

Parish of Magh Ene
 St. Joseph's Church, Ballyshannon
 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Sunday, October 1st 2017



Very Rev. Canon Ramon Munster PP
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Sun 1st	10.00am	Catherine Breslin, Bridge End Eunan McDevitt, Saimer Drive and Packie Brady, Ballintra Laughlin Family, Living & Deceased Joe & Mary O'Neill, Bundoran & Ballyshannon
Mon 2nd	10.00am	Prayer Service
Tues 3rd	10.00am	Prayer Service
Wed 4th	10.00am	Prayer Service
Thurs 5th	10.00am	Prayer Service
Friday 6th	10.00am	Prayer Service
Saturday 7th	10.00am	Prayer Service
Sunday 8th	10.00am	Month Mind – Babs Maguire, Rathglass Mary O'Mahoney, Rathmore Gerry McNamara, West Rock

Liturgy Teams for September ~ **Reader** – Patsy Coyle; **Eucharistic Ministers** – Bernie Boyle, Mary McMorrow; **Collectors (front)** Eamon Daly, **(back)** Patrick McKenna; **Altar Society** – Kathleen Lawless, Patricia Gallagher

Sunday Collection – September 24th 2017

Offertory	Returned	Development	Returned
Envelope	€305.00	Envelope	€125.00
Loose	€236.00	Loose	€109.00
Total	€541.00	Total	€234.00

At all Sunday morning masses, a special collection will be taken up after Holy Communion. The proceeds of this go towards the Development Fund of St Joseph's. Our sincere thanks for your continuing generosity in this important collection which allows us to continue to take good care of St. Joseph's.

Celebrating the Sacraments in our Parish

Baptisms of those resident in the Parish take place in St Joseph's, Ballyshannon on the second Saturday of the month and in Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church, Bundoran on the fourth Saturday of each month. A month's notice is required. The birth certificate of the person to be baptised should accompany the application for Baptism. Further information is available from the Parish office.

Marriages – Six months' notice to the Parish is necessary for all marriages. Agreement for the date of marriage always presumes that the necessary Church/Civil documentation has been completed. Church documentation is completed in the Parish where a person is resident. Living in a new area for six months constitutes residency. This is especially so when a new residence is outside the country. The obligation of providing the necessary Church/Civil documentation lies with the couple.

Anam Cara, an organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold a Bereavement Information Evening on Tuesday 3rd October from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town. A guest speaker experienced in supporting bereaved parents will talk for about forty minutes. Afterwards there'll be an opportunity to speak/listen to other bereaved parents or to speak to the professional should you have any questions or concerns. The event is free of charge and is open to all bereaved parents, no matter the age of your child or the circumstances of his or her death. See anamcara.ie for more details. If attending, please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Monday 2nd October or call the Information Line on 085 2888 888.

Lifesaving Classes are starting back in Ballyshannon Leisure centre on Sunday, September 24th at 5pm; all are welcome (Minimum age is 11). Being a coastal area, it is very important for people to learn about the sea and how to keep yourself safe and know how to help other.

St. Joseph's Church, The Rock – Necessary Repair Work

Maintaining St. Joseph's for those who are coming after us is a sacred responsibility. With that in mind, a problem has come to light which requires swift action if further damage is to be prevented. The left-hand wall of the church, facing towards the GAA pitch and the Nursing Home, has significant dampness which is now clearly evident on the inside of the church, particularly at the window under the gallery stairs and the wall connecting to the old sacristy behind the altar.

The required work to tackle this problem and prevent further damage has been evaluated and a cost of €34,000 has been set to the Rock church community. While this is a significant sum, delays in carrying out the work will only lead to further damage and a significantly dearer repair bill.

We know there are many financial demands on each home, each family and individual but this is something that affects all who look to St. Joseph's as a significant part of their and their family's history and future. The 2nd Collection will continue at Mass and any and all donations to the Development Fund are welcome and necessary. We ask those of you who may be in a position to make a larger, one-off donation towards this immediate work to consider doing so. We truly rely on the thoughtfulness and generosity of parishioners at times like this and we assure you such generosity is never taken for granted but is deeply appreciated by the whole community. If we all give what we can and respond to our shared responsibility, we can ensure that this work is done in good time, thereby preserving our church not just for now but for those in the future, the children and grandchildren who, we pray, will continue to enjoy the sense of community and shared faith which has always marked St. Joseph's.

Gospel Reflection - What is Mission?

What does it mean to be a missionary? I have held to a variety of definitions since I first identified myself as one. When I first went out 'on mission', it was clear to me that mission was strictly limited to making disciples of all nations, to bring people in to the faith. During my first long term placement in Uganda I met my husband, who identified as a missionary, but shockingly he was a carpenter, and had never led a single Bible study. Could he truly be a missionary if his day to day work was (as I saw it) so mundane?

As I watched how he gave all of himself to build beautiful, strong buildings that would benefit so many people, my eyes were opened. He developed quality relationships with the builders he worked with, and the skills he taught them completely transformed their lives. And it was all motivated by his faith in Jesus. On return to Europe I struggled with no longer being a missionary. I couldn't see how I could honestly respond 'I will go', and mean it, because I wasn't going anywhere!

So I redefined (again!) my concept of mission. For me, mission is bringing about the kingdom of God, wherever we find ourselves in the world. I will go, even if 'go' means 'stay'.

(Louise Talbot Beirne - VMM International)

Seeing Your Life through the Lens of the Gospel - Matthew 21:28-32

It is possible to be a dutiful and observant Christian, and yet feel there is something missing. It makes such a difference when your heart is in what you are doing – so much better than just going through the motions. Where do you experience that most in your life?

The desire of Jesus for us is that we grow in that kind of committed, enthusiastic involvement in life. What encourages you to grow in this way?

The elders probably thought well of themselves in contrast to the tax collectors and sinners. Perhaps you know some unconventional people, ones who appear to ignore the 'right' way of doing things, and yet they have taught you something about true goodness.

A Message from Fr. Ian

As many of you will have seen or heard this week, I am included in this year's Diocesan changes. My work on Lough Derg has opened up new avenues of ministry to me and the diocese has graciously granted me a leave of absence to pursue this. Sadly, this means that my time in Magh Ene parish and in the Rock community has come to an end. Unfortunately, my schedule on Lough Derg means that I am unable to speak to you all personally this morning as the changes come into effect today. Although my time here has been short, I leave with many wonderful memories and a true sense of gratitude for the welcome, kindness and generosity I have received. I want to especially thank the Rock Pastoral Council for their help and encouragement and Canon Munster for his support and guidance. May the Lord bless and keep you and may the Spirit of God's love always flow through this community. I ask you to keep me in your prayers as I follow my vocation down new roads and I will keep you in mine.

Thank you all – Fr. Ian