



# Riverstown Parish Newsletter

**Twentieth Sunday, Year A**  
**Aug 19 / Aug 20, 2023**

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



[www.riverstownparish.com](http://www.riverstownparish.com)

**‘Woman, you have  
great faith.  
Let your wish be  
granted’**

**Matthew 15: 28**

## **OD KNOWS THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM**

*(A short Reflection based on Matthew 15: 21 - 28, the Gospel Reading of the  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)*

Every time we read, we are undeniably fascinated by two unique episodes in the Old Testament that are linked with Abraham and Moses. The first one is in chapter 18 of Genesis where Abraham enters into a negotiation with God on behalf of Sodom. He courageously bargains with God as if in an auction-market. Finally, God gives in to his tenacity. The second episode is even more astonishing as Moses tends to reprimand God for His anger towards the Israelites (Ex 32). Moses tells Yahweh to ‘relent over His burning anger (v. 12) or else the Egyptians will say that Yahweh brought them to the desert with evil intent. Moses assumes the position of an adviser to God! What gave Abraham and Moses such an audacity to stand before God, unlike others, was their faith and trust in God and their personal integrity. The Canaanite woman in the gospel passage of today also had inherited the same trust and faith of Abraham and Moses to enter into a brave dialogue with Jesus.

**To be real with God:** One of the attributes of God is that He knows everything (omniscient) about us, as the psalmist (139) sings. If God knows about my thoughts and the degree of my integrity, I have nothing more to hide from Him. That awareness gives us freedom and enables us to be real before Him. All our prayers and worship ought to spring from such an awareness. It generates in us courage to approach God like the Canaanite woman without bragging or artificiality.

**To be comfortable with God’s portion:** Often our prayers, novenas and pilgrimages are tied to personal benefits. We want a reward for embracing personal austerity or mortification or for being kind. If our prayers are not answered, we feel perplexed and begin to doubt the reliability of God. Can we still be happy with what God has dished out for us and live a satisfied life with our limitations? When we arrange our life with the awareness that we are engulfed by the presence of God regardless of our life situations, then we indeed revere Him as God.

The confidence of Abraham and Moses in engaging in a discourse with God is distinctive and we do trace such incidents often in the Bible or in real life. The Canaanite woman who imbibed such trust and confidence conversed with Jesus in a similar tone. Hence, Jesus not only showcases her faith, but places it before us as an example of a profound and personal encounter with God.

*Very Rev Mathew Kuthanapillil, SDB*

## ROSARY SERVICE IN SOOEY CHURCH

A Special Rosary Service is held every Thursday at 07.00 pm in Sooey 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)

*Kindly note that the time of the Rosary service has been changed from 2.30 pm to 7 pm.*

## REST IN PEACE

Breege Merrick (née Kelly) of Whitehill, Riverstown, Sligo / Killargue, Leitrim died on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Reposing at Perry's Funeral Home, Ballymote on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> August, from 5 pm to 7 pm. The Funeral Mass is at 1 pm on Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup>, in Riverstown Church with burial afterwards in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Sooey. Breege's Funeral Mass can be viewed live on [www.massonline.ie](http://www.massonline.ie)

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

## UPCOMING CEMETERY MASSES

Templemore Cemetery : Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 7 pm

Kiltycloghan Cemetery : Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7 pm

Kilross Cemetery : Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August at 7 pm

Let us honour and connect with all those who have gone before us. May they rest in God's eternal peace.

## CEMETERY SUNDAY COLLECTION, SOOEY

We received €1997.50 at the Cemetery Mass on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> July in Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Sooey.

Expenses for Sound Hire, AVA Systems Ltd: €500.00.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

