

The Annual Mass for parishioners who died during the past year takes place on Monday, 3rd November at 7.30pm.

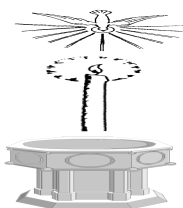
A Cake Sale / Coffee Morning in aid of *Get Luke to St. Louis* will be held on Wednesday, 29th October, from 10.30am to 12.30pm in 49, St. Assam's Park.

Project Messiah is an opportunity for those who would like to be involved singing Handel's Messiah, in Whitefriar St. Church on Saturday, 29th Nov., to mark the start of the new church year. Practices on Thursday evenings, from 7.15-9.30 pm in All Hallows. Bring your own score. There is a charge of €50 to defray costs.

Please remember in your prayers, Adam Steven Pager, Lily Jaye O'Neill, Callie Mae Gannon & Hannah Patricia Coughlan - all of whom were recently baptised into our Christian community.

Feastdays this week

Tues 28th: St. Simon & St. Jude, apostles
Sat 1st: Feast of All Saints



NEXT BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING

- in the church at 8pm, on Tuesday, 4th Nov., for Baptism on Saturday, 8th Nov.



CHURCH OF OUR LADY, MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE

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THE DEEP END : Selfless Saints

Various figures down through the ages have become synonymous with selfless love – Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Oscar Romero, St Damian of Molokai, St Don Bosco, St Maximilian Kolbe... the list goes on. They were people who gave up everything to help others, often suffering greatly themselves in the process. They were those rare human beings who truly lived out the familiar, yet challenging instruction to 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

I recently came across the story of St Josephine Margaret Bakhita of Sudan, who was kidnapped as a young woman and spent many years as a slave. Asked once 'What would you do, if you were to meet your captors?', she responded: 'If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For, if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious today.' During illness in her later years, when a visitor would ask how she was, she would reply 'As the Master desires'. Her words display a deep understanding of the two greatest commandments, to love God with all your heart, and to love your neighbour as yourself.

The God who speaks in today's First Reading is a God 'full of pity' who hears the cry of the poor and vulnerable. Many of the saints down through the ages echoed this love in their service of others. Reading about the lives of the saints might no longer be fashionable, but there is so much we can learn.

Triona Doherty, Athlone; trionad@gmail.com

Church gate collection this Sunday, 26th Oct. will be in aid of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.

A Liturgy Group meeting will take place on Tuesday next at 10.30am.

Vigil	6.00 pm	Eoghan Ó Suilleabháin (Anniv.)
Sun.	8.30 am	Pro Populo
	10.00 am	Tommy O'Neill (Anniv.)
	11.30 am	Michael & Pearl Gallagher (Anniv.)
Mon.	10.00am	Maureen Cruise R.I.P.
Tues.	10.00am	Mary Kearney (Rec. Dec.)
Wed.	10.00am	Tony Finn (Anniv.)
Thurs.	10.00am	Séamus Moran (Rec. Dec.)
Fri.	10.00am	John, MaryAnn & Jimmy McNeice (Anniv.)
Sat.	10.00am	Tim Collins (Rec. Dec.)
	11.30am	Joan & Frank Kerrigan (Anniv.)

Please note that there will only be two Masses on the Holy Day, Sat. 1st Nov, All Saints Day.

On Thursday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place from 10.30am until 12 noon.

GETTING MARRIED SOON?

"Week-End Away" preparing for marriage. Get away from it all. Have a Pre-Marriage course with a difference, focussing on your relationship. Contact: Esker, Athenry, (091) 844549, OR www.redemptoristsesker.ie OR search for "Esker Couples" on Facebook.

READINGS - Next Sunday

Is 25:6-9
Ps. 26
Rm. 5:5-11
Mt 11:25-30

