



St. Nicholas' Parish News
 16th Sunday of the Year
 20 July 2014
 www.saintnicholasparish.ie



Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.
 Phone 340614

Salesian Sisters:
 348510

Mass times:
NO weekday Masses during
 the month of July

Fridays Liturgy of the Word
 with Holy Communion

Weekends:
St. Nicholas'
 7.00pm Saturday
 10.30 am— Sunday
St. Munchin's College:
 12.00noon Sundays.

Items for newsletter
 to be in to
John 085 7406822
Dympna 348510
 by **Wednesday morning** .
 E-mail:
 stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com

Feasts this week:
 Mon 7th: Blessed Maria Ro-
 mero (Salesian)
 Tues 8th: St. Killian
 Fri 11th: St. Benedict

Last week's collection:
 Last weekend€
 Thank You for your generosity.

Readers next weekend:
 Sat: 7pm: Celine Holland
 Michael Cooke
 Sun: 10.30: Mary Kelly
 Emmett Fitzgerald
 12.00: Paddy Cronin
 Frances Quillinan

St. Vincent de Paul col-
 lection after all Masses
 this weekend.

The Mustard Seed Revolution

The mustard seed parable is often explained away by stating how God takes a tiny seed and makes a big tree out of it. There is, as usual, a lot more going on here. Matthew strategically places the mustard seed parable in the middle of a story about gardening. Jesus surprises his listeners by telling them not to cut the weeds out of the wheat. The mustard seed's growth could also be compared to wild weeds that grow through cracks in footpaths or a vine that vigorously takes over an area. There is an ancient text which forbade planting mustard seeds in Palestinian gardens because the shrub takes over, like how yeast works its way through dough! It is wild, out of control, and attracts unwanted birds. Author and activist, Shane Claiborne, compares it to kudzu, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas, smother trees, even crack cement buildings. People of Jesus' time may have preferred the image of the lofty 'cedars of Lebanon' to explain God's kingdom, where the nations could build nests like the eagles do. Now that image may have gotten a few cheers from the crowd! Mustard plants however, only stand a few feet tall. Jesus is turning the ideals of power and triumph on their head again. The image we have here is of the unwanted, detestable birds who find a home in this little shrub which cannot be curtailed. It will grow even where it is not wanted. Jane Mellett

Youth 2000 Summer Festival

This will take place at Cistercian College, Roscrea from 14—17 August. This is for young people 16—35 yrs. And is an opportunity not to be missed—to experience our Catholic Faith and meet many new people. This festival has been nicknamed the "Holy Oxygen", with over 1000 young people from all corners of Ireland attending last year. Donation only. Wwww.youth2000.ie or phone 01 6753690 for further information.

Pope Francis appeals for prayers for peace in Israel

Speaking after the Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square, the Pope described his appeal as "heartfelt" and said we must all continue to pray insistently for peace in the Holy Land in the light of the tragic events of the past days. Some may think – he continued - that that encounter took place in vain. But no! Prayer helps us – Francis said –not to be conquered by evil or to resign ourselves that violence and hatred may prevail over dialogue and reconciliation.



A Quiet Time with Jesus

24 hour Adoration will resume on Thursday 4 September. There will be adoration every day from 9.00a.m.—6.00p.m. and on Thursdays until 11.00p.m.

Lough Derg Pilgrimages

God's healing grace is experienced on Lough Derg in an intensity seldom encountered elsewhere: through spiritual exercise, companionship of other pilgrims and the sheer holiness of the place. Daily boats from 10.30 until 3.00p.m. every day until 13 August. No booking necessary. Further information from 071 9861518. e-mail info@loughderg.org



Reek Sunday 27 July 2014

Croagh Patrick is renowned for its Patrician Pilgrimage in honour of Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. It was on the summit of the mountain that Saint Patrick fasted for forty days in 441 AD and the custom has been faithfully handed down from generation to generation. Let us unite in person or in spirit with those who will climb the reek—and entrust our country to the care of St. Patrick.

