



## A Synod for the Irish Church We're Going to Have a Synod..

Earlier this year in

March the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference announced that they were embarking on a synodal pathway for the Irish Catholic Church leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years. The word "synod" and a synodal way of working is perhaps more familiar among our friends in the Church of Ireland who are used to gathering regularly in synod to make important decisions. But there hasn't been a national synod of the Catholic Church in Ireland since 1927. That said, in other centuries, there have been very significant synodal gatherings where decisions were made which impacted the course the Catholic Church took in the years and indeed even in the centuries which followed.

**What is a Synod?** For the Church it is a time-honoured way of working out together the "navigation map" Synodality is about the whole People of God helping each other to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. This way of working has been given a new emphasis and a new urgency by Pope Francis who has emphasised that this is the way of being "which God expects of the Church of the third millennium". **Pope Francis has recently launched a worldwide Synod that he hopes will involve everyone in the Church.** The final part of the Synod will be held in Rome in 2023. This worldwide Synod has been called the greatest event since the Second Vatican Council so throughout the world each diocese is officially celebrating the start of this process that will reach out to everyone. He emphasises that this is not simply a matter of discussion as in a parliamentary debate. Rather it is primarily a prayerful spiritual time of communitarian discernment. It is about finding the best ways forward for the Church given the challenges it faces.

In Limerick we already had our own Synod in 2016 that involved over 5000 people now the Pope is inviting to take another step and be part of this worldwide Synod focussing on a basic question: how does 'journeying together' take

place today on the different levels of our Church community – from the parish to the Diocese to the worldwide Church? ! We are being asked to consider: how are we getting on together in the Church, in our own parish, in relating to other parishes and across the Diocese and beyond? how are we communicating with each other (after all, we're all different!), how are we making sure as many as possible feel they are participating in the life of the Church? how are we in contact with those who no longer come to Church? Is the Gospel message getting through from the way we do things? What steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow as a Synodal Church? .In the coming weeks and months, each parish will offer possibilities for consultation. Representatives of the Diocese will make contact with groups and associations throughout the Diocese. In time, we'll have opportunities for submissions on our Diocesan website. **This Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October we mark the opening of the two-year Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland .** The worldwide process that Pope Francis has launched with the basic question about how it is we participate in the life of the Church, is helping us in Ireland to take our first steps along our own national journey. We'll be hearing more about our own national journey in the Spring time. For now, however, let's join with the voices of our sisters and brothers all over the world who today are invoking the Holy Spirit as they begin this worldwide initiative, praying a famous prayer that for over a thousand years has been prayed at the beginning of a Synod: ***We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.***

**The Irish Catholic Paper** will be on sale in our Churches from this weekend we have got a few copies to start with, if we need more we can order extra, cost per copy is €2.50

**Drombanna Day Care Centre** has reopened after along break. This is great news as we welcome back our active retired and new people to the centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week from 11am to

## Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sat 16th Oct	7 pm	Michael Neville
Mon 18th	10 am	Mairead Griffin
Tue 19th	10 am	<b>No Mass</b>
Fri 22nd	10 am	No Mass
	7.30pm	Ann Costelloe (MM)
Sat 23rd	7 pm	Josephine Grimes. Bernie Quirke (1st)
<b>Knockea</b>		
Sun 17th	11am	Tony Spellacy
Wed 20th	10am	Catherine Jackson
Sun 24th	11am	Gerard & Bridget Begley & Michael Carey

## Roxboro

4pm. Great local entertainment, good food, arts and crafts bingo while abiding with the HSE requirements to keep each other safe. The centre has a Bus which is available to pick you up and drop you home. For further information contact Geraldine on 061 311262 at the Day care centre.

[www.dkrparish.ie](http://www.dkrparish.ie) Website the weekly **newsletter /mass leaflet** you can find in the "Parish Info" section on our website You can also access our FB page through the website. We appreciate your ongoing generosity to the Parish and to the Priests through the weekly envelope/,and also through online "An electronic



payments system has been developed that better facilitates contributions to the running of

## Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro



**Fr Tom Mangan PP**  
087-2348226

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### Sacristan

**Terry** 087-6686050  
The Eircode for St. Patrick's Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.  
Knockea is **V94 D938**.

Churches throughout Ireland. Called **Easy Payments Plus**, it has been endorsed by our diocese and this parish has followed the example of many others throughout the country in subscribing to it. It will facilitate parishioners in making regular or one-off payments towards the upkeep of our churches and priests income. It can be accessed through the **parish website dkrparish.ie** and following the Donations link

**Mass Cards /Easter Bouquets / Get well cards** available in parish office

**Weekly Parish Lotto:** No Winner  
€5,800 winning numbers 7.9.11.24  
no. winners lucky dips-1. Anne Madigan 2. Kathleen Toomey 3. Fr Tom 4. Jean Sheehan 5. Teresa O'Connell 6. Jean Burke . Next week's jackpot €5,900 next draw Tuesday 19th October at the Cat's Cradle 9.30pm.

Thank you