

**NEXT BAPTISM
PREPARATION MEETING**

- will be at 8pm, on Tuesday, 16th May, for the celebration of Baptism on Sunday, 21st May.



**CHURCH OF OUR LADY
MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE**

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MASS INTENTIONS

THE DEEP END The Good Shepherd

'The Lord is my shepherd.' How often have we sung this Psalm or heard it read and repeated the response? Its words are so familiar that sometimes we might not even think about what we are saying or singing. But the image of Jesus as shepherd is worth reflecting on, especially on this Good Shepherd Sunday.

Four years ago on Holy Thursday, Pope Francis caused a bit of a stir when he urged bishops and priests to get to know their flocks, and to be like shepherds who 'smell of their sheep': 'This I ask you: be shepherds, with the "odour of the sheep", make it real, as shepherds among your flock.' The vivid image captured the imagination of many who heard it. But in evoking the metaphor of shepherd, Pope Francis was echoing the language of the Gospel extract we hear today, when Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

Jesus tells us that sheep recognise the voice of their shepherd, and that is why they follow him. This kind of trust could only be gained by a shepherd who handles his sheep, feeds them, and protects them – to the extent that he smells like them. That's how well Jesus knows us, and it is because of how intimately he knows us, how much he has sacrificed for us, and how well he cares for us, that we are able to love and follow him in return.

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co Roscomon (Email trionad@gmail.com)

Vigil	6.00 pm	Joan & Michael Dowling Anniv Brian Carthy Anniv Teresa Rooney Anniv
Sun.	8.30 am	The McGlue Family Health Intention
	10.00am	Patrick Tobin R.D. Eddie Kane R.D.
	11.30am	Marie Shalloo 1 st Anniv Pearl Thompson 1 st Anniv Paddy Atkins B/day Remembrance Jack O'Neill Anniv Gerry Carpenter
Mon.	10.00am	Owen Roberts R.D. Health Intention
Tues.	10.00am	Sean Hickey Anniv. Health Intention
Wed.	10.00am	Noel Collins R.D.
Thur	10.00am	Eric Dunne B/day Remembrance.
Fri.	10.00am	Tony Barron R.D. Health Intention.

The Church Gate Collection on Sunday 7th May will be in support of Dublin Diocesan students preparing for ordination.

**READINGS Next Sunday
5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 6:1-7
Ps 32
1 Pt 2:4-9
Jn 14:1-12



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.

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

Blessing For Expectant Mothers

A special blessing for expectant mothers will take place on **Thursday, 25th May in Our Lady of Mercy Church, Artane at 8pm**. If you are pregnant, we would love to see you there. If you need any further information contact Alice: 8319770 or Eileen: 8319617. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards.