



**Pope Francis RIP**  
**17 December 1936 -**  
**21 April 2025**

## Death of Pope Francis – extract from statement of Archbishop Farrell

Pope Francis's death comes during the *Jubilee of Hope* which he inaugurated on Christmas Eve last. In his acceptance of people as they are, and by his constant going out to encounter the other in their own place (see Mark 1:38 and John 12:27), he himself became the great pilgrim of hope. In his preaching and teaching he has given the Church a rich treasury from which we will be drawing sustenance long into the future. From the outset he insisted on sharing the "joy of the gospel" and put those on the periphery at the centre of his ministry. The Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*—the *Joy of the Gospel* (2013), established the horizon, and set out the programme for his papal ministry. The joy of the gospel, and its hope, came to shape his life and ministry, and was the centre of his teaching: "Rather than offering the healing power of grace and the light of the gospel message, some would indoctrinate that message, turning it into dead stones to be hurled at others." (*Amoris Laetitia*, n. 49). Witness to the acceptance, healing, and hope of Christ is what the Church is really about, and Pope Francis gave himself to it with every fibre of his being.

His was a life marked by numerous profound changes. All that he became was rooted in his deep prayer, in his trust in the journey of Jesus, and in his abandonment of himself to the will of God. He has now set out on the final stage of his pilgrimage to God. For him, death "will allow us to participate, with sublime emotion, in the infinite and blissful exuberance of God's creative act, whose endless adventures we will experience first-hand." (24 August 2022) At the end of almost every audience and address, he would assure those present of his prayers, and ask them—with great simplicity—to pray for him. As we give thanks for the extraordinary gift he was and is for us all, let us do the one thing he asked for himself, let us pray for him. Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord. May he hear those words addressed to the good and faithful servants, "Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. May Pope Francis rest in the peace of Christ.

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

## Wicklow & Rathnew

RCN 20016166

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) - Year C  
**27th April 2025**



### *Gospel Reflection ~ Only Faith ~ Donal Neary SJ*

Jesus spoke in short sentences and summed up a lot of life in a few words. His final beatitude is in the gospel today - '**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.**' You can unpack that little phrase and in it you realise that faith is about things that cannot be proved, that it is not easy and that it brings a blessedness to life. It also includes ourselves - the ones of this year who still believe.

Something is only by faith when everything else fades off. Our loved ones die and only faith assures us that they are '*alive with God*'. Only faith assures us that Jesus is present in the mystery of the bread and wine at our Mass. Only faith assures us that he is with us when two or three gather and only faith assures us that what we do for others we do for him. Faith assures us of some of the best things of life; finally that we come from God and go to God.

Thomas found difficulty with all this. Jesus dealt gently with him, pointing out the wounds of his body and inviting him to touch them. But Thomas never needed to touch the holes in Jesus' hands and feet. He was told that an even better happiness was to believe without touch or sight. He found faith now in the risen Lord, and the faith itself was Jesus final gift to Thomas.

We need to take time and let faith grow within us. This can be in prayer, in faith-conversation and in allowing ourselves sit quietly and be in the presence of God. In the busy world, this may be difficult, but no day is diminished by time spent in silence and in quiet, knowing we are richly blessed when we grow our faith in God.

*Lord, I believe in your presence  
with me and within me.  
Strengthen my belief.*



*Sincere sympathies to the family of  
Siobhán O'Connor (née Farrell),  
Mount Carmel, Wicklow,  
formerly Rathnew*

# *Mass Intention List*

## *This Weekend ~ 26th & 27th April 2025*

- 6.00pm* Tom & Mary Malone (A), Maura Nichols (A),  
Bill Bury (A), Dan Breen (A) Robert Kearns
- 9.00am* Kevin Burke
- 10.30am* Kit & Ron Hagan, Joan Lynch (A),  
Gráinne & Pat Bolger, Mac Hanlon (A)
- 12.00pm* Bridget Gormley (MM)  
Michael Lavin (A), Paul Keelaghan (A),  
Michael Hanlon (A) & deceased members of the  
Hanlon & Scully Families

## *28th April ~ 2nd May, 2025*

- Monday* Special Intention
- 7.00pm* George Byrne
- Tuesday* Ellen Heatley
- 7.00pm* Kathleen O'Connor
- Wednesday* Terry O'Neill
- Thursday* NO MASS — EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE
- Friday* FIRST FRIDAY ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD

## *Next Weekend ~ 3rd & 4th May 2025*

- 6.00pm* Michael & Maura Byrne, Pat & Maí Barry & their  
son, Gerard, & his wife, Joan,  
Jim & Pauline Murphy (A), Aubrey O'Neill,  
Pat & Nancy Stakelum (A)
- 9.00am* Jordan Quinn
- 10.30am*
- 12.00pm* Richard Davis (MM), Ann Roche (A),  
Jack Meehan (A)

