

Parish of Newmarket on Fergus - Carrigerry - The Wells

Parish Office open on Mon, Tue, Thur & Friday 10.00am - 2.30pm. Closed on Wednesdays.

Parish website: www.newmarketonfergusparish.ie / Tel: 061 - 368127 / email: office@newmarketonfergusparish.ie

Parish Team

Fr. Tom Fitzpatrick: Tel: 700883 / 087 2720187
Mary Power: Parish Secretary

4th Sun in Ord Time

Jan 31st 2021

Sacristans

Bridget O' Halloran : Newmarket
Mary Barron: The Wells
Bernadette Glynn: Carrigerry

All masses are being live streamed via Webcam. You can access it through the parish website <http://www.newmarketonfergusparish.ie/>. Weekends from the main church and weekdays from the chapel

Sat	30th	6pm	Paddy Hayes, Kilnasoolagh Park Brendan Sammon, Carnakilla. 3rd anniversary Martin, Bridget and Bernadette Earls, Knocksaggart Patrick, Bridget Moynihan and sons Patrick and Michael, Ballycar John and Anna O'Brien, Drumline Mary Hickey, Drumline
Sun	31st	11am	Madeline Hastings, Old Road. Ballycar Patrick, Mai and Marie(Pigott) Daly, Glenaifreann Sean Murphy, Kilnasoolagh Park

February :

Mon	1st	10am	Mary Powell, Ballycasey. Feast of St Brigid.
Tue	2nd	10am	Special Intention
Wed	3rd	10am	Feast of St. Blaise
Thur	4th	10am	Daily Mass
Fri	5th	10am	Eileen Kelly, Kilnasoolagh Park. 1st anniversary
Sat	6th	6pm	Weekend Mass
Sun	7th	11am	Sunday Mass



Recent Death: Your kind prayers are asked for the happy repose of the souls of

Mary O'Brien, Ballycar

Christy Stenson, Kilnasoolagh Park

Cath Potter, Hurlers Cross

May they rest in the loving embrace of the Father.



St. Brigid of Ireland: Feb 1st From Catholic Online / Saints & Angels

Saint Brigid was born Brigit, and shares a name with a Celtic goddess from whom many legends and folk customs are associated. There is much debate over her birthparents, but it is widely believed her mother was Brocca, a Christian baptized by Saint Patrick, and her father was Dubthach, a Leinster chieftain. Brocca was a slave, therefore Brigid was born into slavery. When Dubthach's wife discovered Brocca was pregnant, she was sold to a Druid landowner. It is not clear if Brocca was unable to produce milk or was not present to care for Brigid, but legend states Brigid vomited any food the druid attempted to feed her, as he was impure, so a white cow with red ears sustained her instead.

Many stories of Brigid's purity followed her childhood. She was unable to keep from feeding the poor and healing them. One story says Brigid once gave her mother's entire store of butter, that was later replenished after Brigid prayed. When she was about ten-years-old, Brigid was returned to her father's home, as he was her legal master. Her charity did not end when she left her mother, and she donated his possessions to anyone who asked. Eventually, Dubthach became tired of her charitable nature and took her to the king of Leinster, with the intention of selling her. As he spoke to the king, Brigid gave his

jeweled sword to a beggar so he could barter it for food for his family. When the king, who was a Christian, saw this, he recognized her heart and convinced Dubthach to grant her freedom by saying, "Her merit before God is greater than ours."

After being freed, Brigid returned to the Druid and her mother, who was in charge of the Druid's dairy. Brigid took over and often gave away milk, but the dairy prospered despite the charitable practice, and the Druid eventually freed Brocca. Brigid then returned to Dubthach, who had arranged for her to marry a bard. She refused and made a vow to always be chaste.

Legend has it Brigid prayed that her beauty be taken so no one would want to marry her, and the prayer was granted. It was not until after she made her final vows that her beauty was restored.

Another tale says that when Saint Patrick heard her final vows, he accidentally used the form for ordaining priests. When the error was brought to his attention, he simply replied, "So be it, my son, she is destined for great things."

To St Brigid

Brigid, you were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious.
And may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.
Amen.



Brigid's cross symbolises the beginning of Spring. In Ireland the official beginning of Spring is February 1st. These **crosses** are hung by doors to protect houses from Fire and Evil.

Prayer to St Blaise

O Blessed St Blaise, you received from God the power to protect us from throat diseases and other maladies. Take away the illness that afflicts me, keep my throat healthy and perfect so that I can talk correctly and be able to proclaim and sing praises to God.

I promise you, St Blaise,
that the words coming from my mouth
will always speak:
the truth and not lies;
justice and not calumnies;
goodness and not harshness;
comprehension and not intransigence;
forgiveness and not condemnation;
pardon and not accusation;
respect and not disparagement;
conciliation and not intrigue;
calmness and not irritation;
unselfishness and not egotism;
edification and not scandal;
enthusiasm and not defeatism;
conformity and not complaint;
love and not hate;
joyfulness and not sadness;
faith and not disbelief;
hope and not despair.

