

PARISH OF RASHARKIN – ST. MARY’S AND ST. COLUMBA’S

14th and 15th May 2022: The Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Reflection: The New Creation

At this season, Christ puts fresh heart in us, so that we may spread His kingdom. He gives us His new commandment of love and encourages us with the promise of the new Jerusalem.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION

As Christians, we remember the commandment of God to keep holy the Sabbath day and to celebrate the Eucharist “in memory of me”. For that reason, Catholics are **obliged to come to Mass on Sundays and holy days** (or their vigils) unless they have a serious reason. The obligation was temporarily removed during the pandemic but is now **restored from Easter Sunday** (17th April 2022).

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Luke McWilliams **TELEPHONE:** 028 2957 1212

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarysparishrasharkin.org **PARISH EMAIL:** info@stmarysparishrasharkin.org

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE: <http://www.facebook.com/rasharkinparish>

NORMAL WEEKEND MASS TIMES: St. Mary’s, Rasharkin, Vigil Mass and Children’s Liturgy: **Saturday 6.30 pm.**

Sunday: 9am and 11am.

NORMAL WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at **10am.**

HOLY HOUR will be every **Wednesday from 7pm to 8pm**, during which there will be an opportunity for Confessions in the Sacristy.

ROSARY: Monday to Friday before 10am Mass.

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: by arrangement with Fr Luke.

Any changes to above will be announced at Masses

Congratulations to all the children who made their First Holy Communion in the parish on Saturday 14th May. May they receive all God’s blessings from this Sacrament. We hope they enjoy their special day and we give thanks for all who helped the children to prepare to receive the Sacrament, and to all who prepared the Church.

We pray for the recently deceased and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they Rest in Peace.

COLLECTIONS: Offertory £1645. Stipend £1284. Building Fund £197. **Grateful thanks to all who contributed.**

If you require Parish Envelopes, please leave your name and address details with Fr Luke. If you are a taxpayer who contributes through the collection envelopes or who makes donations to the Parish, and if you are not currently registered on the Gift Aid scheme, please leave your details with Fr Luke. If you have any queries, please contact John McAuley. The counting of the Parish envelopes has now re-started. It is hoped to have smaller groups to keep everyone safe. New counters are urgently needed. Any existing counters who wish to recommence please contact Kate Rodgers on 07516082889.

RASHARKIN PARISH MINISTRIES: **YOUR PARISH needs YOU** as volunteers for **ALL** the parish ministries (Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Children’s Liturgy, Parish Hall Committee, envelope counters, etc.) Please contact Fr Luke if you wish to become involved. The return of Altar Servers will be progressed through the primary school.

Saints for this week: **Saturday 14th May** – St Matthias, apostle; **Sunday 15th May** – St Carthage, bishop; **Monday 16th May** – St Brendan, abbot; **Wednesday 18th May** – St John I, pope and martyr; **Thursday 19th May** – St Dunstan, bishop; **Friday 20th May** – St Bernadine of Siena, priest; **Saturday 21st May** – St Christopher Magallanes, priest, and companions, martyrs.

UPCOMING:

Cemetery Sunday will take place on **Sunday 5th June 2022, at 11am Mass.**

Pilgrimage to Fatima 24th to 31st May 2022. Contact Bridie Gallagher 02825644181.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 13th to 18th July 2022. Full details in Church porch and on the booking form. Contact the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 9077 0162 or email: lourdes@downandconnor.org

FIRST SATURDAYS HOLY HOUR in St Mary’s Church, Rasharkin on the first Saturday of each month from 1.30pm to 2.30pm See notice in Church Porch.

ADORATION: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available in the Adoration Oratory during Chapel opening times. To avail of this wonderful opportunity, just pull back the round flap on the front of the tabernacle to reveal the Blessed Host. On leaving, if no one else is present, please close the flap back over again. Thank you. It is hoped that many will take even a few precious moments to spend time in the presence of Jesus.

LEGION OF MARY – See posters in Chapel porches.

We would like to encourage as many as possible to join with us at 8pm daily during the month of May at the grotto for the Rosary to our Blessed Lady. Throughout Ireland, at hundreds of grottos, the Rosary at the Grottos will be said at 8pm daily during May, with exception of Wednesdays in our Parish (which is Holy Hour). We pray to honour Our Blessed Mother and ask her to wrap her mantle of protection around Ireland. We would be grateful if we could get volunteers for at least one night of the week, and

hopefully we will be joined by family, friends and parishioners for this lovely occasion. Please let any member of the Legion of Mary know as soon as possible in order to have a rota of names for doing this. Thank you and God bless.

