

It happened in May



8th: Bl. John Sullivan was born in Eccles Street, Dublin on 8 May 1861 and baptised in St George's Church of Ireland, Temple Street and was brought up in

the Christian tradition of his father. He went to Portora Royal School in Enniskillen and then studied classics and law at Trinity College, Dublin and at Lincoln's Inn, London. At the age of thirty-five he was received into the Roman Catholic Church and returned to Dublin, living a very simple life style. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1900, was ordained priest in 1907 and then spent the greater part of his life at Clongowes Wood College, Co. Kildare. His reputation for holiness and as a person of prayer spread rapidly and he was always available to the sick, the poor and anyone in need. He died 19 February 1933. His declaration as blessed on 13 May 2017 at St Francis Xavier Church, Gardiner Street, Dublin was the first ever beatification celebrated in Ireland. His mortal remains lie in a shrine in St Francis Xavier's church. It is a place where people come to pray and bring their petitions to Fr John asking him to intercede for them with his prayers.

Blessed John Sullivan SJ Monthly Healing Mass is normally held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 1pm with Blessing of the crucifix of Fr John after Mass. The Mass has been cancelled for the present until further notice.

Books on Bl Sullivan available from Messenger Publications - <http://messenger.ie/search/sullivan>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice.
(Acts 2:14.36-41)

PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirits.
(Ps 23:1-6)

SECOND READING

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.
(1 Pt 2:20-25)

GOSPEL

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is it thief and a brigand'
(Jn 10:1-10)

Saints of the Week

Mon 4 St Conleth, bishop
Tues 5 Bl. Edmund Rice, religious
Fri 8 Bl. John Sullivan, priest

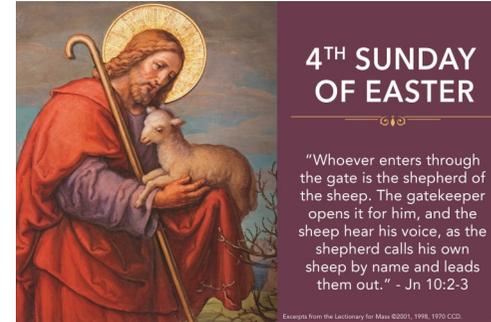
Then they said to him 'what must we do if we are to do the works that God wants? Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.
(John 6 28:30)



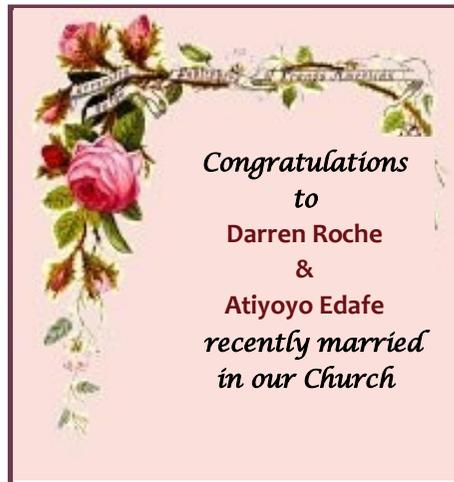
FOXROCK PARISH

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER MAY 3rd 2020



Recently Deceased
Amy Kellahan
Carmel Kevin
Denis O' Connor
May they rest in peace



MASS INTENTIONS

11.30 am
Eavan Boland (Rec. Deceased)
Benz Brophy (Anniversary)
Enda Hession (Anniversary)
Liam Mac An Iomaire (Anniversary)
William Wade (Anniversary)
Dick Byrne (Anniversary)
Jerry O' Callaghan (Anniversary)

Months mind for funerals in March

Richard Nolan
Sheila Mc Manus
Colm O' Shea
Patricia Sweeney
Nora (Norrie) O' Farrell
Maureen O' Sullivan
Molly Griffin
Bernard King

Other Anniversaries:-

Pauline O' Rourke
Richard Byrne
Harold Fry
Colm Hogan
Kate Needham
Eileen Mc Loughlin

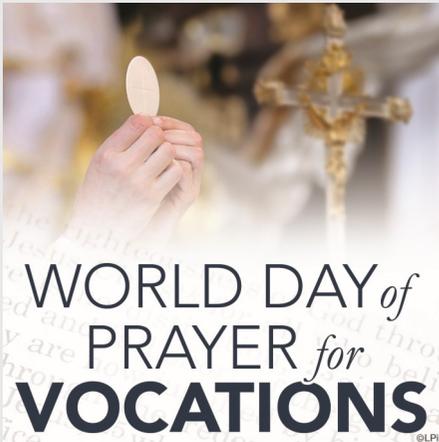


May 3, 2020
Fourth Sunday of
Easter

What does Jesus give us through the resurrection? The simple yet profound answer is found in today's gospel: 'My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life.'