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS FOR WICKLOW & RATHNEW:

**20th April 2025**

<b>ENVELOPE/CHURCH COLLECTION</b>	- goes towards maintaining our parish	<b>€2175</b>
<b>1ST COLLECTION /COMMON FUND</b>	- pays salaries of Priests of Diocese	<b>€2145</b>
<b>2ND COLLECTION/SHARE</b>	- goes towards Diocesan Administration	<b>€1945</b>

*Many thanks for your continued support.*

## NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

To reflect on the readings please check  
[catholicireland.net](http://catholicireland.net) / [sacredspace.ie](http://sacredspace.ie) / [universalis.com](http://universalis.com)

**FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41**

**PSALM: 29:2, 4-6, 11-13**

**SECOND READING: Apocalypse 5:11-14**

**GOSPEL: John 21:1-14**

## Baptisms in the St. Mantan Pastoral Area

Wicklow	First Saturday	2pm
	Third Sunday	1pm
Rathnew	Fourth Saturday	2pm
Ashford	First Sunday	12 noon
Glenealy	Third Saturday	12 noon
BBK	Second Saturday	2pm



*Please note : The next meeting will be on Thursday, 8th May 2025, at 8pm in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre*

## PARISH CONTACTS

**Fr Aquinas Duffy : 0404 67196 // Fr Gerard Deegan : 0404 67133**

**Parish Office: 0404 61699**

[parishofficewicklow@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficewicklow@gmail.com)

**Office opening time Monday - Friday: 10am – 12.30pm**

**For all enquires and bookings**

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Ashford: 1st Friday after Mass

Wicklow: Mondays and Thursdays after Mass

Kilbride: 1st Thursday at 7pm (Divine Mercy)

Brittas Bay: Tuesdays at 9am



Four students from Coláiste Chill Mhantáin will be going as Volunteers on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September.

They will be holding a Church door collection in Wicklow next weekend - 3rd/4<sup>th</sup> May to fundraise for this trip.

They would be very grateful for your support.

### Knock Pilgrimage



Pilgrimage to Knock on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

Leaving the Memorial park Rathdrum at 7.30am sharp via Grand Hotel Wicklow at 8am.

€80 per person this includes Bus, Breakfast, Dinner.

Names and payment before 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025

Contact Susan at 0876273032.

**GROW** run peer support groups in Wicklow on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 to 4.30 in De La Salle Parish Centre.

They are self referral and no charge for anyone struggling with depression, anxiety, low mood or just the stresses of life. They offer a tried and tested method of self help and personal growth. Experience new hope and meaning through working on issues together in a peer support setting

MEETINGS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. Ring Trish for further info on 086 0129 082  
And see Grow.ie to listen to stories of Hope and Recovery.

## **Congratulations to all couples planning their marriage.**

**Don't forget to give 3 months notice to the parish where you live.**

**Your local parish is responsible for organising the paperwork necessary for the Sacrament of Marriage irrespective of where the wedding will take place.**



**Be sure to get in touch with the Parish Office to make arrangements to complete wedding papers at least 3 months before the date of the proposed wedding.**



**You are invited to join this guided trail, which will commence outside the Tourist Office in Fitzwilliam Square on Easter Saturday at 11am. (Trail will take approximately 2 hours to complete).**

**Guided trails will take place each Saturday from Easter Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> until 27<sup>th</sup> September.**

**For more information on  
Wicklow Town Heritage Trail visit: [www.wicklowtown.ie](http://www.wicklowtown.ie)**

### **Meeting of the Members of the Amalgamated Parish Pastoral Council.**

**As a further step in pooling our resources, and thereby strengthening our Parish Partnership, the first meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th May at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Wicklow.**

**We look forward to seeing you there.**

### **Tap & Go**

***We have a new Tap & Go machine in Wicklow Church. When you 'Tap' you now get the opportunity to put in your name, telephone number or email address.***

***This in turn allows the parish to accumulate all donations from the tap device, and from family offering/Share/Common Fund or dues collections. Your information is only required once. Therefore, for all combined donations over €250 the parish can claim the tax back.***

***Please choose a quiet day when the church is not busy to insert your contact details.***

**Interested in arranging flowers for the altar but not feeling confident enough to do it?**

**The parish is hoping to organise a short course in flower arranging with a view to expanding the current team**

**- if you would like to learn more about this please give your name in to the parish office.**



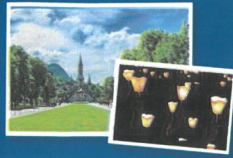
The death of a loved one can be an overwhelming and isolating experience but you don't have to face it alone

If you are grieving the loss of someone special or have had a loss of any kind and would like to talk to someone, Bethany Bereavement Support offer free support to adults, with sympathy and compassion in confidence. We have a drop-in service on the last Tuesday of the month at 8:00 pm in the De La Salle Centre Wicklow, or if you prefer, we can meet with you in person. Just call us on 086 835 9148 to arrange.



