

PARISH LINK

January



Reminders....

- Please leave in your mass intention as far in advance as possible if you would like them published in the Parish Link
- Down time Thursday will be 30th January 7pm -8pm.
- The Living room next meet (With St Patricks Powerscourt) on Wednesday 6th February in St Mary's
- We need new readers. Please give you name to Phil or to the parish office if interested
- We celebrate St Thomas Aquinas On the 28th of January
- We need some volunteers to count money, please. If you have two hours to spare once a week, please consider offering your services. Refreshments available on site while you work! Thank you.

A Big Thank you Celebration!

Breda Tuite has just retired. She has been an absolute stalworth, quietly producing financial statements each month for many years. So much work, time and dedication and expertise has gone into to this voluntary position, without any fuss or bother. We need to say a big thank you!

We will do so properly on the morning of **Sunday the 26th January**. We will start with the **11 am mass**, and that will be followed by refreshments and a presentation at the back of the church (St Mary's). Please join us to thank and honour Breda for all her years of service to the parish.
PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 6PM MASS ON SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY



Healing

Pilgrims of Hope

To mark the Jubilee year, 2025 which the pope has named year of hope we will have a healing service in the spring.
Date to follow

"Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning." —Desmond Tutu

In January we remember.....

4th /5th ...St Mary's 6 pm: Michael Barret (1st A)



St Mochonog's 10am: Owen Roche (A) Joseph Fisher (A) Greta Lalor (A) Sean Devlin (A) and Christy and Margaret Devlin, his parents

11th/12th **St Patrick's 10am:** Thomas Byrne (A) and his grandparents John and Kate McGuirk (A) **St Mary's 6 pm:** Nancy Walsh (A)

St Mary's 11 am: Prayers for Daniel and Francis Callan ,and Jim and Molly Nolan

18th /19th **St Mary's 6 pm:** Christopher Hannon (A)

January January, a canvas of frosty white, Where the new year begins its flight. With winter's breath upon the air, January whispers, 'Change is near.'

In its quiet depths, a promise lies, A chance to spread our wings and rise. To leave behind the past's embrace, And journey forth with steady pace.

Beneath the blanket of snow so pure, Lies the seeds of dreams yet to mature. January's chill ignites the flame, Of hope and courage, without shame.

As days unfold, and nights grow long, January sings its timeless song. A melody of resilience and grace, Guiding us through each frozen space.

Vinaya Joseph



Short Review of 2024 in the Parish

It was a busy year!



There was a big project which was flagged early in the year. **The removal of some benches at the back of the church in St Mary's.** After a lot of discussion with various individuals and an invitation to a general gathering, it was eventually decided that, on balance, it would be a positive move for the whole parish. I am delighted to say that it really has made a great difference and has pleasantly surprised many. A big, big thank you to all who were involved in making this a reality.

In July we had a trip to Knock. It was a long day but it was prayerful and fun and we hope to repeat it this year.

We had the start of a fund-raising campaign in September, which **was launched by Brian White**, who gave most interesting history of the parish, and funny to boot! Thank you, Brian!

On the 8th of September we had our first whole community gathering. What a special occasion this was. The liturgy was presented by all four communities, and the singing was amazing. It was a real community effort and will be repeated this year, please God.

In September we had a mass to commemorate **70 years of the Grotto at St Mary's.** This was another special event enjoyed by all. So Much work went into organising. Thank you, Phil!

The Summerhill provided a lovely venue for **Fr Jim Cogley's healing day.** A Different perspective for us all.

The big celebration was in Kilmac. Celebrating 200 years as a catholic community was special and culminated in a great event attended by the Archbishop (who celebrated mass) and, of course, there was a great spread afterwards. **Well done to all.**

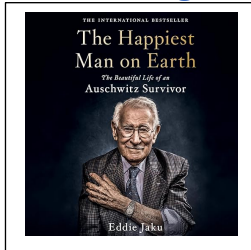
Of course we had all the usual annual events, Christmas and Easter ceremonies, all the sacraments, our annual remembrance mass, etc... Monthly Downtime Thursday with exposition, monthly R and R (Reflection and Recreation!) with St Patrick's Powerscourt, weekly prayer service, daily rosary. None of this happens without your help!

If you would like to be more involved in parish life please contact the parish office, Phil or Aideen. Thank you

Starting the year with a book well worth reading!

The Happiest Man on Earth:

The Beautiful Life of an Auschwitz Survivor by Eddie Jaku is an inspiring memoir that recounts the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust and the resilience of the human spirit. Eddie Jaku,



a German-born Jew who survived Auschwitz and other concentration camps, shares his journey of finding happiness, forgiveness, and gratitude after enduring unspeakable suffering. Through his story, Jaku teaches the profound lessons he learned about the power of hope, kindness, and love, making it a deeply moving guide to living a fulfilling life despite adversity.