Through the power of the resurrection, Jesus shares with us what the Father shared with him; he gives us what the Father gives him, *eternal life*. This is a free gift; we can't do anything to deserve it, warrant it or demand it. Yet, it does require some response on our part, and again we find this in our gospel.

How do we come to know Jesus in a personal way with an intimate friendship? We experience Jesus through *hearing* his voice and then *following* him. Jesus never stops calling each of us personally; He reaches out to us when he says 'I call you by your name, you are mine.' And then having being called out of love, we are invited and even challenged to follow him. Each of us follows Jesus in our own unique and sacred way according to our own baptismal call. During this Easter season, we pray that we will appreciate the gift of eternal life that is being made available to us, that we listen to the voice of Jesus calling and that we will follow him.



WORLD DAY of
PRAYER for
VOCATIONS

In his address for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis uses four key words – *pain, gratitude, encouragement and praise* – as a way of thanking priests and supporting their ministry.

'I believe that today, on this 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, those words can be addressed to the whole people of God, against the backdrop of the Gospel passage that recounts for us the remarkable experience of Jesus and Peter during a stormy night on the Sea of Galilee (cf. Mt 14:22-33...)'

'Something similar takes place in the hearts of those who, called to follow the Teacher of Nazareth, have to undertake a crossing and abandon their own security to become the Lord's disciples. The risk involved is real: the night falls, the headwinds howl, the boat is tossed by the waves, and fear of failure, of not being up to the call, can threaten to overwhelm them...'

The Gospel, however, tells us that in the midst of this challenging journey we are not alone. Like the first ray of dawn in the heart of the night, the Lord comes walking on the troubled waters to join the disciples; he

invites Peter to come to him on the waves, saves him when he sees him sinking and, once in the boat, makes the winds die down... The first word of vocation, then, is *gratitude*. Taking the right course is not something we do on our own, nor does it depend solely on the road we choose to travel...

When the disciples see Jesus walking towards them on the sea, they first think that he is a ghost and are filled with fear. Jesus immediately reassures them with words that should constantly accompany our lives and our vocational journey: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear" (Mt 14:27). This, then, is the second word I wish to offer you: *encouragement*.

What frequently hinders our journey, our growth, our choosing the road the Lord is marking out for us, are certain "ghosts" that trouble our hearts. When we are called to leave safe shores and embrace a state of life – like marriage, ministerial priesthood, consecrated life – our first reaction is often from the "ghost of disbelief". Surely, this vocation is not for me! Can this really be the right path? Is the Lord really asking me to do this?

In an earlier *Letter to Priests*, Pope Francis spoke about *pain*, "but here I would like to translate the word differently, as *fatigue*. Every vocation brings with it a responsibility. The Lord calls us because he wants to enable us, like Peter, to "walk on water", in other words, to take charge of our lives and place them at the service of the Gospel, in the concrete and everyday ways that he shows us, and specifically in the different forms of lay, priestly and consecrated.'

'As we live out our specific vocation, those headwinds can wear us down. Here I

think of all those who have important responsibilities in civil society, spouses whom I like to refer to – not without reason – as "courageous", and in a particular way those who have embraced the consecrated life or the priesthood. I am conscious of your hard work, the sense of isolation that can at times weigh upon your hearts, the risk of falling into a rut that can gradually make the ardent flame of our vocation die down, the burden of the uncertainty and insecurity of the times, and worry about the future. Take heart, do not be afraid! Jesus is at our side, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us and save us.'

'Even amid the storm-tossed waters, then, our lives become open to *praise*. This is the last of our vocation words, and it is an invitation to cultivate the interior disposition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Grateful that the Lord gazed upon her, faithful amid fear and turmoil, she courageously embraced her vocation and made of her life an eternal song of praise to the Lord.'

Pope Francis concludes:

'Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, to find courage to say "yes" to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us.'

Full text is available on Vatican Website