



# Riverstown Parish

Riverstown - Sooley - Gleann



## Riverstown Parish Newsletter

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A  
July 29 / July 30, 2023

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I call you friends, says  
the Lord, because I have  
made known to you  
everything I have  
learnt from my Father.

John 15: 15

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD – THE GREATEST TREASURE

*(Scripture lessons summarized -17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1 Kings 3: 5,7-12,  
Romans 8: 28-30, Matthew 13: 44-52)*

Today's readings teach us that Faith in Jesus as our God and Saviour and sacrificing everything in life to do the will of God are equivalent to discovering and possessing the most valuable treasure or the pearl of great price. In other words, keeping a personal relationship with Jesus, remaining in a state of grace, and sharing His view of life are the most beautiful and the most precious things in the world.

The First Reading tells us how the young King Solomon opted for the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing His will. That is why he requested of God the gift of prudence, "*an understanding heart to distinguish right from wrong,*" so that he might govern God's people properly. The Lord God was pleased with Solomon's request and granted him "*a wise and discerning heart*" which enabled him to surpass everyone in wisdom. In the Second Reading, Paul teaches that "*all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.*" This is true of all who accept a close relationship with God as their greatest treasure. In the Gospel, using three mini-parables and one concluding simile, Jesus teaches us that God's Kingdom is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl. Possessing that treasure demands from us a total commitment if we are to preserve it. The Kingdom of God is God's reign in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes, in our society, and in our world. Only those who develop a searching mind and a heart willing to give up everything for the great treasure of God's Kingdom will be rewarded. Through the first and second parables of the treasure and pearl, Jesus teaches us that identifying God's will and living according to the Gospel (both with His grace), are the most precious and worthwhile things in life. Through Jesus and His Gospel, we come to know and understand the real meaning of life, the will of God for us each day, and the most important things we must do to secure our eternal salvation.

**Life messages:** 1) We should live every moment in view of our precious goal. Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, social status, or worldly pleasures. Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world's joys and pleasures within the framework of God's Commandments. When we do this, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth.

2) We need to take all precautions to keep our greatest treasure safe: We will be able to keep safe the treasure of our personal relationship with Jesus by accepting Him every day as our God and Saviour, by allowing God to have total control over our lives through our loving obedience to His will, by asking Him daily for the strengthening and guidance of His Holy Spirit, by talking to Him daily in prayer, by listening to Him in our meditative reading of the Bible, by getting reconciled to Him and others every day, asking pardon and forgiveness for our sins, by offering Him our lives on the altar during the Holy Mass, and by allowing Him to nourish our souls frequently, by receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.



## 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](http://www.massonline.ie)

## CEMETERY MASSES IN SOOEY

The Annual Mass for all the deceased who are laid to rest in Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Sooeey takes place at 11 am this Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> July (Garland Sunday). Let us honour and connect with all those who have gone before us.

*May they rest in God's eternal peace.*

## KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

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

### *Cemetery Sunday – A Poignant Reflection*

## **A Letter from Heaven**

*To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say,  
but first of all, to let you know that I arrived okay.  
I'm writing this from Heaven, where I dwell with God above,  
where there are no tears or sadness, there is just eternal Love.*

*Please do not be unhappy, just because I'm out of sight,  
remember that I'm with you, every morning, noon and night.  
The day I had to leave you, when my life on earth was through,  
God picked me up and hugged me, and He said,  
"I welcome you.*

*It's good to have you back again;  
you were missed while you were gone.*

*As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on.*

*I need you here so badly as part of My big plan.*

*There's so much that we have to do, to help our mortal men".*

*Then God gave me a list of things He wished for me to do,  
and foremost on that list of mine was to watch and care for you.*

*I will always be beside you, every day of the week and year,  
and when you're sad, I'm standing there to wipe away your tears.*

*When you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight,  
God and I are closest to you in the middle of the night.  
When you think of my life on Earth, and all those loving years,  
because you're only human, there's bound to be some tears.*

*One thing is for certain, though my life on Earth is over,  
I am closer to you now than I ever was before.*

*And to my many friends, trust, God knows what is best,  
I am not far away from you, I'm just beyond the crest.*

*There are rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb,  
but together we can do it, taking one day at a time.*

*It was always my philosophy and please I'd like it for you too;  
that as you give unto the world, the world will give to you.*

*If you can help someone who's in sorrow or in pain,  
then you can say to God at night, my day was not in vain.*

*And now I am contented that my life was worthwhile,  
knowing as I passed along the way, I made somebody smile.  
When you're walking down the street and I am on your mind,  
I'm walking in your footsteps, only half a step behind.*

*And when you feel a gentle breeze of wind upon your face,  
that's me giving you a great big hug, or just a soft embrace.*

*When it's time for you to go from that body to be free,  
remember you are not going, you are coming home to me.*

*I will always love you, from this place way up above.  
I will be in touch again soon.*

**P.S. God sends His love.**  
(Author unknown)



## VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

I will be visiting the sick and housebound on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> in Riverstown / Coolbock areas and on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> in Sooley / Gleann areas.

# Mass Schedule - Riverstown Parish

Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A – 2023

DAY / DATE	CHURCH	TIME	INTENTION
Sat July 29 Vigil Mass Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	08.00 pm	Kathleen and James Anderson
Sun July 30 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cemetery Mass)	Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Sooley	11.00 am	Dominic Quinn
Tue Aug 01 Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Wed Aug 02 Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time	Sooley	10.30 am	
Thu Aug 03 Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Fri Aug 04 Saint John Mary Vianney, Priest	Sooley	10.30 am	
Sat Aug 05 Vigil Mass The Transfiguration of the Lord	Riverstown	08.00 pm	Michael Murphy
Sun Aug 06 The Transfiguration of the Lord	Sooley	11.00 am	Michael O' Rourke, and the deceased members of the O' Rourke and Feeney families Pat Foley and the deceased members of the Foley family Joe Mc Keon and the deceased members of the Mc Keon and Conlon families
	Riverstown	12.30 pm	James Morrison Festival Mass -Deceased members of the James Morrison family and the deceased members of the Riverstown branch of Comhaltas

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## 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