

Mary's Joy...Our Joy...Joy is to be Shared.

Mary's joy is twofold: she had just received the angel's message that she would welcome the Redeemer of the world, and she was also given the news that her cousin was pregnant. This is interesting: **instead of thinking about herself, she thinks of the other.** Why? Because joy is missionary, **joy is not just for one person, it is for sharing something with others.** Let me ask you: those of you here, who have come to meet others, to find Christ's message, to find life's beautiful meaning, will you keep all this for yourselves, or will you share it with others? What do you think? Surely it is for sharing with others, because joy is missionary! Let us all repeat that, together: **joy is missionary! And so we share this joy with others.**

Only One Thing is Free: The Love of Jesus!

I leave you with these thoughts. Carry on; if you fall, get back up; walk with a goal in mind, and train each day of your lives. Nothing is free in life, everything has to be paid for. **Only one thing is free: the love of Jesus!** So, with this free gift that we have – the love of Jesus – and with the desire to carry on the journey, let us walk in hope, let us be mindful of our roots, and move forwards, *without fear. Do not be afraid. Thank you!* Pope Francis: Vigil with Young People at *Parque Tejo, 5/8/2023*

Have no Fear, Do not be Afraid!

To all of you, dear young people, who are the present and the future, yes to all of you, Jesus now says: **“Have no fear”, “Do not be afraid!”**.

Now, in a brief moment of silence, each of you repeat these words, in your own heart: **“Do not be afraid!”**

Dear young people, I would like to look into the eyes of each of you and say: Do not be afraid. I will tell you something else, also very beautiful: it is no longer I, but Jesus himself who is now looking at you. He knows each of your hearts, each of your lives; he knows your joys, your sorrows, your successes and failures. He knows your heart. Today, he says to you, here in Lisbon, at this World Youth Day: **“Have no fear, take heart, do not be afraid!”**. Pope Francis: Closing Mass, Parque Tejo, 6/8/2023

Fr. Mark O'Farrell.

We congratulate Fr. Mark O'Farrell who was ordained a priest for service in this diocese of Waterford and Lismore by Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity on Sunday last, August 20th at 3pm. Fr. Mark celebrated his First Mass in the Cathedral on Monday, August 21st at 12 noon. We wish Fr. Mark a long and fruitful ministry in the service of God and his people in this diocese. During this Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood we pray for vocations not only to the diocesan priesthood, but also to the diaconate and religious life.

St. Mary's Parish Dungarvan

September 2023



The Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

This novena begins on Monday, 4th September 2023 at 7.30pm and continues for 9 Mondays at 7.30pm each Monday. No 9.30am Mass during the novena. We include the Novena Prayer for those joining us at home.

Novena Prayer to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence we come before your holy picture to be inspired by the example of your life. We think of you at that moment when, full of faith and trust, you accepted God's call to be the mother of His Son. Help us, your children, to accept with joy our own calling in life. When you learned that your cousin Elizabeth was in need you immediately went to serve her and offer your help. Help us, like you, to be concerned for others. We think of you, Mother, at the foot of the cross. Your heart must have bled to see your Son in agony. But your joy was great when he rose from the dead, victorious over the powers of evil. Mother of Sorrows, help us to realise that we must expect trials and disappointments. Help us not to lose heart. May we share with you and your Son the joy of having courageously faced up to all the challenges of life. **Amen.**

Prayer for those returning to Schools and Colleges.

Lord, bless all students who are returning to schools and colleges. Keep them safe each day. May they grow, as you did, in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and his people. Keep them in your loving care and help them to show the same loving care to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Autumn Collection: 16/17 September.

The Autumn Collection for the support of the priests of the parish will be taken up on the weekend of 16/17 September. The weekly collection envelope and the special autumn collection envelope (white) in your box of envelopes will go to the Diocesan Clergy Common Fund from which the priests of the diocese receive their allowances. These can be placed in the safes in the church or handed in to the parish office. This is one of the 4 collections each year for the support of the priests. We rely totally on the generosity of the people of the parishes of the diocese. Thank you.

World Youth Day (WYD).

World Youth Day is in fact a six-day celebration which takes place every 2 or 3 or 4 years. It is a gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. The first took place in Rome in 1986 with Pope John Paul II. The next one will take place in Seoul in 2027.

World Youth Day (WYD) 2023.

This year's WYD took place in Lisbon, Portugal from August 1 – 6. Pope Francis was present from August 2 – 6. The theme of this year's gathering was 'Mary arose and went in haste.' Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who like Mary was also expecting a baby. She goes in haste to visit Elizabeth. Pope Francis sees this as a model for young people to go out to others, bringing the message of Jesus to them.

In his Letter, Christ Lives (Christus Vivit, 2019) paragraph 177, Pope Francis says: 'Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some.'

The following are some excerpts taken from some of Pope Francis' talks and homilies during his pilgrimage to WYD 2023.

Each of us is called by name.... Each of us is an "Original"

You are not here by accident. The Lord has called you, not only in these days, but from the very beginning of your days. He called you by name. Let us listen to the word of God that called us by name. Try to imagine these three words written in large letters. Then consider that they were written within you, on your hearts, as if setting the direction of your lives, the meaning of who you are: you have been *called by name*. ***Each of us is called by name. You, you and you, all of us here, myself included: all of us have been called by name. Not impersonally, but by name. Think of this: Jesus called me by name. His words are inscribed in our hearts, and we come to realize that they are written in the hearts of every one of us, as a kind of title that tells people who we are, who you are. You have been called by name. None of us is a Christian by chance; all of us were called by name. In God's eyes, we are precious children, and he calls us each day in order to embrace and encourage us, to make of us a unique and original masterpiece. Each of us is an "original", whose beauty we can only begin to glimpse.***

Loved Just as we Are..... Not as we Want to Be, but as we Are Now.

Let these be days when we fully realize in our hearts that we are loved just as we are. Not as we want to be, but as we are now. This is the starting point of World Youth Day, but above all it is the starting point of our lives. **Young men and women, we are loved the way we are, without makeup.** Do you understand that? And each of us is called by name. That is no mere figure of speech; indeed, it is the word of God (cf. *Is 43:1, 2 Tim 1:9*). Dear friends, if God calls you by name, it means that for God none of us is a number, but a face and a heart.

We are Called as we Are.

....we are called as we are, with our problems and limitations, our overflowing joy, our desire to be better and to get ahead in this world. We are called as we are. Think of this: **Jesus calls me as I am, not as I would like to be.** We are the community of brothers and sisters of Jesus, sons and daughters of the same Father...

The Lord does not point a finger but opens his arms. It is odd: the Lord does not know how to do this (pointing), but that (opening wide). He embraces us all. He shows us Jesus on the cross, who opened his arms wide in order to be crucified and die for us...

Jesus never closes the door, never, but invites you to enter: come and see. Jesus receives, Jesus welcomes. In these days, each of us transmits the love of Jesus. God loves you. God calls you. How lovely this is! God loves me. God calls me. He wants me to be close to him.

He Calls us with our Faults and Failings, our Limitations and our Hopes in Life.

Dear young friends, I encourage you to reflect on the beautiful fact that God loves us. God loves us as we are, not how we want to be or how society wants us to be. As we are! He calls us with our faults and failings, our limitations and our hopes in life. That is how God calls us. Trust, because God is a Father and a Father who loves us. This is not very easy. And for this reason we need a great help, the Mother of the Lord. She is our Mother too. She is our Mother.

Pope Francis: Welcome Ceremony at the Parque Eduardo VII, 3/8/2023