

The Saints Next Door [November 7th, 2021] Today we are all too aware that clergy and religious are as human as everyone else. Before Vatican II, however, the sense of priests and religious being the holy people was very strong. They were seen as living a life of perfection that far exceeded that of ordinary lay people. In fact, no layperson could be expected to come close to that standard of holiness. And so clergy and religious were placed on pedestals, while ordinary Catholics got on with doing their best.

Vatican II changed that way of thinking. It stated that by virtue of our baptism, we are all the People of God and that, therefore, we all share a common vocation – to be holy, to be perfect, as our heavenly Father is perfect. Whether we are lay, religious or ordained, whether we are male or female, young or old, we all have the same vocation; every Christian is called to be holy. Holiness is the theme of Pope Francis' apostolic letter *Gaudete et Exsultate* ('Rejoice and be Glad'), which was published in 2018. Introducing the letter, Francis writes, "I would like to insist primarily on the call to holiness that the Lord addresses to each of us, the call that he also addresses, personally, to you: 'Be holy, for I am holy.'" **How to be holy, Pope Francis says, is really quite simple. It is to live the Beatitudes, which are the Christian's "identity card".** "If anyone asks: what must one do to be a good Christian?" then "the answer is clear," Francis says. "We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount."

Small Gestures: All we need to do to be holy is to "live our lives in love" and "bear witness" to God in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. This doesn't have to mean big, dramatic actions, the pope says. Rather, it is made up of the little acts of love we undertake every day. "This holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures. Here is an example: a woman goes shopping, she meets a neighbour and they begin to speak, and the gossip starts. But she says in her heart: 'No, I will not speak badly of anyone.' This is a step forward in holiness. Later, at home, one of her children wants to talk to her about his hopes and dreams, and even though she is tired, she sits down and listens with patience and love. That is another sacrifice that brings holiness. Later she experiences some anxiety, but recalling the love of the Virgin Mary, she takes her rosary and

prays with faith. Yet another path of holiness. Later still, she goes out onto the street, encounters a poor person and stops to say a kind word to him. One more step."

Big Challenge: It sounds simple, but we know that keeping the Beatitudes isn't easy today. The values associated with holiness – love, prayer, service, willingness to forgive, humility, church-going, generosity, self-sacrifice – are at odds with the dominant values of today, which emphasise being independent, in control, and looking out for oneself. It demands far greater courage to try to live a life of holiness now than it did in the past. There is also the danger of compartmentalising our lives, **separating the 'God' bit from our regular day-to-day activity.** But, as Pope Francis reminds us, we cannot distinguish the sacred from the secular, the religious from the everyday. All is holy.

Next Sunday, 14 November at 3.00pm, the Bishops of Ireland will undertake a pilgrimage to the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a particularly difficult time for those who have lost loved ones and have often had to cope with their grief without many of the usual spiritual and community supports. To pastorally support everyone who has suffered the pain of bereavement during the pandemic, and in the context of the month of November as the traditional time when we remember our dead, the Bishops of Ireland will undertake a pilgrimage to the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock. The bishops will concelebrate Mass for all those who have died in our country during the pandemic, and for their families. At the Mass the bishops will also offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those who so selflessly sacrificed so much during the pandemic. This Mass will be live-streamed on www.knockshrine.ie and broadcast on the RTÉ News Now digital television channel and online. The bishops invite everyone to join with them in prayer on this solemn occasion

Trócaire The Irish Catholic Bishops this weekend have launched an emergency appeal to support Trócaire's work and expressed "deep concern" at the triple threat of Covid-19, climate change and conflict. Up to 30 million people in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and South Kordofan are struggling in the face of life-threatening food shortages and rising costs of staple foods, fuel, and water. CEO Caoimhe de Barra said the charity is providing large-scale assistance in the form of food, nutrition and water, coupled with the triple threat of climate change, conflict and Covid-19, desert locust infestation had "pushed millions of people across east Africa to the very edge of starva-

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat 6th Nov.	7 pm	Alice Kirby (MM) & Christa Zundel (Anniv) James & Ann McDonagh, John, Stephen, James, Gerard & Cecil McDonagh
Mon. 8th	10 am	Sean Sheehan
Tue 9th	10 am	No Mass
Fri 12th	10 am	Mass
Sat 13th	7 pm	Edward Grimes. Cyril Carney. John Hickey Annual Mass for Deceased members.
Knockea		
Sun 7th	11am	Jack & Nancy Leahy Ann Hickey (8th)
Wed 10th	10am	Deceased Members of ICA
Sun 14th Nov.	11am	Teresa Keane, Tony & Mary Quilty. Annual Mass for Deceased Members
Roxboro		



Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro

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

fallen into poverty globally because of the Covid-19 crisis. You can also donate to the appeal at www.trocaire.org

November list of the Holy Souls can be returned to either Church or dropped into the parish office. Donoughmore. The names of our Deceased relatives and friends will be placed on the altar for all of November and next weekend **13th / 14th Annual Parish Mass for deceased members** we invite the families of those who lost loved ones in the past twelve months to gather with us on that weekend for mass in both of our churches .

Recently deceased Our prayers and sympathy to the family and the Augustinian community of Fr Liam Ryan OSA, funeral Maas Augustinian church on Saturday at 11am May he rest in Peace.

Ballyneety Golf Club Mass for Deceased members Wed. 10th Nov. 7.30pm

tion". Trócaire is responding in east Africa targeting the most vulnerable, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities and those who have been displaced from their homes by climate change and conflict." It is absolutely crucial that firm commitments come out of the Cop26 meeting. Chair of Trócaire Bishop William Crea said the needs in east Africa "are increasing every day. "In the countries where Trócaire works, less than 5% of people have been vaccinated and infection rates are up to 50%. An additional 200 million people have

