



## Parish of Killavullen and Annakisha

### Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (August 15-21)

21.33



#### **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading:* Today's feast-day reflects on human destiny and includes this imaginative vision of heaven drawn up by Christians in the First Century, a time of conflict and religious persecution. The first Christians believed that God would give them the final victory over evil and sin. Their vision included this oblique reference to Mary, in heaven, shrouded in glory.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:* Through his resurrection, Christ has destroyed death. As Christians we always stand before the grave of a loved one with the hope that they share in the destiny of Christ.

*Gospel:* Elizabeth feels honoured to be visited by the "Mother of my Lord". But Mary draws attention to God, not herself, in this song of praise, which is traditionally known as the Magnificat. In it, Mary refers to God as merciful, especially to the weak, the powerless and the humble. May we, like Mary, put our trust in God's hidden yet powerful presence.

#### **Public Mass Times this week**

<b>Monday to Friday</b>		<b>Killavullen</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Vigil Mass for 21st Sunday	<b>Killavullen</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	Twenty-First Sunday	<b>Annakisha</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
		<b>Killavullen</b>	<b>11.30am</b>

**Confessions** are celebrated in the Reconciliation Room of Killavullen Church at 6.30pm on Saturdays. This space has been adapted to the Covid restrictions.

**May they rest in God's embrace: Anniversaries:** Paddy Coakley.

**Weekend's Collections** - There are new offertory boxes for your donations to the Weekly Offering and Summer (Petrol) Collection at Church entrances as you enter or leave the church at Mass times. *Thank you.*

**Think Covid Safety:** Sanitize your hands on entering the church and wear a face mask or shield. Sit with your household on one of the designated green stickers and 2 metres apart from other households / individuals. Fill the church from the front to allow space for latecomers. The liturgy has been simplified to reduce social interaction.

#### **The Lord's Home and Our Mother – Fr Tom Cox**

One of the interesting aspects of the Brexit campaign was the sight of pro-EU demonstrators waving the EU flag – twelve stars on a field of blue. I'm not sure how many were aware they were carrying an emblem based on veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. And there it is – in the First Reading of today's feast, the reference to 'a woman clothed with the sun and a crown of twelve stars on her head'. Yes, there are twenty-seven EU member states now, rather than twelve, but twelve was always held to represent completeness and unity. Some critics say that the EU is now too big for its boots. That debate, however, is a completely different matter!

Arsène Heitz designed the first European Flag, which was adopted by the Council of Europe on 8 December 1955, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. He was a devout Catholic, but others from non-Christian traditions supported Heitz as the flag was regarded as drawing on European cultural roots. Europe's Christian Europe are everywhere, from its great cathedrals to wayside Calvaries – signs of a once Christian continent.

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#### **Did Mary Die? – Donal Neary SJ**

Did Mary die and was she then brought up to heaven? Was she brought to heaven without dying? We don't know. Death was seen by many as a punishment for sin, and since sin never touched Mary, neither could death. We are left with the mystery of Mary's death, like the mystery of all death. Much of our faith is hidden. Indeed, our true nature is, in the words of St Paul, 'hidden with Christ in God'. Like Mary we are, in words attributed to Teilhard de Chardin, 'spiritual beings on a human journey'. We can see, hear and touch our humanity, but an essential part of our being is hidden for now.

Mysteries are not problems, they are truths that we delve into and appreciate with the understanding of the heart. The Assumption is a 'heart feast' and is understood only in the light of faith. The life of Mary, now body and soul in heaven, is appreciated only in the light of her relationships with her incarnate Son. Maybe we can say that she is so united to her Son that anything other than being with him now, body and soul, would be unthinkable! May she pray for us that we too may be as she is.

(Messenger of the Sacred Heart, August 2021)