



Christ as the Cornerstone.

“God doesn’t create saints in a laboratory,” said Pope Francis. “He creates them in vast worksites in which the work of all, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, digs deep to make a solid base on which to build, taking care to construct in an ordered and perfect manner, with Christ as the cornerstone.”
Pope Francis, 2/6/2023.

The Church for our Time?

Maybe the following questions might help us focus and find a way of seeing the Church for our time.

What is precious to you in the Church? What do you want to hand on? What have you discovered about the life of the Church through your ministry, or through life in your parish? What has become important to you that was not important to you 20 years ago, or 10 years ago?

Two things are clear: we can only answer these questions *together, and we can only answer them by listening to each other. Let us move beyond what Pope Francis calls, the “structures which give us a false sense of security, beyond rules which make us harsh judges, beyond habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving...” (Evangelii Gaudium, 49) “Feed my lambs... Feed my sheep.”*

(Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin, Saturday, 3rd June 2023: Feast of St. Kevin of Glendalough)

Always Appreciate your Roots.

“Always appreciate your roots, not so much as to build them into a defensive wall, but as a richness to share with others,” he said. “We work the ground together, on behalf of peace.”
Pope Francis, 2/6/2023.

Weekly Envelopes 2023 – 2024

In recent weeks you have been asked to put your name and address on the back of your weekly collection envelope. If you have already done so, thank you. If not, please write your name and address on the back of the next weekly envelope you submit. It is necessary to do this only once. Or you can contact the parish office with your details at 058 42374 or email parishofficedungarvan@gmail.com.

Thank you for your help.

Sunday, July 23rd, 2023: World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

When Pope Francis established World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on January 31, 2021, he said that it would be celebrated throughout the Church every year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (Wednesday, 26th July, 2023), Jesus’ “grandparents”.

Pope Francis and his Grandmother Rosa.

On a number of occasions Pope Francis has recounted his personal experience with his own grandmother, Rosa, a woman of faith who came from a peasant family in Piedmont, Italy, and emigrated to Argentina to escape poverty. During the Pentecost Vigil of 2013, the Pope said it was his grandmother who first transmitted the Christian faith to him.

“I had the grace to grow up in a family where faith was lived in a simple and concrete way; but it was above all my grandmother, my father’s mother, who marked my path of faith. She was a woman who explained to us, who spoke to us about Jesus, who taught us the Catechism. I always remember that on Good Friday evening she would take us to the candlelight procession, and at the end of this procession... my grandmother would make us children kneel, and she would say: “Look, he is dead, but tomorrow he will rise again”. I received the first Christian announcement from this woman, from my grandmother! That’s beautiful! The first announcement at home, with the family! And this makes me think of the love of many mothers and grandmothers in the transmission of the faith. It is they who transmit the faith”.

Pope Francis and his Grandmother Rosa’s Letter.

Pope Francis was ordained to the priesthood in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 13th, 1969, just three days before his 32nd birthday. (Born December 17th. 1936) On the day of his ordination his grandmother Rosa gave him a letter.

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Speaking about that letter in March 2015, Pope Francis said: **"I still treasure the words my grandmother wrote to me on the day of my ordination. I carry them with me to this day inside my breviary,"** The text reads, **"May these my grandchildren, to whom I have given the best of my heart, have a long and happy life, but if on some painful day, sickness or the loss of a loved one fills you with grief, remember that a sigh before the Tabernacle, where the greatest and most august martyr resides, and a gaze at Mary at the foot of the Cross, can make a drop of balm fall on the deepest and most painful wounds."**

Prayer for Grandparents.

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society. Support them! As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasuries of sound religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience. Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents.

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May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love. Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!

The late Pope Benedict XVI wrote this prayer in 2008 in response to a request from the Catholic Grandparents Association.



St. Declan of Ardmore.

Feastday: July 24th

Prayer to St. Declan.

God our Father, we give thanks for the life of St. Declan who sowed the seeds of faith among the people of the Déise.

We praise his name. We visit the places made holy by his presence. We walk in his footsteps, on the path taken by generations of pilgrims as we journey to the Father's House. We pray that we may step out in faith, hope and love, walking with Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit on our journey home.

We make this prayer through Christ your Son, our Lord. *Amen*

Memento Card for the late Lt. General Dermot Earley, (1948-2010)

Former Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces

May the Lord support us all the day long, till the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then in His mercy, may He give us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last. *Amen.*

John Henry, Cardinal Newman Dermot Earley's plan for life;

1. Enjoy time with my family.
2. Give the best to my work.
3. Give back to my community.
4. Spend my leisure time well.
5. Make time for God in my life.

Summer is a Time of Pilgrimage

‘Going on pilgrimage without change of heart brings little reward from God for it is by practising virtue and not by mere motion of the feet that we are brought to heaven.’
(Book of Lismore)

Annual Mass at St. Declan's Well, Toor, Aglish on Thursday, July 27th at 12 noon. Confessions from 11.30am



Plaque on railing St. Mary's Church

Thanks for Summer.

For the light of the sun in *the sky.*
For the light which shines through the window.
For the light that shines early in the morning.
For the light that shines late in the evening.
We give God thanks and praise
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