Church in Sligo to the Holy Well will take place on Sunday, 30th July beginning at 4.45 am and arriving at the Holy Well for the 6.00 am Dawn Mass. All welcome.

The Holy Well History and Heritage book is available at the Church Bookstand or Liber Bookshop with a full account of the Holy Well down through the years. Mass Cards/Bouquets also available.

CANA TALKS

Friday 1st September in the TF Royal Theatre, Castlebar at 8 pm. 8 energetic speakers – each has just 15 minutes to inspire you – this is the Christian version of TED Talks – presenting on different topics relating to human happiness and potential from a faith perspective. Tickets €20 - available @ www.ticketmaster.ie or call the T.F. Box Office at (094) 902 3111. Visit www.canatalks.com or our Cana Talks Facebook page. Come along for an entertaining & inspirational evening for the mind, heart, & soul!

NOTES FOR NEWSLETTER

**All submissions for inclusion in the Newsletter to be submitted
by 12 midday on Thursday**

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God bless you all!
Fr. Yashin