

**NEXT BAPTISM  
PREPARATION MEETING**

- will be at 8pm, on Tuesday, 2nd May, for the celebration of Baptism on Sunday, 7th May.



CHURCH OF OUR LADY  
MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE

Phone: (01) 831 3232  
e-mail: info@rahenyparish.ie  
Website: www.rahenyparish.ie

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Vigil	9.00 pm	EASTER VIGIL
Sun.	8.30 am 10.00am 11.30am	EASTER SUNDAY
Mon.	10.00am	Paddy Ayres, Rec. Dec. Sean Kelly, 1st Anniv. Michael Walsh, Anniv Health Intention
Tues.	10.00am	Pauline Byrne-Nunan, Anniv.
Wed.	10.00am	Funeral
Thur	10.00am	Bernadette Dunne, Rec. Dec. Michael Quinn, Rec. Dec.
Fri.	10.00am	Mary Clarke, Anniv Deceased members of the Boyle and McCarthy families

**THE DEEP END**

In today's Gospel, Mary Magdalen is highlighted as the woman who is the first witness of the Resurrection. Mary and the two disciples must have been very confused and upset as they tried to understand what had happened to Jesus' body. Reading this story can bring many emotions for us: fear and confusion at death, or even a feeling of euphoria and joy at the realisation that death is not the end. If we have lost a loved one, we might feel comforted in the knowledge that we will be reunited with them once more. Jesus comes into situations of despair, disappointment and doubt and, as with Mary after this incident, comes in the form of a stranger, gently calling her name. The Risen Lord seems to meet us in familiar territory, where we least expect it.

We might ask the Lord today for the strength and courage to allow Him to break into our lives once more, to help us to be free of whatever it is that causes 'death' in our lives, to help us to let go, to be open to recognising Him in our most painful moments and in the most familiar places.

'God of openness, of life and of the Resurrection, come into this Easter season and bless me. Look around at the tight, dead spaces of my heart. Bring your gentle but firm love ... Open me. Open me. Open me. For it is only then I will grow and change, for it is only then that I will be transformed. For it is only then that I will know how it is. To be in the moment of rising from the dead.' (Joyce Rupp).

Jane Mellet

**The Big April Ask** - With the next Synod of Bishops to focus on Young People & the Church, a survey is currently being conducted by Youth Leaders in Ireland. Hosted on Survey Monkey, aimed at young people aged 16-30, it takes 2 minutes:  
[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bigaprilask](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bigaprilask)

**CATECHESIS TO PREPARE FOR WMOF2018** *Amoris: Let's talk family, Let's be family Programme & National Novena to Our Lady of Knock* A one-year programme of preparations for the World Meeting of Families 2018 will be formally launched during this year's National Novena to Our Lady of Knock, from 14-22 June 2017. The Programme will consist of a phased family- and parish-based programme, to include opportunities for reflection / engagement and also catechetical moments drawing on themes from *Amoris Laetitia*. Team members are consulting with representatives of each Diocese to develop the programme and discuss how it can be made widely available to families and parishes.

Please pray for Caeylio McArdle and Faye McAuley - baptised recently: we welcome you into our Christian community.

**NEW PILGRIM PATH**  
(website of the week)

St. Ignatius of Loyola was convinced that God can speak to us as surely through our imagination as through our thoughts and memories. The Ignatian Spirituality website provides an inspiring video and imaginative prayer exercise for Easter. Access this, and other rich online spiritual resources, on [www.NewPilgrimPath.ie](http://www.NewPilgrimPath.ie)

**READINGS Next Sunday**

**2nd Sunday of Easter**  
**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Acts 2:42-47  
Ps 117  
1 Pt 1:3-9  
Jn 20: 19-31

**The history surrounding the dates of Easter**

At the Council of Nicaea in 325, the date for Easter was fixed as the Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox. Eastern Christians calculate the date of Easter according to the Julian Calendar, the Calendar in general use before the Gregorian reform of 1582. One of the reforms was the removal of ten days from the Calendar and this discrepancy between the Julian and Gregorian Calendars results often in a difference in the date for Easter in East and West as they follow the two Calendars. This does not happen in 2017 when the date of Easter for Eastern Christians is also Sunday, 16th April.