



Baby at 12 weeks

His eyes have moved from the sides to the front of his head, and his ears are right where they should be and occasionally women feel movement as early as 12 - 14 weeks



THE JOY OF LOVE - Let's talk Family ! Let's be Family!

Due to insufficient number of people being able to attend the group meetings at this time we have decided to leave free copies of the booklet at the back of the Church so you can read and reflect at your convenience.

Planned Giving - this weeks collection was €1160.77
Thanks to all who contributed and to the collectors

Advance Notice: The 10am Masses on the 19th / 26th May will be First Communion Masses and the seating allocations will give priority to the Children and their families.

Fr. Taylor's Homily given on 5th May 2018 in Knock for your consideration on issues raised by the forthcoming referendum.

In John 10.10 we read; ((I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Jesus contrasts what he is offering to the thief who comes to steal, to kill and destroy. It is a characteristic of the thief that they do not respect the equal dignity of the other person. The "you" of the other becomes an object, an "it" to be abused, exploited or destroyed. The thief operates with the calculus of power, strength, violence. he depersonalises his victim.

As we journey to the referendum, we are being asked to remove from our Constitution the right to life of a cohort of our brothers and sisters in the human community, who are at the most vulnerable stage in the wondrous journey of the unfolding of human life. Because they are so vulnerable, so dependent, so voiceless, they have special claim to our protection.

Modern medical science confirms the age old intuition that human life begins at conception and the formation of the DNA code. All of us gathered here today are individually "a cluster of cells", but this reductionist description of the human person brackets out of consideration, the astonishing beauty of the human being, who, if nurtured and loved can become for example the athlete, the artist, the giver of love, the receiver of love. If we look back even briefly, at human history, we see that so much pain and cruelty were inflicted because people viewed others as less than human. Think of slavery, racism, the treatment of indigenous peoples, the Holocaust, and what the Nazis called the "unmenschlich".

The Constitution of any country recognises and expresses the fundamental values that support mutual interaction and human flourishing. It is like the banks of a great river that allows the water to flow and many to draw from its vitality. When you remove the banks of a river all you get is a swamp.! While politicians have a vital and noble role in society, we know that expediency and short term interest invariably muddies the clarity of their decision making. Jesus was a victim of expediency. Here in Knock, the apparitions revealed Jesus Christ as the Sacrificed Paschal Lamb!

Nurses, doctors and health care workers strive tirelessly to bring comfort and healing to those whose bodies or minds are frail or disintegrating. They witness on a daily basis family and friends of the sick drawing deeply from the wells of compassion, care and love, often at considerable cost to their own lives. I recently celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation with children in St Raphael's Special school in Celbridge and saw first hand such a great outpouring of love and affirmation from parents and family members ,for young people with various life limiting conditions. As the poet John Donne said no man is an island. We are not self contained monads but are profoundly interconnected and affected. The dry, parched, cracked landscape of our frailties, limitations and disabilities can in fact facilitate the absorption of the refreshing, consoling and enabling waters of kindness.

Some years ago, when working as a hospital chaplain in Australia, I saw that life is saturated with the divine. A couple whose 3rd child Anita, was born suffering from anencephaly was, in the presence of her mom and dad and 2 sisters welcomed into life. She was baptised, confirmed, held and cuddled in the arms of her family members; with photos and little handprints made. She lived and was loved for the 5 hours she had and is a remembered and loved part of her family story. It confirms that length of days is not the true measure of life.

Jesus whose life on earth was extinguished arbitrarily by the Roman soldiers on the cross does not want us to be extinguishers of life. Sometimes feeling helpless, but never hopeless we are called to be supportive companions on the road of life. In a small Anglican church in Sussex England there is a plaque on a wall dating from 1729 approx. It says: A vision without a task is an illusion. A task without a vision is drudgery. A Vision with as task is the hope of the world. The Gospel of Life is both a vision and a task. As we gather united in prayer with Mary, Mother of the Church, who herself lived with both vision and task we invoke her prayer for our country. Let us today, renew our commitment to the vision Jesus Christ offers enables us to embrace; life, life to the full. Refreshed in our Communion with Him we take up the task, remembering as Pope Francis says in his recent Apostolic Exhortation (27) Rejoice and Be Glad (Gaudete et Exultate); "life does not have a mission, but is a mission."
Rev Paul Taylor. P.P.

Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Mon 14th 10am: Maureen, Andy, Mary & William Greene
Tue 15th 10am: Maher & O' Brien Families, Special intention
Wed 16th 10am: Edel Quinn(legion of Mary, Special intention
Thur 17th 10am: Mamie White, John O' Brien
Fri 18th 10am: Joe O' Shea, Ned Noonan, Michael O' Sullivan, Special intention.