St. John's Cathedral

RTE 1 will feature St. John's Cathedral in a programme 'Building Ireland' on Tuesday **29 July at 7.00p.m.** Orla Murphy, architect, will investigate its gothic revival spire and Susan Hegarty, geographer, will uncover the world famous qualities of the local blue limestone and Tim Joyce will explore the city's relationship with the river Shannon.

Aware Depression Support Group meets

on Wednesdays at 8pm at the Pastoral Centre, Denmark Street. All are welcome

Aware Support Groups are free to attend, no referral necessary.

www.aware.ie

Videos on You Tube

A short video has just been published by the Irish Bishops Conference featuring our own Bishop Brendan - A reflection on the new Irish Catechism for Adults . In fact there are a number of videos available on You Tube from Bishop Brendan.

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

Will take place on Saturday 16 August.

Coach leaves St. Nicholas' Church at

8.30.m. and St.

Munchin's college gate at

8.35am. Booking and further can be obtained in the sacristy or by ringing: 345681



Reading Time

Now that our young people have some extra free time it would be helpful to encourage them to read more.

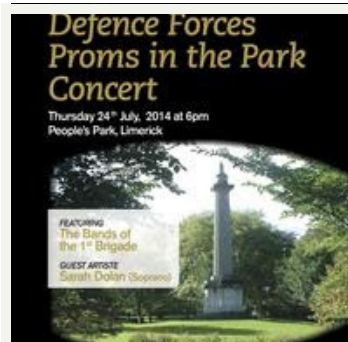
Watch House Cross Community Library is open from Tuesday to Saturday each week and have a huge variety of books to suit all ages and tastes. Free Membership.

Remembering our Sick

Let us continue to remember in our prayer each day those who are sick at home or in hospital— Brian, Muireann, Orla, Ciara, Laura, Baby Reuben, Dermot, Michael, Vera, Brian, Frank, Bridget, Anne, Paddy, Olive, Breda, Geraldine, Kathleen, Michael, Pat, David, Anthony, Maureen, Marie, Delia and P. J.. Let us pray for those in nursing homes and all carers.



24 July free tickets to be booked on-line



Defence Forces Ireland delivers Proms in the Park, a fun-filled family event in People's Park. One of the key attractions of the line-up will be the official film scores from some of the world's most loved films. They include the soundtracks of Pirates of the Caribbean, Harry Potter, ET, Mission Impossible and John Williams' iconic Indiana Jones score. For lovers of classical jazz and big band, Proms in the Park will deliver an exceptional set list of music by jazz-vocal favourite Frank Sinatra, Glenn Miller and the influential-George Gershwin. Tchaikovsky's 'March Slave' and John Williams' 'Olympic Fanfare and Theme' will also be

anticipated features of what promises to be one of the highlights of the summer for both the young and old. And it wouldn't be a Defence Force special without the popular Military Marches to create the perfect summer evening.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome - October 2014

You are invited please share this information widely. Pilgrimage to Rome to commemorate

St John Paul II's visit to Limerick and to attend the Beatification of Pope Paul VI Led by Bishop Brendan Leahy

October 18th – 22nd 2014 €770 pps

Proposed Itinerary and other details on the diocesan website [HERE](#)

HOW TO BOOK:

1. Fill out your booking form having read our Terms & Conditions.

2. Submit the deposit of €350 (made out to Tom Mannion Travel) and booking form to: Cultural Connections Ltd. Newtown, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Alternatively, bookings can be made over the phone using a debit card.

Please call 057 9355050. We cannot accept credit card payments.

Tour organizers: Cultural Connections Ltd In association with: Tom Mannion Travel T.A. 0178 IATA, ITAA. (Cultural Connections Ltd. Newtown, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland Phone:057 9355050 mornings only. Email: group-travel@libero.it)

Prayer for Young Person

Lord Jesus, I am young and the world is opening up before me. There are many paths I can take; Help me to choose the one that is right for me. In this world I see so much beauty and so much pain living side-by-side. The beauty thrills me, but the pain, the injustice, the abuse, the sadness disturbs me. So many people can lead only half lives. I feel a call to help you give real life to people...life to the full. But I don't see clearly the path you wish me to follow.



Lead me gently there Lord.

"Come to Me with your worries and burdens" Jesus