

Tuesday, 16th July: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

This is the title given to Our Lady as patroness of the Carmelite Order. The first Carmelites lived as Christian hermits on Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land in the 12th and 13th centuries. They built a chapel dedicated to Our Lady there. The brown scapular is associated with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. According to tradition, Our Lady is said to have given the scapular to St. Simon Stock (1165 – 1265), a Carmelite Friar. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is celebrated on July 16th each year. The brown scapular is a sign of the protection of Our Lady and of our devotion to her.

World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly on 28 July 2024.

‘On this Fourth World Day devoted to them, let us show our tender love for the grandparents and the elderly members of our families. Let us spend time with those who are disheartened and no longer hope in the possibility of a different future. In place of the self-centred attitude that leads to loneliness and abandonment, let us instead show the open heart and the joyful face of men and women who have the courage to say “I will not abandon you”, and to set out on a different path.

God never abandons his children, never. Even when our age advances and our powers decline, when our hair grows white and our role in society lessens, when our lives become less productive and can risk appearing useless. God does not regard appearances (cf. *1 Sam 16:7*); *he does not disdain to choose those who, to many people, may seem irrelevant. God discards no stone; indeed, the “oldest” are the firm foundation on which “new” stones can rest, in order to join in erecting a spiritual edifice (cf. 1 Peter 2:5).*

May we express our gratitude to all those people who, often at great sacrifice, follow in practice the example of Ruth (in the Old Testament), as they care for an older person or simply demonstrate daily closeness to relatives or acquaintances who no longer have anyone else.’

Excerpts from Pope Francis’ Message for the Fourth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly on 28 July 2024.

Anti-Social Behaviour.

Owing to Anti-Social Behaviour, the Graveyard Gates will be locked at **4.30 p.m.**

St. Mary’s Parish Dungarvan

July 2024



Blessed Carlo Acutis, 3 May 1991— 12 October 2016.



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 was initially buried in the Ternengo town cemetery in the Italian region of Piedmont. However, it was Carlo's final wish to be buried in Assisi.

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On 6 April 2019, his body was brought to Assisi where it is now on public display from 1 October 2020. Pope Francis confirmed Carlo's life as one of heroic virtue on 5 July 2018, declaring him Venerable. On the 20 October 2020, Carlo was declared Blessed in Assisi. On 23 May 2024, Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Acutis and approved the promulgation of canonisation to finalise the process of making him the first Millennial saint.

The date on which Carlo Acutis will be declared a saint of the Church is expected to be announced soon.

Holy Communion.

Holy Communion speaks to us of a God who is not distant, who is not jealous, but close and in solidarity with humanity; **a God who does not abandon us but always seeks, waits for, and accompanies us, even to the point of placing himself, helpless, into our hands.**

Pope Francis, Corpus Christi, 2/6/2024

Life is for living, not Assisted Dying.

Our care for the most vulnerable among us is a measure of our humanity. We see this very clearly in the healing ministry of Jesus. Down through the ages, the ministry of healing has always been an integral part of the mission of the Church. Doctors and nurses, chaplains and carers, family members and friends form communities of care around those who are sick at home or in hospital.

Alongside dialysis, chemotherapy, the scans and the stents, people who are sick need to know, above all, that they are loved and that they will not be abandoned, whatever happens. That becomes especially important when there is nothing more that medical science can do.

It is understandable that people facing chronic or terminal illness sometimes feel that they might be better off if they were dead. But a society which has nothing more to offer to people than to assist them in ending their own lives has really lost its way. Through the time we spend with the sick, listening to them, providing essential care, sharing memories, and, perhaps, praying with them that we continue the healing ministry of Jesus. In this way we bear witness in action to the fact that there is no such thing as a life without value.

Bishop Kevin Doran; Interior July 2024. P. 37.

Pope Proclaims Jubilee.

Pope Proclaims Jubilee Year 2025: 'May Hope Fill our Days!'

Pope: 'May the Jubilee be a time to rediscover, proclaim, build hope.' In *Hope Does not Disappoint (Spes non Confundit)*, Pope Francis announces that the Jubilee Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, 2024.

"Everyone knows what it is to hope.....In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future will bring."

Let us even now be drawn to this hope!" Pope Francis calls on Christians to live a life in keeping with their faith, as a witness and an invitation to all to "hope in the Lord."

"May the power of hope fill our days," the Pope says, "as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever."

From Pope Francis' Document: Hope Does not Disappoint.

Prayer of the Heart

Father, I believe that you know me and love me.

I have not always chosen to love you and have broken my relationship with you through my sins.

Thank you for sending your Son Jesus who proved your love for me on the Cross.

Lord Jesus, I open the door of my heart and I invite you to be at the centre of my life - to be my Saviour and my Lord.

Direct me by your Holy Spirit and help me to live the Gospel with my whole life. Amen.

Catholic Christian Outreach: The Ultimate Relationship. P.14.

Friday, 24th July: Feast of St. Declan of Ardmore.

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.*