



## Parish of Killavullen and Annakisha

### Fourth Week of Easter (May 3-9, 2020)

20.17



#### **Fourth Sunday of Easter – Liturgy of the Word**

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading:* The Good News made a deep impact (“They were cut to the heart”); it was a life-changing revelation to those who listened.

*Psalms 23:* The Lord provides comfort and guidance. Each of us has been “anointed” (i.e., chosen) by name.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:* Peter encourages those who suffer to be patient. Christ did not retaliate, even when he was being treated unjustly.

*Gospel:* Jesus is the gateway to God; he has come so that we might have life and have it to the full.

**Today is Vocations Sunday:** “The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd ... the sheep hear his voice.” (Gospel) On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the consecrated life, especially for our own diocese of Cloyne. May God raise up good shepherds in our midst.

A national vocations office has recently been established in Maynooth College: [www.vocations.ie](http://www.vocations.ie) email: [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie) or the local Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Brian Boyle (025-32963)

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**At this time** Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass. Masses are live-streamed from larger churches around the country, especially at, [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) including, St. Mary’s Church, Mallow <https://www.churchservices.tv/mallow>

**RTE One Television** will broadcast mass for Vocations Sunday. On this Sunday morning (May 3) at 11.00am from its Donnybrook studio. The celebrant, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan is Bishop of Waterford & Lismore and chair of the Council for Vocations of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference. This will be the first Mass from RTE to use a virtual outdoor chapel created on a video wall. The organist for the Mass will be Simon Orrock; violist, Killian Grumley-Traynor; Cantor, Kerri Connor; conductor, Sister Moira Bergin; and Deacon Rev Eric Cooney will also be in attendance.

***Bon Mot:*** “If you have a library and a garden you have everything that you need.” Cicero.

**Killavullen Church** is open for personal visits during daylight hours. As is the **parish office** at Ballygriffin. This newsletter, together with other reflections are emailed to parishioners each week. Contact [parishofkillavullen@gmail.com](mailto:parishofkillavullen@gmail.com) if you know of someone who would like to be included.

**Mass is celebrated** privately each day in the parish office or one of the parish’s churches. Your intentions are united with my own in a spiritual communion around the Table of the Lord.

**May they rest in God’s embrace:** *Anniversaries:* Arthur O’Keeffe (Annakisha); John Jones.

**Cork County Council** is coordinating COVID19 service in our area. If you have any need in relation to the crisis freephone: 1800 805 819 or email [covidsupport@corkcoco.ie](mailto:covidsupport@corkcoco.ie) or text (085) 8709010.

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**Week Five** of the lockdown and we are growing accustomed to the new normal of a life that is simpler and more local. We are fortunate to live in this beautiful part of the country and many of us have more time to savour everyday tasks like cooking, gardening and less hurried conversations with family and friends. The reduced road traffic is restoring our soundscape to its natural state, especially through birdsong. We are learning the valuable lesson that a sense of freedom does not require endless choices. Though our movements are restricted we can experience a greater freedom in the small things of life.

Today’s Gospel has Jesus saying that he is the way to God’s presence: “I am the gate.” His is a narrow way. In our world of endless possibilities, it is only by listening to his voice that we find peace in the one true God.

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Among the “Acts of Random Kindness” taking place over the past few weeks is the cleaning of the iconic railway bridge on the New Line at Killavullen. The bridge (completed in the 1860s) was closed to railway traffic around fifty years ago (1967?). The stonework has been revealed in all its strength and glory. This good deed honours the memory of those who built the bridge and the many generations of passengers it carried.