



Riverstown Parish Newsletter

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
July 22 / July 23, 2023

www.massonline.ie



**“O Lord, You are good
 and forgiving,
 full of love to all who call”**

Psalm 86: 5

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MERCY BEFORE JUDGMENT

*(Scripture lessons summarized -16th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19,
 Romans 8: 26-27, Matthew 13: 24-43)*

Today's readings tell us about a very patient and compassionate God Who is hopeful that the so-called “weeds” among us will be converted, and that we should not be in a hurry to eliminate such elements from the Church, or society, or the family, on the basis of unwarranted and hasty judgment. The first reading gives us a picture of a merciful and patient God rather than the strict, angry, and judging God presented in the book of Genesis. The Refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 85) has us singing, “Lord, you are Good and forgiving!” The second reading reminds us that the Spirit of God goes on empowering us in our weakness, and, hence, we should be patient with ourselves. Finally, the long form of today's Gospel contains the parable of the wheat and the weeds, an agricultural parable with allegoric interpretation. Through this parable, Jesus assures us that we are the field of God. We are the ground He works as well as the plants He nurtures. We are the people He rests His hopes upon and the people in whom He plants good seed. We are the congregation He anoints with the Holy Spirit.

In today's parable, Jesus presents a wise and patient God Who allows the good and the evil to coexist in the world, so that the evil ones may come to conversion before their time ends and God must punish them. “Let the wheat and the weeds [darnel] grow together till the harvest time.” God gives all of us sinners ample time to repent, and, with His grace, change our lives. God calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil as no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal. Through the parable of the wheat and the weeds in today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to be patient with those who fail, or seem to fail, to meet the high ethical standard expected of a Christian. The parable tries to teach the need for tolerance, patience, and the acceptance of God's judgment to the Judeo-Christian community as well as to His Church and to us, His members. The parable also encourages us, when we discover sin and weakness within ourselves, to open ourselves more and more to the unfailing Mercy of God's forgiving Love.

Life Messages:

- 1) We need to practise patience. First, we need to be patient with ourselves. Then we must be patient with others. Let's practise patience, remembering that, in the end, it is God who controls.
- 2) We need allow God to judge us and others as “weeds” or wheat. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God can change even the ugliest thorn into a blossom of Faith. In God's field we have two responsibilities: to grow in grace as we do His will, and to share His Word and love with others.
- 3) We need to grow up as healthy wheat in God's field, leaving the “weeds” for Jesus to take care of. In the end, it's enough to know that we are “seeds” who have been planted by the “Son of Man,” and that we're part of a healthy harvest that will someday be reaped by the angels of God.

RECENT DEATHS

Kevin Coleman (aged 30) of Knockanarrow, Riverstown, Co. Sligo and Dublin, died on Friday, 14th July 2023.

Jennie Mc Tiernan (nee Mc Padden) of Drumnasooey, Drumnacool, Co. Sligo, died on Monday, 17th July 2023.

May they rest in peace and may God comfort all who mourn.

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

THANK YOU

A sincere word of thanks to all who helped in organizing the Cemetery Mass at Ballinakill on Wednesday, 19th July, and to everyone who attended the same to pray for our deceased dear ones. I greatly appreciate your participation.

CEMETERY MASSES IN SOOEY AND TAUNAGH

The Annual Mass for all the deceased who are laid to rest in Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Sooeey will take place at 11 am on Sunday, 30th July (Garland Sunday), and in Taunagh Cemetery at 7 pm on Wednesday, 16th August. Let us remember all our departed loved ones during these Cemetery Masses. All are welcome to attend.

May they rest in God's eternal peace.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FROM JULY 24TH TO AUGUST 8TH

Please note that the Parish Office will remain closed from Monday, 24th July to Tuesday, 8th August as Fiona Casey, our Parish Secretary, will be away on her annual holidays. I will be available on 089 452 8620 / maskevin14@gmail.com



DIOCESE OF ELPHIN JUBILEE OF MARRIAGES



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

Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A – 2023

DAY / DATE	CHURCH	TIME	INTENTION
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, and the deceased members of the Mc Donagh family
Sun July 23 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sooley	11.00 am	Jack Henry
Tue July 25 Saint James, Apostle	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Wed July 26 Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time	Sooley	10.30 am	
Thu July 27 Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Fri July 28 Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	01.00 pm	Wedding Mass
Sat July 29 Vigil Mass Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	08.00 pm	
Sun July 30 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sooley	11.00 am	Dominic Quinn (Mass in St Joseph's Cemetery, Sooley)

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YOUTH PILGRIMAGES

Throughout the month of August, young people from our Diocese will be on pilgrimage with Bishop Kevin to World Youth Day in Lisbon (31st July – 8th August) and Lourdes (23rd – 28th August). Please keep them and all who travel with them in your prayers.

LIGHT THE FIRE

On August 6th Archbishop Eamon Martin Primate of All Ireland will relight the fire on the hill of Slane that was lit by St. Patrick many years ago. He will be joined by Sr. Briege Mc Kenna, Dana and Fr. Pablo. There will be Holy Mass, rosary and a Eucharistic healing service on the day. This is a unique and monumental event. It is an opportunity for each of us to shine our light and witness to our faith in a joyful and spiritually uplifting celebration.

If you would like details of a bus from your area please contact hillofslaneaugust6@gmail.com

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.

MIZEN TO MALIN SOLO WALK FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS (A NOTE FROM IRIS MURPHY)

With the recent advent of new modulator medications, many people with cystic fibrosis are living longer, healthier lives, compared with 20 years ago. However, it is important not to gloss over the continuing realities of living with CF, which remains a long-term, life threatening and highly challenging disease. Challenges that my daughter Shania, as an adult, and my niece, Evie, a toddler, along with all CF sufferers have to deal with every day of their lives and I know that more needs to be done and this will only happen with the generosity of friends. Please support my Mizen to Malin Head Solo Walk in aid of Cystic Fibrosis. Starting from Mizen Head in County Cork on Monday, July 24, I will endeavour to walk (unsupported) the equivalent of a marathon a day to reach Malin Head in County Donegal camping along the way in aid of Cystic Fibrosis. Any support would be appreciated. There are cards in local shops in Riverstown.

THANK YOU FROM THE SLIGO Co AGRICULTURAL SHOW COMMITTEE

A huge thanks from the Committee of Sligo County Agricultural Show to all our volunteers, sponsors and visitors. Saturday 15th was wet, wild and also wonderful thanks to your support. Next year will be the 30th anniversary since the County Show moved to our village, and our Show will be held on 20th July. A definite date for next year's diary. Thanks again, we were humbled by the support from our community on such a rainy day.

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