

Kenmare Parish ~ Fr George Hayes, Parish Priest.

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Sunday, 9th January 2022 ~ Baptism of the Lord

Recent Deaths:

We remember in our prayers **CHRISTINA (CHRISSEY) WOOD**, Killowen, Kenmare, who died during the week. May she Rest in Peace.

Templenoe Church: John & Sarah Moriarty & deceased family members. Anniversary		
Direendaragh Church: Next Mass on Saturday, 15 th January 2022 at 6.00pm		
Mass Intentions : Holy Cross Church, Kenmare.		
Sat	7.30pm	Charlie Brennan, Glengarriff & Killowen Rd. Kenmare. Anniversary
Sun	9.00am	Helen Rembrecht & Daniel P. O’Sullivan Anniversary
Sun	12noon	Jimmy McCarthy, Roughty Lodge, Kenmare. Anniversary
Mon	10.00am	Dr. Patrick, Lily & Timmy Mahony, 17 Main St. Anniversary
Tues	10.00am	Murphy Family Thanksgiving for favours received
Wed	10.00am	Christopher & Deirdre Heffernan, Gerahadiveen & Wexford. Anniv.
Thurs	10.00am	William, Ella & Mary Ann O’Connell, Cahir West. ... Anniversary
Fri	10.00am	Denis O’Shea, Pine Lodge, Kenmare Anniversary

2 nd Jan 2022	Offertory	Parish Development Fund - Weekly Envelopes	Total
Direendarragh	€45	€55	€ 100
Kenmare	€1,212	€763	€ 1975

RADIO MARIA IRELAND is an interactive Catholic radio station, broadcasting Mass and prayer throughout the day, as well as many informative and engaging programmes. The spiritual director, Fr. Eamonn McCarthy, will attend the Masses at Holy Cross Church on the weekend of 15th / 16th January.

REGISTER FOR DIOCESAN MISSION 2022
Join the diocesan online Mission from Jan 16th – 19th. Each day, you are invited to join in the Mission talk, Prayer, Mass, Reflection, Prayer Petition and Family Time. Speakers include Oisín McConville, Kate Liffey, Fr Sean McDonagh and Miriam Kerins Hussey. Register for the upcoming Mission, *Moving Forward in Hope*, on www.dioceseofkerry.ie

The Baptism of the Lord:

Today’s Celebration highlights the baptism of Jesus at the Jordan. It was a great and decisive moment for Jesus. He was identified by God as God’s son and consecrated for his mission to save the world. He accepted the mission and would one day be ready to offer himself as a living sacrifice for the sins of humanity, but his death would not have the final say. He would be victorious through his resurrection and would become the giver of new life to those who accept him by faith.

Our baptism grafts us onto the Body of Christ making us all share in His Person.

The Season of Christmas ends with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

In the Epiphany we proclaimed and celebrated the centrality of Christ’s paschal mystery. The glory of the Lord has shone upon us. Through the rhythms and changes of time we call to mind and live the mysteries of salvation.

The centre of the whole liturgical year is the Paschal Triduum of the Lord, crucified, buried and risen, which will climax with the Solemn Vigil of Easter, during the holy night that will end with the dawn of 17th April. Every Sunday the Church makes present that great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death.

All the days we keep holy are reckoned from the date of Easter;

ASH WEDNESDAY, 2nd MARCH.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, 29th May.

PENTECOST, 5th JUNE.

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT is 27th NOVEMBER.

The feasts of the Holy Mother of God, of the Apostles and Saints and in the commemoration of the faithful departed, the Pilgrim Church on earth proclaims the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. To Christ who was, who is, and who is to come, the Lord of time and history be endless praise forever and ever. ‘Amen’.

Pastor's Ponderings

I was listening to a programme the other day on the radio, and it was talking about the search for meaning in life. Meaning is that which gives our life direction. It inspires us and motivates us. The person who was speaking was reflecting on the fact that there is now so much emphasis in life on the pursuit of happiness. Happiness can be short lived. Happiness can be about a meal, a sporting win, a trip or an event. But the commentator suggested, in life, in fact, we should be searching for meaning rather than happiness.

While none of us would wish to be unhappy, it seems that when we place priority on meaning, we can develop a deeper sense of what is important in life. Meaning is about relationships essentially. My relationship with myself, with God and with others. As the words of the philosopher Socrates remind us “*the unreflected life isn’t worth living*”. Being willing to search for meaning means that we are willing to engage with life’s deeper questions. We go beyond the demands of the everyday and the busyness of life. After all, there is a kind of compulsion in life to say, “I’m busy”. It is as if we cannot exist unless we are doing, producing tangible results, being able to point to our achievements.

Thomas Merton, the great mystic and teacher on the spiritual life, was once asked about the dangers to the spiritual life, in modern life. He said that one of the great dangers to developing a spiritual life is the drive for “efficiency”. After all, so much of what we do when we pray seems to produce no tangible results. It could be defined as wasting time with God. But it is in that time of quiet and reflection that the questions of meaning and existence can be explored. In that space, we can just *be* with God and with ourselves. So as the year 2022 begins and as we push the boat out into the waters of life, let us realise that in the midst of life’s challenges and life’s joys, that there is a person within us who can be strong, resilient and courageous.

Life has meaning. Each of us has meaning in the plan of God. We just need to be willing to discover that meaning. (Fr. George Hayes)