

Our Parish Newsletter

16th May - The Ascension of our Lord

Rev. Peter McKiernan PP 4336798

Brid McEvoy, Parish Secretary,

Thursday 2.30 - 5.30 pm - 0861553930

Parish Website: www.crosserloughparish.ie 108F

Mass Times

St. Joseph's: Saturday 8.00 pm, Wednesday - 10 am

St. Mary's: Sunday, Mon, Tues - 10 am; Thurs, Friday - 7.30 pm

St. Patrick's: Sunday 11.15 am

We Pray For The Deceased:

St. Joseph's:

Saturday 22nd 8.00 pm Lorcan Hyland (baby), Drumnalara

St. Mary's:

Thursday 13th 7.30 pm Philip Comiskey, Kill 1st AM

Friday 14th 7.30 pm Benny Rowley, Crosserlough

Saturday 15th 12 noon Lorraine O'Reilly, Lisduff Months Memory

Sunday 16th 10.00 am Bridgie Boylan, Drumeagle, 1st AM

Thursday 20th 7.30 pm Raymond and Jimmy Farrelly, Rasan

Friday 21st 7.30 pm Kieran Gaffney, Drumbarry

St. Patrick's:

Ascension: Mathew's Gospel is written especially for those Christians who were converts from the Jewish religion and the writer of this Gospel presents Jesus as the new Moses and so we have Jesus and Apostles less Judas meeting on the mountain by arrangement, just as Moses spoke to God on the Mountain. Just as the first reading showed us the lack of understanding of the Apostles so also does the Gospel. Some of them did not recognize him, which is very encouraging for us. God is not in a hurry, he can put up with our failures. They are given a threefold commission to make disciples, to baptize them and teach them all to observe all the commands that Jesus not Moses gave them. But they can depend on the presence of Jesus being with them not just on a part-time basis but always, and this is qualified by the statement put in such positive terms, "Yes, to the end of time".

As in most rural schools 1st and 2nd class work together on their subjects. This means in the context of the "pandemic" the children who are to receive Holy Communion did not have class in 1st class from 12th March 2020 to June 2020. Their progress received a further blow when they finished for Christmas - until March 2021 as the 2nd class group boys and girls. It is important that these 1st communion class should be brought to mass over the next months to see what community worship is and having been present with their families they can participate in the Eucharist.

Ways to prepare for 1st Holy Communion

1. Talk to your child about his or her Baptism
2. Talk with your child about your own First Holy Communion Experiences
3. Celebrate meals together as a family
4. Spend time in family prayer
5. Help your child understand the Mass and how to participate in the Mass
6. Make a decision to attend Mass and by doing so help to form the child's understanding of what being a parishioner entails
7. Perhaps you could encourage your pre-communion child to bring you to mass on a weekday as a contrast to the larger weekend experience

Some people may remember when children made their First Communion in 1st class and then it was considered to be too early as some children would not be even eight years when they received. So from that time the age of most children receiving as part of second class would be eight or even nine. The great Swiss Developmental Psychologist Piaget called this age group the "concrete operational" stage of cognitive development. By this he meant that children of this age see and understand things in very concrete black and white terms. They still have some difficulty in the abstract or understanding symbolism. And so it can be a challenge to offer direct, concrete explanation of abstract concepts like the bread and wine becoming the body and blood of Christ. Perhaps the best way to enable their understanding of what happens at mass is for each child to see how important it is for their parents. As children of this age group "worship" their parents and they see that receiving at Mass is important in your life they follow suit.