

Saturday, 17 th August: Feast of Our Lady of Knock.

On Thursday, 21st August 1879, the apparition took place at the gable end of Knock Parish Church.

Our Lady was accompanied by St. Joseph, the protector of the Holy Family and St. John the Evangelist/Gospel Writer.

To their right was an altar with a cross resting on it and a lamb standing on the altar in front of the cross. This part of the apparition was surrounded by angels. No words were spoken at Knock. No words were necessary. The silent apparition itself was a powerful message. Mary was with her people at a time of great hardship, drawing attention to her son, Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The angels remind us of how heaven is joined to earth each time we celebrate Mass as we join with the angels and saints in giving praise to God for His goodness to us.

Many of the Church's devotions are part of the Knock apparition. Among them: our devotion to the Eucharist, to Mary, the Holy Family, the angels and saints.

On March 19, 2021, the Feast of St. Joseph, Pope Francis declared Knock an International Shrine of Eucharistic and Marian Devotion.

Prayer for the Sick: St. Camillus de Lellis (1550 – 1614)

Stay Near Me Lord.

Stay near me Lord, until the daylight fades, and in the dark give me Your hand to clasp. And when the night is passed, and daylight comes, give me your grace, light up another day.

To troubled hearts give shelter in the storm; to all in pain, bring comfort and relief. To all who hunger, be the Bread of Life; Sustain our hope, until we meet again.

May all your people, sharing the One Bread, be one in heart, grow daily in Your Love; May all who come to be refreshed in hope, go forth in peace, to love and serve you, Lord. Amen.

Jesus says, "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." Matthew 25:40

'Everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies.' Blessed Carlo Acutis.

St. Mary's Parish Dungarvan

August 2024



Blessed Carlo Acutis, 3 May 1991— 12 October 2006 (Contd).



In a decree on May 23, 2024, Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Pope Francis approved the miraculous healing of a 21-year-old girl from Costa Rica named Valeria Valverde who was near death after seriously injuring her head in a bicycle accident while studying in Florence in 2022.

The recognition of the second miracle attributed to Acutis' intercession makes it possible that Blessed Carlo Acutis could be canonized during the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year.

After the girl underwent an emergency craniotomy to reduce intracranial pressure, the family was told that her situation was very critical and that she could die at any moment, according to the Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

Six days after the accident, Valeria's mother went on a pilgrimage to Assisi to pray for the healing of her daughter at the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis, leaving a written note.

On that same day, Valeria began to breathe on her own and on the following day she recovered the use of her upper limbs and partly recovered her speech.

Valeria was discharged from the intensive care unit 10 days after her mother's pilgrimage and underwent further tests that showed that a contusion in her brain had completely disappeared.

Contrary to medical predictions, Valeria spent only one week in physical therapy and on Sept. 2nd 2022, two months after her accident, she went on a pilgrimage to Carlo Acutis' tomb in Assisi with her mother to celebrate her complete healing.

Prayer to Blessed Carlo Acutis - next page.

Prayer to Blessed Carlo Acutis.

O God our Father, we thank you for giving us Carlo, a model of life for young people, and a message of love for all.

You made him fall in love with your son Jesus, making the Eucharist his “Highway to heaven”. You gave him Mary as a beloved mother, and you made him, through the Rosary, a cantor of her tenderness.

Receive his prayer for us. Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved and assisted. Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace that I need (*mention your intention*).

And make our joy full, raising Carlo among the saints of your Church, so that his smile shines again for us to the glory of your name. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

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Bishop of Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino.

The Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

This novena begins on Monday, 2nd September 2024 at 7.30pm and continues for 9 Mondays at 7.30pm each Monday. No 9.30am Mass during the novena.

15th August : Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We celebrate that Mary was taken body and soul into heaven on the Feast of the Assumption. Today’s feast is a feast of hope. Mary is a woman of Hope. ‘...today’s feast - Mary’s message of hope reaches beyond this life to the next. While she is always on our side - and especially of those in need - she is on our side from the other side. Nothing can take away the hope she shares, for she shared it from eternity. We need this - now and at the hour of our death. Our world needs this hope - the confidence in faith that God is always with us, always cares and always walks with us in life’. (Donal Neary, SJ Gospel Reflections for Sundays of Year B: Mark P. 69)

Masses for Thursday, the 15th August.

(In St Mary’s Parish Church and the Friary only).

Vigil Mass, Wednesday: 6.15pm, The Friary (only).

Thursday, the 15th: St. Mary’s 10am & 7.30pm
The Friary 11am

New Martyrs.

Witnesses of the Faith, Witnesses of the Hope that comes from Faith in Christ. ‘...martyrs have accompanied the life of the Church in every age, and flourish as “ripe and excellent fruits of the Lord’s vineyard” even today. **As I have said many times, martyrs “are more numerous in our time than in the first centuries”:** they are bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, lay people and families, who in the different countries of the world, with the gift of their lives, have offered the supreme proof of charity. (cf. LG 42) (Some) despite being aware of the dangers they face, manifest their faith or participate in the Sunday Eucharist. Others are killed in the effort to assist in charity the lives of the poor, in caring for those rejected by society, in cherishing and promoting the gift of peace and the power of forgiveness. Still others are silent victims, as individuals or in groups, of the upheavals of history. **To all of them we owe a great debt and we cannot forget them.**’ (*From Letter of the Holy Father Francis constituting the “Commission of the New Martyrs - Witnesses of the Faith” at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, 05.07.2023*)

20 Martyrs in 2023.

20 Catholic missionaries around the world were killed for witnessing to their faith in 2023: 7 lay people, 1 novice, 1 seminarian, 2 men religious, 8 priests and 1 bishop. They witnessed to Jesus with their lives. They call us to faith and support us with their prayers. They came from Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, USA, Philippines, Palestine and Spain. There were 18 in 2022 and 22 in 2021.

‘The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.’ Tertullian, 2nd century.

Prayer for Those Waiting for Exam Results.

Lord, give me peace of mind as I wait for the exam results.
Take away any fear, worry or anxiety I may have.
I put my faith and trust in you. Amen.

‘The more we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven.’ Blessed Carlo Acutis.