St Blaise, keep my throat free from illness so that I can praise God, my Creator, and thank you, my protector. Amen

We are unable to have the blessings of Throats this year due to the pandemic.

Nutrition Workshop: On Thursday 11th February at 11am, Clare Library will be facilitating the delivery of an online workshop on Healthy Meal Planning for all the family, with dietician Gillian McConnell. This is a Free event for people throughout Co. Clare aged 18+. Booking is essential. In order to take part, participants will require remote access to Zoom. Please book your place by calling Kilrush Library on 065 9051504 during branch opening hours. A Healthy Ireland at your Library event.

Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes: As we prepare for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Thursday 11th February, World Day of Prayer for the Sick, The Franciscan Pilgrimage and the Killaloe Diocesan Pilgrimage will host a Novena of Prayer. The Novena will be available on the parish webcam: www.ennisparish.com/webcam on weekdays starting Wednesday 3rd February @7.30pm Saturday 11am & Sunday 11.30am. The Novena will be conducted by Bro. Damian Casey OFM Franciscan Pilgrimage Director and Fr Tom Ryan Killaloe Pilgrimage Director.

Spring in your step challenge : *Get a Spring in Your Step this February!!*

Shake off those winter cobwebs and get ready for brighter days ahead with our exciting new challenge. Show your support for the 64,000 people living with dementia in Ireland and walk or run 64km, 64,000 steps or 64 laps in February. You can even come up with your own '64' based challenge. The choice is yours! Take part in your own time anywhere across the country, near your home or in your local park. Our only ask is to make sure to take part safely and in line with the latest government advice and restrictions around Covid-19. We can complete this challenge together while staying safely apart!! Further information and registration on <https://alzheimer.ie/get-involved/fundraising-events/spring-in-your-step-challenge/>

Feast of St Blaise: Feb 3rd

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebastea and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written of 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St. Blaise."

Saint Blaise is believed to begin as a healer then, eventually, became a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to Saint Blaise for healing miracles.

In 316, the governor of Cappadocia and of Lesser Armenia, Agricola, arrested then-bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to the jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking to death on a fish bone, at his feet. Blaise cured the child, and though Agricola was amazed, he could not get Blaise to renounce his faith. Therefore, Agricola beat Blaise with a stick and tore at his flesh with iron combs before beheading him.

In another tale, Blaise was being led to the prison in Sebastea, and on the way came across a poor old woman whose pig had been stolen by a wolf. Blaise commanded the wolf return the pig, which it did -alive and uninjured - to the amazement of all. When he reached Sebastea, the woman came to him and brought two fine wax candles in an attempt to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell.

In the Middle Ages, Blaise became quite popular and his legend as a beast tamer spread. He was then referred to as the "saint of the wild beast." Saint Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild animals. He is also often shown with steel combs. The similarity of the steel combs and the wool combs made a large contribution to Saint Blaise's leadership as the patron saint of wool combers and the wool trade.

Statement on Funerals from the Bishops of the Cashel Province – January 2021

We express our closeness in prayer and support for those with the Covid-19 virus and those impacted in any way by it in what are very difficult circumstances. We want to highlight some points that we consider important in relation to the implementation of public health guidelines in the context of bereavements and funerals. We do so for the benefit of all concerned – mourners, undertakers, neighbours and friends as well as priests and public authorities –, that we might have a common understanding of good practice around funerals aimed at keeping people safe from the virus. In offering these points, we recognise and thank the vast majority of Catholics for their careful observance of the public health guidelines.

1. Public health guidelines are clear: attendance at funerals is to be restricted to 10. We appreciate there are some who believe that for the sake of accommodating the immediate family it would be better to allow a number higher than 10 for the funeral liturgy in a church. We too look forward to when that number can be increased. However, it is important that undertakers and priests clarify with bereaved families as early as possible regarding the limit of 10 people in the church.
2. As recommended in our statement last March, there should be no removal to the church the evening before.
3. People not attending the funeral liturgy should avoid congregating immediately outside the church building or around the hearse. For the sake of the great majority trying to keep to the public health guidelines, we ask people, difficult as it is, not to approach the bereaved in the church grounds or cemetery to sympathize.
4. As per the public health guidelines regarding social and family gatherings, there should be no wakes or large gatherings for prayers in the house of the deceased nor gatherings in cemeteries.
5. Support for the bereaved can be expressed through social media as an alternative to attending the funeral. Often it is possible to link to a local church for a funeral ceremony via a webcam/Facebook Live. We invite people to pray for the deceased and family of the deceased in their own homes at the time of the funeral Mass.

We wish to express our thanks to priests and sacristans as well as the many volunteers in our churches who ensure that all the requirements around the sanitising of our churches are observed. We also acknowledge with gratitude the care and help of undertakers in implementing the restrictions.

May our deceased loved ones rest in peace and may the bereaved be comforted.

The Bishops of the Cashel Province: Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly; Bishop William Crean; Bishop Brendan Leahy; Bishop Ray Browne; Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan; Bishop Fintan Monahan; Bishop Fintan Gavin.