

Parish of Bright Bulletin

Sixth Sunday of Easter

5th May 2024

Parish Priest: Fr Peter O’Kane
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Mass Times: Week Beginning Monday 6th May

<i>St Patrick’s, Legamaddy</i>	<i>St Joseph’s, Killough</i>
6th May Monday 10am	7th May Tuesday 10am
10th May Friday 7.30pm	8th May Wed 7.30pm
12th May Sunday 10am	11th May Saturday 10am
	11th May Sat Vigil 6.30pm

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Rossglass
9th May Thursday 10.00am

Faithful Departed

Month’s Mind: Jimmy Linden

Anniversaries: Josephine Drake, Jane Masterson, Marie Cusack, Sally Owens
Carmel Brannigan

Weekly Confession: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available after all weekday Masses and at 6.00pm before the Saturday Vigil Mass in St Joseph’s.

Eucharistic Adoration

St Patrick’s Church, Legamaddy every Tuesday from 2.30-3.30pm.
St Joseph’s Church, Killough every Wednesday from 1.30pm-7.30pm.

Enrichment Program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The Living Church Office is offering an enrichment program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in June. The program is called, ‘Eucharist – Food for the Journey’, and will be facilitated by Aishling Steen and Fr Paul Byrne. The program has a blended approach of an online session, followed by an in-person enrichment day. The 90-minute online session enables Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to gather in a time friendly and convenient way to refresh their catechetical knowledge and the enrichment day allows us to take time out to nourish ourselves and our ministry. The first part of the program will take place online via zoom on Thursday 13th June 7:00-8:30pm. The in-person enrichment day will take place in person on Saturday 15th June 10:00am-3:30 pm. Venue: Old School Dunsford Strangford Road BT30 7SP (Situated adjacent to St Mary’s Church, Dunsford). To book your place on the program, click on the link to register your details <https://forms.office.com/e/G9zYKDTp08> , or contact the parish office or Aishling Steen: e-mail: a.steen@downandconnor.org or telephone 02890690920.

Downpatrick Family of Parishes: You are invited to attend a meeting about the new Downpatrick Family of Parishes (Downpatrick, Saul and Ballet, Kilclief, Dunsford & Ardglass, Bright) in ‘Patrick’s Place’ (Crypt of St Patrick’s Church) on Tuesday 28th May at 7.30pm.

Why is May called “Mary’s Month”?

“Among Catholics, May is most well-known as “Mary’s Month,” a specific month of the year when special devotions are performed in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Why is that? How did May become associated with the Blessed Mother?

There are many different factors that contributed to this association. First of all, in ancient Greece and Rome the month of May was dedicated to pagan goddesses connected to fertility and springtime (Artemis and Flora, respectively). This, combined with other European rituals commemorating the new season of spring, led many Western cultures to view May as a month of life and motherhood. This was long before “Mother’s Day” was ever conceived, though the modern celebration is closely related to this innate desire to honour maternity during the spring months.

In the early Church there is evidence of a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th of May each year, but it wasn’t until the 18th century that May received a particular association with the Virgin Mary. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*: “The May devotion in its present form originated at Rome where Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus, to counteract infidelity and immorality among the students, made a vow at the end of the eighteenth century to devote the month of May to Mary. From Rome the practice spread to the other Jesuit colleges and thence to nearly every Catholic church of the Latin rite.”

Dedicating an entire month to Mary wasn’t a new tradition, as there existed a prior tradition of devoting 30 days to Mary called *Tricesimum*, which was also known as “Lady Month.” Various private devotions to Mary quickly became widespread during the month of May, as it is recorded in the *Raccolta*, a publication of prayers published in the mid-19th century: “It is a well-known devotion, to consecrate to most holy Mary the month of May, as the most beautiful and florescent month of the whole year. This devotion has long prevailed throughout Christendom; and it is common here in Rome, not only in private families, but as a public devotion in very many churches.”

In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary. The month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honour our Heavenly Mother.” (By Philip Kosloski)