

The mission of Jesus is one we are called to share

Once every four years an extraordinary event takes place in Washington DC: the inauguration of the newly elected or re-elected president of the United States. It doesn't have the pageantry of a British royal wedding or of the opening of parliament, or of the installation of a pope, but it is a solemn moment. The president swears on a Bible that he/she will uphold, protect and defend the constitution of the United States, "so help me God".

The president then delivers the inaugural address – outlining his or her vision and hopes for the next four years and for America's future.

Most inaugural addresses have been largely forgotten. Only a few are regarded as great: Lincoln's second, with its talk of reconciliation after the bitter years of civil war. Franklin D. Roosevelt's first speech in 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, when he told the American people: "You have nothing to fear but fear itself." John Kennedy's in 1961, when he challenged Americans to work together to build a better world: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

One inaugural address, delivered on a bitterly cold Washington morning in 1841, was so long that the new president, William H. Harrison, picked up a chill, which led to his death from pneumonia just one month later.

Today's Gospel includes what you could call Jesus' inaugural address. It is his first sermon in his hometown, and he is invited to read.

When he stands up, he ignores the selected reading for the day and instead chooses a section from the prophet Isaiah. It speaks about a mysterious figure who has been empowered by the Spirit to bring Good News to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, new sight to the blind, to set the downtrodden free, and announce a year of God's favour, when debts would be cancelled, and everyone would have a new start. Many Jews believed this person would be the Messiah.

In choosing this reading and this moment, Jesus is announcing that he is that Messiah, and that this is God's vision for God's people.

You can imagine how taken aback and hope-filled his listeners must have felt when they heard Jesus speak those words. His inaugural address. His "I have a dream" speech.

Jesus' choice of the words of Isaiah is a deliberate call to hope. He is inaugurating a new

'year of favour', especially for the poor. It is an inclusive, all-embracing, liberating vision.

Speak Only Good News

Good news is in short supply these days. The outcome of Brexit is in the balance, the refugee crisis continues to intensify, homelessness and sky-high rent costs cast a shadow over our economic progress. We need hope.

Jesus' message is one of hope. The good news he announced to his townspeople in Nazareth he announces to us today also. God's favour is with us. As his followers, all we need to do is to listen to Jesus, to heed his words, and try to live according to his vision.

The good news that Jesus offers us is what we are called to offer others. People will fix their eyes on us and look to see if we are really who we say we are – people at ease with proclaiming the Lord's year of favour. Make a point of telling people only good news this week. Make a point of being the voice of those who have no voice. Try to be grateful for all the good things God has given you.

Bishop Tom Deenihan to open Catholic Schools Week with livestream Mass Representatives of Schola Cantorum to provide music during the celebration of Mass from the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar

Catholic Schools Week 2022 will be celebrated in parishes across the island from Sunday 23 to Sunday 30 January. This year's theme is: 'Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full'. To formally open Catholic Schools Week, Bishop Tom Deenihan of Meath, Chair of the Catholic Education Service and a member of the Bishops' Council for Education, will celebrate Mass on

Sunday 23 January from 11.00am. The liturgy will include musicians from *Schola Cantorum* at Saint Finian's Diocesan College. There will also be participation in the Mass from the Loreto Secondary School and Coláiste Mhuire, Mullingar. Bishop Deenihan said, "Every year, Catholic Schools Week assumes a greater importance for our local school community and parish. Our Catholic schools prepare their students for this world but also try to convey a sense of the Kingdom of God and the world to come. Catholic schools are renowned for the academic education that they offer their students. Equally, such schools contribute to society by encouraging the full development of their student's talents. It is also true that many of these schools, particularly at post-primary level, are involved in social outreach projects that contribute to local communities. "The past few years, have illustrated the potential that students have to influence public policy and debate and to change the world for the better, making it a kinder, more inclusive and more welcoming

Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sun 22nd	7pm	Patricia Cotter & Jimmy Flood. Mikie Wade Bridget Brosnahan (6)
Mon. 24th	10 am	Deceased members
Tues 25th	10 am	No Mass
Fri 28th	10 am	
Sat 29th	7pm	.Maureen O'Shea (MM) & Bill O'Shea (3rd)

Knockea

Sun 23rd	11am	Martina Lynch
Wed 26th	10am	

Sun 30th	11am	Maire Hourigan. John Folry (5th)
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Roxboro

place. That has been particularly true in relation to ecology and protecting the environment, a key message of Pope Francis and a theme of previous Catholic Schools Weeks. As we participate in Catholic Schools Week this year, we celebrate, in a special way, our following of Jesus' teaching by living life to the full through our thoughts, words and actions. In doing so, we follow the words of Jesus in John's Gospel: 'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full,'"

Bishop Deenihan said. The full suite of #CSW2022 resources for primary and post-primary are now available on www.catholicschools.ie. Each resource explores the five daily themes of Catholic Schools Week:

- Monday - Living Life to the Full with God
- Tuesday - Living Life to the Full Together
- Wednesday (Grandparents' Day) - Celebrating

Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro



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

Being Together Again

Thursday - Living Life in Wonder and Awe

Friday - Living Life and Facing the Future

Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy has congratulated Rt Revd Bishop Michael Burrows on his election as Church of Ireland Bishop of the newly United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. Welcoming the appointment, Bishop Leahy said: "I am delighted with the news of Bishop Michael Burrows' I look forward very much to welcoming him to Limerick where I know he will be received with great affection by the people of the Diocese as he succeeds Bishop Kenneth Kearon, who retired some months ago.

Weekly Lotto €2,300 winning No.2,11,23,24. No winner. lucky dip 1.Glenview Rovers 2. Pat O'Brien 3. Ann Gaule 4. Chris Barron 5. Gerard & Nonie Lonergan 6. Deirdre c/o Wurth Next Jackpot €2,400 Draw Tues.25th Jan 8.30pm at the Court-house, Ballyneety. Thank you.

