

Many parents reluctant to change patronage of school, survey find Carl O'Brien

Many parents in local communities are often reluctant to change the patronage of their school, according to a national survey commissioned by Catholic education groups. The findings come as the Government faces calls to act on its pledge to divest hundreds of Catholic schools to multi-denominational patrons at a time when 89 per cent of primary schools remain under Catholic control. The poll, published to mark Catholic Schools Week, was based on a national representative survey of 500 parents of school-going children at primary and secondary. It was conducted in April 2019 and aimed at measuring public attitudes towards how schools of a Catholic ethos are perceived.

Among Catholic parents, it found a wide spectrum of belief and practice. A total of 22 per cent were regular massgoers, while about 20 per cent had belief with practice and 46 per cent has belief with minimal practice. Some 13 per cent had no belief or practice. The research found that 72 per cent of parents had sent their child to their school of their choice, while 24 per cent their child to the only school available in the area. A total of 4 per cent said they did not get their first preference for the school of their choice.

Mass-goers Those who sent their child to their school of choice were more likely to be massgoers. For example, while 82 per cent of those who go to mass once a month secured their first-choice school, this fell to 59 per cent among parents who never go to mass. When it came to factors that influence school choice, factors such as location (83 per cent said it was important), academic reputation (81 per cent) and discipline (75 per cent) are the most important. The next most important factor was being able to make the sacraments at school (57 per cent), following by being a co-education school (54 per cent) and extra-curricular sport (57 per cent). A smaller number proportion rated having a Catholic ethos as important (44 per cent) or having some element of religious practice (42 per cent). The poll also indicated there was majority support among parents (78 per cent) for the Catholic Church to have some role in continuing to shape and influence the ethos of schools. A total of 9 per cent of parents reported that the Church should have a "much more active role" and 33 per cent thought the Church should have "some role" in the ethos

of their local school "equal to that of other community members, such as parents, principals and teachers". The research was commissioned by the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association, the Catholic Education Partnership, and the Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools. The Government has pledged to improve parental choice by meeting a target of delivering 400 multi-denominational primary schools by 2030. However, new figures show there are 164 multi-denominational schools compared with 2,750 Catholic primary schools. The Irish Human Rights Commission's (IHREC) has asked the United Nations to directly ask the State to account for its "slow progress on the divestment of patronage from Catholic schools". It said there is a need for equity of access, parental choice and human rights principles to be respected in education policy.

Pope Francis acknowledges mobility problems linked to inflamed knee ligament

Pope Francis said he is suffering from an inflamed ligament in his right knee that makes walking and going up and down stairs painful. Francis told his weekly general audience that he had been informed that the inflammation usually only afflicts older people. "I don't know why it happened to me," the 85-year-old pope quipped, drawing applause from the crowd. Francis, who has long suffered from sciatica nerve pain that makes him walk with a pronounced limp, cited the new knee pain in explaining why he would not go down the steps of the Vatican audience hall to greet the pilgrims in the crowd. Instead, a handful of guests were brought up to the stage. Francis had mentioned the leg pain last week in explaining that he would remain seated during a different audience. Over the years, he has apologised when he has missed liturgies or had to sit down during events that would otherwise require him to stand. The Argentinian Jesuit enjoys generally good health, though he had 13 inches of his large intestine removed last July. Francis also had a part of one lung removed when he was a young man after a respiratory infection.



Arise Saint Brigid and take your place among the bank holidays of the Irish calendar. The abbess of Kildare is to be honoured by the addition of a new annual public holiday on the Monday closest to February 1 each year. Brigid is one of Ireland's three patron saints, alongside St. Colmcille and the world-famous St. Patrick.

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sun 29th	7pm	Mary & Tom O'Neill (3rd / 8th) Maureen O'Shea (MM) & Bill O'Shea (3rd)
Mon. 31st	10 am	Deceased members
Tues 1st St Brigid	10 am	Ann Malone
Fri 4th	10 am	No Mass
Sat 5th	7pm	
Knockea		
Sun 30th	11am	Maire Hourigan. John Foley (5th)
Wed 2nd	10am	
Sun 6th	11am	
Roxboro		



**Parish of
Donoughmore/
Knockea/Roxboro**

Fr Tom Mangan PP
087-2348226
dkrparish@gmail.com
Website, dkrparish.ie
Facebook: DKR Parish Limerick
Sacristan
Terry 087-6686050
The Eircode for St. Patrick's Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.
Knockea is **V94 D938**.

what is weak within us. Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens. May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit. Amen
Choir practice in Donoughmore church resumes on Tuesday evening 1st feb. 8-9pm

South Liberties Hurling Academy returns next Friday 4th feb.
Health & Beauty course taking place at the Sessions House Ballyneety on Thursday nights for 8 weeks commencing on Thursday 27th Jan 2022. Its free. All tuition provided under Covid 19 guidelines. Face mask required, if required this course can be temporarily delivered online. Contact Eileen McCabe Ballyhoura development.
Weekly Lotto €2,400 winning No.10,11,24,28.. No winner. lucky dip 1.Maeve Martin 2. Kathleen O'Donnell 3. Jane Gregg 4. Catherine Grant 5. Alan Rowan, Jean Sheehan. Next Jackpot €2,500 Draw Tues. 1st 9.30pm Cats Cradle Carrigmartin Thank you.

The origins of her Feast Day, on 1 February, are thought to originally be a pagan festival called Imbolc, which honoured Brigid as the goddess of poetry, healing and fire, and marked the beginning of spring. The day is also seen as a way to celebrate women, and the Celtic goddess's heritage as a "symbol of feminine energy". Lá Fhéile Bríde celebrates the arrival of longer, warmer days, and an emergence from the darkness of winter
Prayer to St Brigid; Brigid, you were a woman of peace. You brought harmony where there were conflict. You brought light to the darkness. You brought hope to the downcast. May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world. Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made. Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary. Strengthen