**The Rosary will be said each evening at the Grotto in Rathnew every evening for the month of May at 7.30pm - weather permitting. We look forward to seeing you there.**

**LOURDES**



## **LOURDES PILGRIMAGE**

**Wicklow Rathnew**

**26 August 2025**

**7 Nights**

**€1,095 per person sharing**

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lourdes
- » 20kg bags included
- » Return Airport Transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights accommodation in La Solitude Hotel
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- » Full religious programme including Anointing of the Sick, Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession & International Mass
- » Visit Places associated with the life of St. Bernadette including a guided tour of Lourdes and Bartres

**For information please contact:**

**Nancy Colgan**

**Telephone: 086 1099112**

**Email: [ncolgan@gmail.com](mailto:ncolgan@gmail.com)**

**Carol Kavanagh**

**Telephone: 086 0601956**

**Email: [carol.kavanagh2@gmail.com](mailto:carol.kavanagh2@gmail.com)**

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**Unit 2, First Floor,  
Rear of Boots Pharmacy  
Abbey Street, Wicklow**

*Have you, or a family member,  
been diagnosed with Cancer?*

*We're here to help -  
All our services are free of charge*

**0404 32696 or 086 821 6694**

Email [info@wicklowcancersupport.ie](mailto:info@wicklowcancersupport.ie)

Open: Mon-Fri: 10.00-5.00.

Closed for lunch 1-2p.m.

## **WICKLOW COPD GROUP**

**COPD Exercise class to help  
improve your breathing every  
Monday in the De La Salle  
Pastoral Centre.**

**Fully qualified Instructors  
Further information from  
Denis Teevan on 086 8174 703**

**The Rathnew Women's Shed are back hosting  
their craft fair in St. Brigid's Hall, Rathnew,  
this Sunday the 27th of April from 11am to  
3pm. There will be stalls full of hand crafts  
goods such as knit wares, crochet, handmade  
quilts, hand poured candles, upcycled  
creations, handmade sensory toys, many  
gifts and freshly baked goods and  
refreshments.**

Many thanks to the sponsor of our newsletter  
**McCrea's Funeral Home, Dublin Road,**  
Phone 0404 69000, 24 hours  
www.mccrea.ie - info@niallmccrea.com

## Parish Lotto Results for 24/ 04 / 2025

**NO JACKPOT WINNER THIS WEEK**



The winner of the €50 weekly raffle prize is:

**Tom Mulvihill**

**Next Week's Jackpot will be: € 1,650**

Your contribution to the Church is your appreciation for your parish.  
If you would like to become a regular contributor to the Parish, please fill in this slip and return Parish Office or Sacristy

Name.....

Contact Number.....

Address.....

"Thank you, God,  
for the strength you  
give me to face  
each day with  
courage and grace."

## ***The Beatitudes of Pope Francis (Sweden – 2016)***

**Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.**

**Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalised and show their closeness.**

**Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him.**

**Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.**

**Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.**

**Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.**

### **Reflection                      The Wisdom of Pope Francis**

**Everyone has experienced some degree of despair that “makes us feel as if our soul were crushed,” unable to breathe and perhaps even eager for death, Pope Francis said.**

**“We have to understand when our spirit is in this state of extended sadness, where there is almost no air. This happens to all of us” to some degree, he said.**

**So then what should people do when they go through “these dark moments because of a family tragedy, an illness, something that brings me down?” he asked.**

**In times of hopeless, spiritual despair, he said, the answer is to pray hard, just like Job, who cried out day and night for God to listen.**

***Risen Jesus,***

***Accompany us on our journey of sadness  
as you walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus.  
Help us respond to our calling, follow Your example  
and the witness of Pope Francis to be there  
for each other,  
in a spirit of solidarity as sisters and brothers.  
Give us the courage to broaden our horizons  
and reach out to those who need Your light,  
no matter who they are or where they come from.  
We ask this in Your name. Amen.***

**Let us pray, in the spirit of Pope Francis, for all who are sick today:**

**God of tenderness and healing,  
Be with those who are ill in their struggle at this time.  
Fill them with Christian hope that does not disappoint  
and strengthen them in this time of trial.**

**May they who are supported by so many in prayer  
be lifted up on the wings of our intercessions.**

**We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**May Mary, who stood at the cross of her Son comfort the  
sick today.**

**A Mhuire na nGrás, a Mháthair Mhic Dé, Go gcuire tú ar  
a leas iad.**

