



Carlo loved football, video games and had a sweet tooth, especially for Italian ice cream! He was from a well-off family who were not particularly religious. His mother revealed that she had not been to Mass three times in her life.

Carlo however used to attend Mass with other members of the family and once he saved up to buy a sleeping bag for a homeless man that he often saw on the way to the church.

**He developed a true passion for the Eucharist which he called ‘his highway to heaven’** and at age 11 used his computer skills to create a website that traced the history of all known Eucharistic miracles that has been used by more than 10,000 parishes throughout the world (miracolieuucaristici.org) **He once asked his mother why sports stadiums were so full of people and churches so empty. He would say: ‘They have to see; they have to understand.’**

His mother became so taken by her son’s faith that she began a course in theology to help answer some of his many questions.

**In his little notebook one day she saw that he had written: ‘Sadness is looking at oneself, happiness is looking at God.’** His mother then experienced a deep conversion herself. In the summer of 2006 Carlo asked his mother did she think he should become a priest and she told him that God would make it known to him.

When he went back to school he wasn’t feeling well and was diagnosed with a deadly form of leukaemia. He died shortly afterwards, and people were amazed at his funeral to see the number of the city’s poorer people who came to the ceremony and spoke of his generosity and kindness. His mother said, ‘he is being a priest from heaven.’

**Carlo used to say to his young friends: ‘be an original not a photocopy’,** encouraging them to be free of the slavery of the usual fads and fashions that so often led to unhappiness.

The Church of San Giuseppe in Molfetta, Italy has installed the first stained glass window depicting the 15-year-old with his trademark sneakers and rucksack and the reminder that **‘holiness is closer than we think.’**

**(Molfetta is a town located in the northern side of the Metropolitan City of Bari, Apulia, southern Italy.)** (Facebook- oratoriodonboscomolfettea. Reproduced in Intercom, October 2021. P. 29.)

## St. Mary’s Parish Dungarvan

October 2021



### October 7<sup>th</sup>: Our Lady of the Rosary.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Pope Francis said: “Today is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. I invite everyone to rediscover, especially during this month of October, the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries,”

**“I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets.** The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Saviour with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations.”

The pope said that the Blessed Virgin Mary has urged the recitation of the rosary in her apparitions, “especially in the face of the threats looming over the world.”

**“Even today, in this time of pandemic, it is necessary to hold the rosary in our hands, praying for us, for our loved ones and for all people,” he added.**

<p><b>The Rosary is the means at hand of praying for the needs of the Church, of the world and for our own intentions.</b> (adapted from Pope John XXIII)</p>	<p>We pray: The Joyful Mysteries on Mondays. The Mysteries of Light on Thursdays. The Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Glorious Mysteries on Saturdays and Sundays.</p>
---	---

Rosary beads and leaflets are available, free of charge, at Our Lady’s Shrine in St. Mary’s Parish Church.

**Reminder: No 11am Mass on Saturdays until further notice.**

### **Fr. John Harris, C.C. Dungarvan, 2012 – 2021.**

Fr. John came among us in early October 2012, a few weeks after his Ordination to the Priesthood by Bishop William Lee on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in his native Ballyduff Lower. He settled in well in his new surroundings, having lived in Rome for the previous four years. As a former secondary teacher, he soon became a regular and welcome visitor to the schools of the parish.

He quickly adapted to parish life with its great variety of ministries – celebrating mass and the sacraments, visiting the sick at home and in hospital, being with people in times of joy and sorrow, and in more recent times on a rota of priests covering Masses in three parishes. He ministered to people with compassion, professionalism and solemnity. A visible presence on foot around the town.

We wish him well in his new ministry as Administrator of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity Within, Barronstrand Street, Waterford City. He will be greatly missed by priests, religious and people. To live is to change, Cardinal Newman said. For priests, life brings many changes, not only change of place, but change of ministry as well and the need to put one's talents at the service of God's and his people wherever we are. Fr. John certainly put his gifts and talents at the service of the people of Dungarvan and surrounding parishes. May God bless him and his work now and, in the years, ahead.

### **24<sup>th</sup> October World Mission Sunday.**

World Mission Sunday is the one day in the year when the entire global Church comes together in support of mission. Join us on this special Sunday to support every mission diocese and faith community in need of our help. World Mission Sunday is one of only three Papal collections in the Church calendar.

**The Theme for October World Mission Sunday 2021 is:** 'We cannot Remain Silent – We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.' (Acts 4:20) is twofold. It is a message of hope – Jesus Christ is risen and we cannot keep his love, compassion and mercy to ourselves. It also challenges us to stand up and speak on behalf of those whose voices are too small to be heard. We have the potential to be champions for those who are weaker. For them we cannot remain silent.

The annual collection for the missions will be taken up on the weekend of October 23/24, 2021.

There is a special Mission Sunday envelope in your weekly box of envelopes. Please place your Mission Sunday Envelope in one of the safes in the church or in the collection box in the side porch.

### **Sunday, October 3, 2021: Annual Day for Life.**

*Day for Life is celebrated annually by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness of the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition.*

#### **Steps to a new beginning.**

As we begin to step out of Covid-19 restrictions in our parishes, let us pray, with these steps in mind.

Our first step is that of **gratitude**

- for the gift of another day of life.

Our second step is that of **love**

- for the Holy One and for all our family and friends.

Our third step is that of **hope**

- for the possibility of new beginnings within our parishes and our diocese.

Our fourth step is that of **compassion**

- for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones during the pandemic.

Our fifth step is one of **generosity**

- for all that shall be asked of us as we begin new projects.

Our sixth step is one of **laughter**

- for the joys that will fill our hearts.

Our seventh step is one of **patience**

- for the difficult challenges that may arise.

**Be with us Lord, we pray. Amen**

### **October 10<sup>th</sup>: Blessed Carlo Acutis (3 May 1991 – 12 October 2006).**

On 10 October 2020 in Assisi, Pope Francis beatified 15-year-old Carlo Acutis who died in 2006, making the teen the first of what we call the millennial generation to have been raised to the altar in this way.

**(Continued Next Page)**