10 Lessons from The Happiest Man on Earth

1. Kindness Is the Greatest Strength: Even in the darkest times, small acts of kindness can make a difference. Jaku survived because of the kindness he gave and received, demonstrating its transformative power. **2. Gratitude Transforms Pain into Peace** Jaku found happiness by being grateful for the simple joys of life—family, friendships, and freedom. Gratitude helps shift focus from pain to the beauty of living. **3. Happiness Is a Choice:** Despite his suffering, Jaku chose to live as "the happiest man on Earth" by focusing on positivity and making the most of his life post-Holocaust. **4. Forgiveness Sets You Free:** Holding onto hate only prolongs suffering. Jaku forgave those who wronged him, freeing himself from the emotional weight of resentment.

5. Resilience Comes from Hope: Even in the depths of despair, hope kept Jaku going. Believing in a better future fuels perseverance through life's challenges. **6. The Power of Human Connection:** Relationships are what make life meaningful. Jaku emphasizes the importance of cherishing loved ones and building supportive communities. **7. Hate Destroys, but Love Heals**

Jaku saw firsthand the devastation caused by hatred and vowed to live a life rooted in love and compassion, promoting healing and unity. **8. Adversity Reveals Strength:** Surviving Auschwitz taught Jaku about his inner strength. Adversity can push us to discover our resilience and capacity to endure. **9. Life Is Precious, No Matter What:** After surviving the Holocaust, Jaku cherished every moment. His story reminds us not to take life for granted and to appreciate its beauty, even in the small things.

10. Never Lose Faith in Humanity: Despite witnessing humanity at its worst, Jaku never gave up on the belief in goodness. His life is a testament to the enduring power of hope and the potential for redemption.

The Happiest Man on Earth is a powerful memoir that transcends its tragic beginnings to deliver a message of hope, resilience, and love. Eddie Jaku's story reminds us that even in the face of profound suffering, we can choose happiness, embrace forgiveness, and live with gratitude. His life serves as a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the enduring power of kindness and connection.

Kilmac

HISTORY

We have a very interesting Talk on Monday 13th January at 8p.m. in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall. Our Speaker is Garry Ahern talking about "The Southern Cross flight" from Portmarnock in 1930- it was part of the first true aerial circumnavigation of the globe, (i.e. by one aircraft, with the same pilot, while crossing the equator twice). Captain Paddy Saul (1895-1968), was on board and would go on to found the Irish Air Traffic Control Service. As his final resting place he chose St. Patrick's Churchyard, Enniskerry. All welcome.

A little of what St Thomas Aquinas has to say.....

"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."

— St. Thomas Aquinas

"Beware the man of a single book."

— St. Thomas Aquinas

"We must love them both, those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject, for both have laboured in the search for truth, and both have helped us in finding it."

— St. Thomas Aquinas

"The things that we love tell us what we are."

— St. Thomas Aquinas

"Fear is such a powerful emotion for humans that when we allow it to take us over, it drives compassion right out of our hearts."

— Thomas Aquinas

"Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen."

— Thomas Aquinas

"The soul is like an uninhabited world that comes to life only when God lays His head against us." — St. Thomas Aquinas

A Few Words From Archbishop Dermot Farrell Launch of the Jubilee year 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope"

There is also the 'pilgrim dimension.' Hope is not some quality that we receive all of a sudden. Hope comes to those who journey in hope. We put hope into practice. We live hope: it is the expression of a relationship between people who travel together. We travel with each other and we travel with God. Relationships, enduring relationships, take time. At Christmas, reflecting on challenges to peace and on the character of peace-making, I was very taken by an 'image' of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *The Little Prince*. He spoke of "peace as a tree which grows a long time." The same can be said of hope: "HOPE is a tree which grows a long time." Hope will grow among us, when we journey with hope.

There is a line in the psalms which captures how we might approach this mystery: it says *A king is not saved by his army, nor a warrior preserved by his strength. A vain hope for safety is the horse, despite its power it cannot save.* (Ps 33:16-17)

In the end, even when we journey together, it is the Lord who is our hope. That said, we cannot ignore the suffering and misery of those around us. "Love does not snatch us from the pain of time, but takes the pain of that which passes upon itself. Hope makes us ready to bear the cross of the present" (J. Moltmann). As Pilgrims of Hope, we are all called upon to contribute to sowing seeds of hope everywhere, so that forgiveness allows us "to change the *future and to live different lives, free of anger, animosity and vindictiveness*" (*Hope does Not Disappoint*, 23)