

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat	24 Apr	7.30pm	Fr. Tom Cummins.
Sun	25 Apr	10.00am	Remembrance Mass for Fr. Tom Mc Donald.
Mon	26 Apr	9.30am	Frank Dempsey and his deceased relatives.
Tue	27 Apr	9.30am	1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Susan O'Donoghue.
Tue	27 Apr	10am to 12 noon	Eucharistic Adoration after morning Mass.
Wed	28 Apr	9.30am	Birthday Remembrance Mary Mackessy-Coffey.
Thur	29 Apr	9.30am	Thomas Bolger
Fri	30 Apr	9.30am	
Sat	01 May	7.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Parkie Cummins.
Sun	02 May	10.00am	

#### CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Financially for the parish, like so many other businesses and you at home, this past year has proved to be a very challenging time for us, as our income has largely disappeared. Some parishioners have asked how they can continue to support our parish in the absence of public Masses.

Please continue to put aside your weekly contribution in your envelope and when the restrictions are eased you can bring your envelope back to the church or the parish office.

You can drop off your envelopes into the post box (on the left) at the parish office Thursday & Friday mornings. You can donate online to our bank account – details on our parish website [www.prosperousparish.net](http://www.prosperousparish.net) You can donate online via Kandle.ie website. We appreciate your continued generosity and thanks to the many people who continue to support us with their contributions. God bless and thank you.

Fr. Bernard Reyhart

#### The Bishops want to know: What would be your preferred option for engagement in a conversation process about a national synod?

The Irish Catholic Bishops announced at their Winter 2020 meeting a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland, leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years. Before embarking on an initial two year phase of consultation, bishops are inviting submissions between Easter (5 April) and Pentecost (23 May), 2021 to reflect on what methods/models would be best to adopt in these coming two years of conversations.

For example: focus groups, parish hall meetings, questionnaires, deep-listening sessions; written submissions; family-focused gatherings; summary of findings of assemblies that have already taken place across dioceses; and/or conferences.

Parish teams, parish pastoral councils and other parish groups, as well as individual parishioners can make their submissions, in not more than 300 words, via the Bishops Conference webpage: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/synod/submissions/>

#### World Day of Prayer for Vocations

On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. If you are considering such a vocation, speak to your local priest or Diocesan Vocations Director, or email the National Vocations Office: email: [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie)



PARISH OF CARAGH  
**Church of Our Lady  
and St. Joseph  
Prosperous**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Day of Prayer for Vocations

25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

No 1188

## The Deep End - The Good Shepherd

In Jesus' time, being a shepherd was not a pleasant job. Sheep became easily lost and the shepherd's job was to guide them back to safety. There were many dangers and the sheep were totally dependent on the shepherd. Shepherds would round up their sheep in the evening and guide them into their pen. But it had no gate, so the shepherd would have to lie across the space in case the sheep were attacked in the night. The shepherds literally lay down their lives for their flock. John compares the sacrifice of the shepherd to the 'hired hand' who is not really committed to the flock. He does what he has to but flees at the first sign of trouble.

This Good Shepherd Sunday the Gospel describes Jesus as the 'genuine' Shepherd who wants a personal relationship with each one of us and who would lay down his life for us. The Gospel emphasises the importance of relationship as the shepherd knows his flock and cares for them. They 'Follow Him' and it is not a Facebook or Twitter type of following, rather it is a *genuine* relationship. Everyone matters to the Good Shepherd, regardless of their situations. We are told '*I know my own and my own know me*'. We are called today to follow Jesus in a more personal more intimate way. Even when we stray off the path and get lost, it is then especially that the Good Shepherd comes looking for us.

*'We think we are feeling from God, but in fact we are running into his arms.'*  
(Meister Eckhart)

Written for the Intercom Magazine by Jane Mellett

**God speaks to us in so many ways. Try using the events and personal encounters of your day as a springboard into prayer. With a little effort, you can become more aware of the ways God works through seemingly ordinary circumstances.**

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Life is not a race, but a journey to be savoured each step of the way. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift. That is why it is called the present.”

#### PRIEST PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: **045-841806**  
**Fr. Bernard Reyhart 085-2325095**  
Our Diocesan Website is [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)  
**Our Website is: Prosperousparish.net**  
Parish Email: [parishoffice@prosperousparish.net](mailto:parishoffice@prosperousparish.net)

#### Safeguarding children

##### Parish Designated persons:

Máiread Harman & Billy Carey  
Contact through Parish Office on 045-841806

##### Diocesan Safeguarding Director:

Ms. Kathleen Sherry Tel: 085-8021633  
Email: [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration will continue in our Church each Tuesday from 10am until 12noon (after morning Mass). Eucharistic Adoration will also be available via Webcam.

#### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

### PROSPEROUS BOOKS

This is a free local book service, where you can borrow a book and when you have read it, you can return it and get others. For further details, see our Facebook page - Prosperousbooks or contact us on 089 240 4379 (Mon-Fri 2pm to 6pm.). You can also email us at [prosperousbooks@hotmail.com](mailto:prosperousbooks@hotmail.com). Our Facebook page contains a link that will show a current list of the books, that we have available.

#### First Reading Acts 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: ‘Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.’

#### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117(118):1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29

*Response: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.*

#### Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

#### Gospel Acclamation Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia!

#### Gospel John 10:11-18

Jesus said: ‘I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. ‘I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as

well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. ‘The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.’

#### Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

#### HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS REQUIRED

**Comfort Homecare** are looking for full and part-time staff in the Kildare area. Are you a kind and caring person? Are you looking for a few hours work in the mornings or evenings, or perhaps just at weekends? Call Dara Shortt @ 0851872605 or email [Dara@comforthomecare.ie](mailto:Dara@comforthomecare.ie) for an application form. Top rates paid weekly with mileage.

**Please wear a face mask in our Church - visitors are not permitted.**

### TROCAIRE

One of the tragedies of Covid-19 is that the world’s poorest people have been made poorer by this pandemic. We ask you to **please give generously to Trócaire** this year. You can drop back your Trocaire Boxes to the parish office on Thursday and Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon.

### INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY

Today is International Parental Alienation Awareness Day. This day highlights a particular form of domestic abuse that takes place when one parent tries to distance his or her children, without reason or justification, from the other parent when a marriage or relationship ends. Such a denial of the rights of children to have a loving relationship with both parents has long lasting and damaging consequences for a child. For more information about the issue log onto [www.alienated.ie](http://www.alienated.ie)

### BAPTISMS

Following the recent ruling into law, by Minister Stephen Donnelly, making it an offence to attend religious services other than weddings or funerals we have cancelled any immediate Baptisms that were booked into our church. We do hope to be able to resume this service as soon as possible.

### PRAYER FOR CREATION

Father of creation,

We thank you for all that you have made; For the joy and glimpses of you we find in nature’s beauty, for the variety of all you have provided through its resources. Help us to tread lightly and use wisely, Valuing the needs of all creation, above our own desires.

Challenge us where we need to change our lifestyles,

Convict us when we need to speak out on behalf of your world

And soften us where we have stood in judgement of others.

Father, change us and use us for the restoration of your creation, and the protection of all your children. Amen.