# Mass Schedule - Riverstown Parish

Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A – 2023

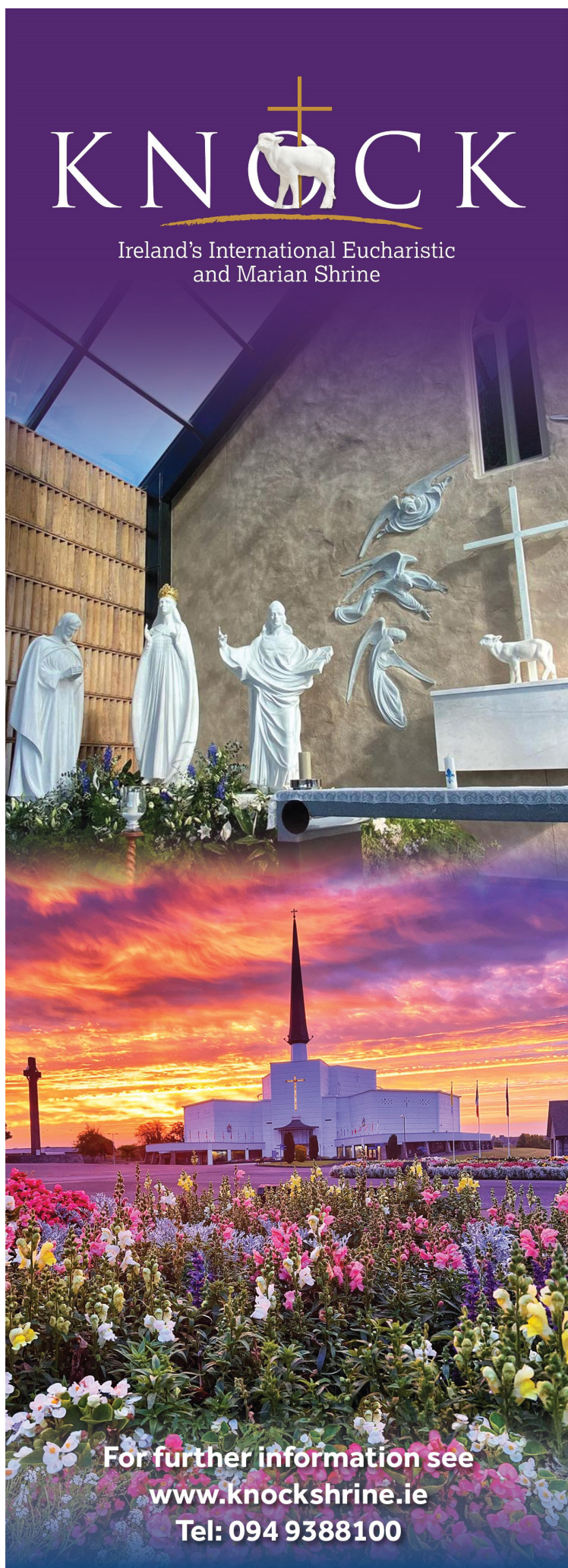
DAY / DATE	CHURCH	TIME	INTENTION
Sat Aug 19 Vigil Mass 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	12.00 noon	Month's Mind (Kevin Coleman)
		08.00 pm	
Sun Aug 20 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sooey	11.00 am	Desmond Casey (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary) and Rose Casey
	Riverstown	01.00 pm	Funeral Mass of Breege Merrick (née Kelly)
Tue Aug 22 The Queenship of Mary	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Wed Aug 23 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Templemore Cemetery	07.00 pm	Cemetery Mass
Thu Aug 24 Saint Bartholomew, Apostle	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Fri Aug 25 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sooey	10.30 am	Margaret and Patrick O' Brien
Sat Aug 26 Vigil Mass 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	08.00 pm	Frank and Maeve Lyons, and the deceased members of the Lyons and Flanagan families Zita Deignan Joe Mc Gann and Eamonn Mc Gann
Sun Aug 27 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Riverstown	11.00 am	Joe Flanagan (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) Christy and Mary Gallagher, and the deceased members of the Benson and Gallagher families Keith Sandford (5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) Thomas and Frances Fowley



## THANK YOU

The 9-day Novena for the Feast of the Assumption was very well attended in Sooeey Church. They were days of special blessings for the Parish. We were blessed to have wonderful weather for the outdoor Candlelight Rosary at the Grotto on the Concluding Day of the Novena on Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was such a great fellowship during the tea on the final day. My sincere thanks to each and everyone of you for your support. God bless you all!

## KNOCK PILGRIMAGE



## Elphin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

Sunday  
August 20th, 2023



### Schedule of Ceremonies

- 2.00pm: **Rosary**
- 2.30pm: **Anointing of the Sick at Knock Basilica**
- 3.00pm: **Concelebrated Mass at Knock Basilica followed by Benediction & Rosary Procession**

### Explore Knock Shrine:

- Exposition in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
- Self-Guided Audio Tours available
- Guided Prayer Sessions in the Prayer Centre
- 100 acres of landscaped gardens to explore
- Resources to enrich and inspire at Knock Bookshop

### Highlights include:

- VISIT THE APPARITION CHAPEL
- SEE THE APPARITION MOSAIC
- VISIT KNOCK MUSEUM (Admission Free)

## LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Later this week, Bishop Kevin will lead the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Please keep all pilgrims and volunteers in your prayers.

## SLIGO PARISHES CLUSTER ONE-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG

The one-day Pilgrimages to Lough Derg will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September. To book a place, please phone Sabrina on 914 5028.



**True Devotion to Mary Discussion Groups** forming in Donamon Castle, Donamon, Co. Roscommon and Gillooly Hall, Sligo, in September. Lovely opportunity for adults open to exploring Our Lady's identity and mission in the Church and in helping us all come to God. Some reading required. More information available at [www.elphindiocese.ie/mary](http://www.elphindiocese.ie/mary) All welcome but places limited.

## JUBILEE OF MARRIAGES



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

## 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](http://www.ticketmaster.ie) or call the T.F. Box Office at (094) 902 3111. Visit [www.canatalks.com](http://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**