

**NEXT BAPTISM
PREPARATION MEETING**

- will be on Tuesday, 3rd September
at 8pm, for Baptisms on Sunday, 8th
September.



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

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MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil	6.00 pm	Teddy Kearney (Rec. Dec.) Eugene Lewis (1st Anniv.) Veronica Traynor (Anniv.)
Sun.	8.30 am	Cian Markham (Rec. Dec.) William O'Keefe (Anniv.) Special Intention
	10.00am	Phyllis Dowdall (Rec. Dec.) Owen Gorman (Anniv.) Teresa Joyce (1st Anniv.)
	11.30am	Evelyn & William Quearney (Anniv.) James Drummond (Anniv.) Elizabeth (Lily) Green (Anniv.) Morrissey & Casey Families (Anniv.) Alfie Kane (Anniv.)
Mon	10.00am	Parishioners Intentions
Tues.	10.00am	Health Intentions
Wed	10.00am	Margaret Hanley (Rec. Dec.)
Thur	10.00am	Myles O'Connor (Rec. Dec.)
Fri.	10.00am	The Holy Souls

The Deep End - Curioser and curioser

'Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole: she knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden you ever saw. How she longed to get out of that dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but she could not even get her head through the doorway.' (Lewis Carroll: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*)

In the opening chapter of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice is having a bit of bother with doors. She finds herself in a hall in which the doors are all locked. When she finds a key, it doesn't fit the locks. When she manages to find a door to match the key, she herself won't fit - the door is too narrow. How frustrating!

Today's Gospel parable features a narrow door, a locked door, and an unsympathetic doorkeeper - it's almost as if the master wants to keep everyone out! People knock on the door expecting to be admitted, but it's not that simple. The master turns them away, claiming not to know them, despite protestations that they are acquainted. Jesus is teaching His followers about discipleship. What does He mean by '<we must 'enter by the narrow door'>? Is it almost impossible to enter the kingdom of God? One thing is sure: a passing acquaintance with Jesus will not do. A plea, 'We once ate and drank in your company' is feeble. It's not enough to know Jesus only on the surface - to attend Mass every Sunday or turn to Him only when in need. To really know Jesus, we must walk the narrow path of the Gospel.

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co Roscommon. e-mail trionad@gmail.com

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Tues. 27th: St. Monica

Wed. 28th: St. Augustine, bishop & doctor of the Church

Fri 30th: St. Fiacre

Sat. 31st: St. Aidan of Lindisfarne

Young Adult Catholic Conference: Aug 31st - Sept 1st - All Hallows College, Drumcondra. For more information: www.legionofmary-deusetpatricia.com

PILGRIMAGES TO KNOCK SHRINE

Fri. Aug 30th 6.30pm to 12 noon, Sun. Sept 1st:

Monaghan Charismatic Prayer Group Annual time for Worship / Praise / Healing. Speakers: Brendan Walsh, Fr Peter Okpetu, Josephine Greenan. All welcome. Details www.mcpg.net or contact AnneMarie - 086 7251770

Sun. Sept 8th: National Grandparents Pilgrimage (see poster in Church porch).

Sun. Sept 29th: Legion of Mary Annual Pilgrimage. Cost €35 (incl. coach / snack / hot meal) Departs parish church at 7.30am. Contact Sean or Betty 087 6435036.

Equipes Notre-Dame (Ireland) - a Christian movement for Married Couples, is holding a family picnic at Ardgillan Castle next Sunday, Sept 1st - meeting on the green in front of castle at 12 noon. So much to do! Have fun in playground, enjoy a picnic, stroll the grounds, sip coffee in coffee shop, visit the gardens, tour the castle! Visitors especially welcome. For more details call Anne: 086 0695906

**READINGS Next Sunday
(22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Eccles (Sir) 3:17-20, 28-29

Psalm: 67

Hebrews: 12:18-19, 22-24

Luke 14: 1, 7-14



Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of James Curran who died recently. May he rest in the loving arms of our merciful God.