



Climax of the Church's Year. March 6

The climax of the Church's year is the Sacred Triduum, the last three days of Holy Week. It begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes with the solemn celebration of Evening Prayer in Easter Sunday. The highpoint of each day is a solemn liturgical assembly of the people of God at different times of the day that recalls a moment in the last days of the life of the Lord. On Thursday evening, the Mass of the Lord's Supper during which the celebrant washes the feet of twelve people recalls the Last Supper. In the afternoon of Good Friday, the commemoration of the Passion centred on the reading of the long passion Gospel of St John and the veneration of the Cross with holy communion from the breads consecrated the evening before recalls the events of Calvary. The great Vigil Liturgy of Holy Saturday recalls the Church's waiting in faith for the return of its Lord.

In addition, these days are also times for additional celebrations in our churches, such as adoration or a holy hour on Thursday evening, the Way of the Cross on Friday or the celebration of the Church's official morning prayer on these days. The run-up to Easter can be a very busy time. There is the extra shopping for food for the holidays. For school children and students, it is usually the beginning of the Easter vacation. With two bank holidays on Good Friday and Easter Monday, it can be tempting to take the weekend as the first holiday of the year. None of this makes for living the liturgy of these days in a way that will stir the soul. So maybe the first thing to do is to plan ahead and see how we can build our schedule around the liturgy?

Rebuilding the Church

The three days of Holy Week were traditionally a time for rebuilding the Church. It was the normal time for celebrating the sacrament of baptism. In those days, most candidates for baptism were adults. They had spent months or even years preparing for that day. The last stage of their preparation took place during the weeks of Lent when they would be given the words of the Creed and taught the Lord's Prayer. On Holy Thursday, they would begin the fast before their baptism. At the liturgy of the Vigil, they would

be baptised. Baptism was not the mere pouring of a little water on the head. It was the total immersion in the deep waters of the baptismal font -a pool in the floor of the church. The candidate was immersed by the celebrating bishop and emerged wet and struggling for breath on the other side: it was the nearest thing to a symbolic death. As St Paul put it to his converts: "you have been buried with him by your baptism; by which, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead" (Col 2:12).

The baptismal nature of the Vigil has been revived in recent times. In most parishes, babies will be baptized, but often, especially in the cathedral, adults will be baptized on this night who have decided to join the Church.

Reconciling Penitents

Another aspect of Church rebuilding during the Triduum was the reconciliation of penitents. In the past, the discipline of the sacrament of penance or reconciliation was very tough, especially for serious sins. On Ash Wednesday, sinners were marked with ashes, and were expected to take a special place in the porch of the church, and needless to say, they were not permitted to receive holy communion. On the morning of Holy Thursday, they were given absolution, declared reconciled to the community and took communion at the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Pope Francis at 4pm on Friday consecrated Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. You can check into our Fb page DKR Parish to read the prayer with beautiful music to accompany this moment. **A special collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend (March 26th/27th).** The proceeds of this special collection will be directed to Caritas Internationalis which is the helping hand of the Church on the ground in Ukraine and surrounding areas. Caritas is the international equivalent of Trócaire, our own Irish development agency. Please take an envelope at the Church drop it to us at another time at the parish office, church house Donoughmore

Synodal Journey "In relation to the Synodal process begun by Pope Francis, please note that the Limerick Diocesan website Synod section is now active. The website link is <https://www.limerickdiocese.org/synod-2021-2023/>. The Synod section offers space for anyone wanting to submit feedback. We warmly welcomes all thoughts and opinions, all are valued".

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat 19th	7pm	Gerry, Mary, Carmel, Patricia & Martina O'Donnell. Vincent Byrne. Patsy Brosnahan (1st
Mon. 28th	10 am	
Tues 29th	10 am	
Fri 1st	10 am	Exposition after Mass
	7pm	Martin Costelloe (MM)
Sat 2nd	7pm	Teresa Hayes. Josie Quinn (2nd)
Knockea		
Sun 27th	11 am	Sean Holmes (2nd)
Wed 30th	10am	
Sun 3rd	11 am	Willie, John Joe & Christine O'Malley. Billy Donnelly (MM) Eamonn McNerney UK
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**.

Our Sympathy to the families of Tom Buckley late of Athboy, formerly of Emly Co. Tipperary, a brother of Billie Butler Boherlode, Denis Holmes brother to Kathy O'Riordan (funeral arrangements later) and to Michael Fives on the death of his brother Fr Colin Fives, Augustinian, 48 years in Nigeria. May they rest in Peace.



Weekly Lotto €1,200 winning No. 16,17,18,25. No Winner. Lucky dips 1. Diarmuid Sheehan 2. Michael O'Brien snr 3. Paul McMahan 4. Oliver Power 5. Kathy O'Riordan 6. Lar Grimes Next Jackpot €1,300 Draw Tues. 29th March 9.30pm at the Cat's cradle Thank you.



Summer time begins remember the clocks go forward this weekend, www.dkrparish.ie the weekly **newsletter /mass leaflet** you can find in the "Parish Info" section on our website