Meditating with Mary in the Month of May – see posters in Church porch.

Sundays 8, 15 & 22 May at 7 pm in St Olcan's Hall, Rasharkin.

This is a 3-week programme which provides an opportunity to come together as a parish community to meditate on three joyful moments in the life of Mary: the Annunciation and the Visitation which culminate in Mary's song of praise to God, the Magnificat. Together we will reflect on these moments of encounter in her life as we meditate on the Gospel of Luke. As we read through a selected number of texts, we will have an opportunity to understand more deeply Mary as the model of discipleship for the Church. This programme will also give us an opportunity to reflect on the Scriptures, share our insights, pray together and learn about the ways in which Sacred Art can inspire our understanding of these aspects of Mary's life. As we gather together each week, let it be an opportunity for us to follow the example of Mary so that God's Word can become a life giving encounter for each one of us. Meditating with Mary in the month of May, will help us to rediscover the beauty of God's message of hope and love as we contemplate the wonders God worked in Mary's life. All are welcome to join this free weekly event.

CONSECRATION TO OUR MOTHER MARY - You are welcome to join this consecration at any time.

Every Saturday, through to December 2022, a short reading or 'Star' (for each of the 46 stars on the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe) will be sent by email, WhatsApp and added to the Facebook group Mary's Mantle 2022. Join the community in consecrating our lives to Mother Mary, by sending your details to: consecrationtomothermary@gmail.com, mobile: 07599387887, or the Facebook group. Along with meditating on the short reading, you are invited to pray at least 1 Rosary, and fast or abstain for 1 day (e.g. from social media, TV, chocolate) each week.

16th Star CONSTANCY

I have sought out distractions and worldly comforts to ease my restlessness, loneliness, sorrow, and ennui. I have spent countless hours before the media and sunk into poor habits, which offend You. My mind tries to pray, but liquid crystal displays on the computer, the television, and the silver screen replay for me their scenes of hollow promises. But now I see that those hours of escape have not nurtured my soul. In my emptiness, I am turning to You, once again, as my solace, my very Life. While I may never believe or feel that I've "arrived" in prayer or gotten it "just right," I trust that in my striving to come close to You, even amidst my distractions, You smile at my efforts and thank me. If You, God, are all that matters, if You are the source of my joys, my loved ones, and every goodness that comes to me, why can I not find at least a half hour each day to commune with You in private? Would I not seek this with You, if I could but see You in the flesh? Would I not want You all to myself day and night? Would I not step away from all the false glitter into Your true light? Awaken my spiritual senses to know by faith that You are always there, waiting patiently for me to stop, turn, notice, and encounter.

Prayer for the Synod 2021-2023: We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts. Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find You in our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

The Pope's Prayer Intentions for May: For faith-filled young people.

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Gala Concert at Clonard

Trócaire will be hosting a special Spring Gala Concert at Clonard Monastery, Belfast at 7.30pm on Friday 20th May, with performances from Margaret Keys, The Priests and St Dominic's Girls' School Choir. Tickets are free of charge but donations will be gratefully received on the night of the concert with all donations matched by the UK government in support of the 2022 Lent Appeal. To reserve tickets, visit www.eventbrite.co.uk and search 'Clonard Concert Belfast', email infoni@trocaire.org or call 028 9080 8030

Lough Derg Re-opens

Lough Derg welcomes Pilgrims again with a full Pilgrimage programme this summer. Three Day Pilgrimage: 1st June - 15th August. One Day Retreats and guided Pilgrim Path experience: dates in May and late August - September. To book or for information email: info@loughderg.org or 00353 71 9861518. Pettigo, Co Donegal, F94 N289

Polite Reminder – The Car parking spaces at the back of the Chapel have been re-painted and are for the use of elderly or disabled Mass-goers, or those who would struggle to walk from the main car park. Please only park in the designated spaces for the safety of everyone. Thank you for your co-operation.

This bulletin is produced by Rasharkin PPC. All notices for the parish bulletin are to be submitted by Wednesday at 1pm via the parish email address or by phoning the Parochial House (contact details at the top of this bulletin). Thank you.