Congratulations to the Children from the **Children's Ark Programme** who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday

How "civilised" are we?

In 1984, the discovery of a brutally killed baby's body on a Kerry beach horrified the nation.* In 2018, we can dispose of unwanted babies in a much more "civilised" manner. It's called abortion. A brief trip to the chemist, doctor or hospital and the problem is gone forever. Or is it? Why should we be horrified at the killing of a new born baby and not be similarly horrified at the killing of an unborn baby? Is this a hypocritical double standard? Despite all the talk about rape, incest and foetal abnormalities, the overwhelming majority of babies aborted worldwide, are all perfect healthy. These babies are just not wanted. Did you know that 9 million abortions were performed in Britain since legalisation? There is no other word to describe killing on that vast scale, but "genocide." Is it really civilized to introduce this to Ireland? Removing the 8th amendment will open the door to killing babies on demand. After all, that's the aim, isn't it? Unborn babies have no voice. However, God speaks for them in His Bible and says "thou shalt not kill".

Advance Notice: For anyone who undertook to do the 33 Days of Morning Glory Retreat which ends on Sunday 20th May, the Consecration to Our Blessed Lady will take place in the Church on Monday 21st May, after the 10am Mass. If you are unable to attend you can say the Consecration at home on your own.

Sunday 20th May Pentecost Sunday

We celebrate the birthday of the Church.

The gift of the Holy Spirit who unites us to Christ and one another. The 12.30 Mass that day we celebrate our rich diversity and unity as a parish. We will bring flags representing home countries of parishioners and encourage different national groups to come in traditional costumes.

The prayers of the faithful will be in different languages. After Mass we will have a party in the Church forecourt. We wish to invite parishioners from Poland, Lithuania, U.K, Philippines, Nigeria, India, and any other countries to take part. Parishioners who are willing to bring a plate of food please leave your name on the sheet at the back of the Church. Please note the 12.30 will be recorded and may be used in a DVD by the Diocese.

If you do not wish to be potentially recorded as attending this Mass please attend another Mass on the day.

Weekly Hour of Prayer for Life every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm in St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge. After 45mins of silent prayer we pray the Night prayer of the Church & finish with Benediction.

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church:

6pm: Mary Sweeney
12noon: Des & Breda Rea O' Kelly, Peader Doran
St. Patrick's Church

Saturday: 6.30pm: Mary Flynn (m.m.) Anne Greene, Sophie Kinsella, Marina Cooke.

Sunday: 8.30am: Harry Doolan, Mary Fitzsimons
9.30am: Edward Noonan, Nora, Noel & Teresa Quirke
11am: Anne & David Greene, Willie Dunne, Eddie Fitzpatrick
12.30pm: Sr. Mary Senan, Margaret O' Farrell
7pm: Jim & Emmet Brady, Diarmuid O' Brien

Official Family Prayer for World Meeting of Families 2018

God, Our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, One family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, Especially those for whom we now pray:
[We pause and remember family members and others by name] Increase our faith, Strengthen our hope, Keep us safe in your love, Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Rosary at Grotto. The Rosary will be recited at Our Lady's Grotto in Celbridge on the **Fridays of May at 7.30pm.**

Advance Notice: Cemetery Mass will take place in **Donacomper Cemetery** on Sunday 10th June at 3.30pm and **Straffan Cemetery** Wednesday 13th June at 7.30pm

Weekly Parish Lotto

The profit from our Parish Lotto goes to developing our Parish & its outreach. The prize fund is now at its max **€10,500.**

The lotto envelopes can be placed in the safe at the back of the Church in St. Patricks and in the collection bags at the week-end Masses in Straffan.

One line (you pick four numbers between 0-30) at just €2, 3 lines cost €5.

**This weeks numbers are First Jackpot: 25, 8, 3,1
Second Jackpot: 18, 15,21, 23**

No winners of our 1st or 2nd Jackpot but our 3 consolation prize winners: Kay Doherty, G. & J. O' Loughlin, John Murphy
Prizes can be collected in the Sacristy during weekend Mass times. Prizes have to be collected within 30 days of the draw. Our next draw will take place on Monday evening. Please have your lotto envelopes submitted before 10.30am on Mondays

A new meeting of Overeaters Anonymous takes place every Thursday night at 7.30 pm in the Eustace centre, (downstairs of the Parochial House) Main St. Celbridge.

This 12 step program offers a solution to anyone struggling with compulsive overeating, bulimia or anorexia. There are no fees - contact Noleen on 087 4652098 for more information.