



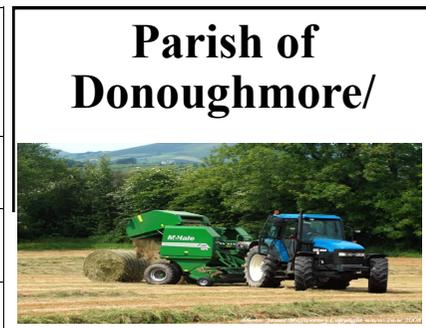
Pentecost Sunday celebrates the birthday of the church and the birthday of the domestic church – the Christian family. The disciples have been gathered in the upper room. The Holy Spirit descends on them, just as Jesus had promised. They begin to feel the power of the Holy Spirit, and they become new people. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they unlock the door and pour out of the room, and begin preaching the Good News of the Gospel to all they meet. On that first Pentecost, the church is born. At its most fundamental, the church is every Christian family and every home. Vatican II says the family is the domestic church because it is the first place where young, baptised Christians learn about their faith. It is where we nourish our faith and live it out. You could call family the ‘church of the home’. Pentecost Sunday marks the end of our journey through Easter. Pentecost Sunday is a celebration of the presence of the Spirit of God in our world and in our lives. It is sometimes hard to put words on what this actually means for us. We know from Confirmation ceremonies that much colour, life and energy flows. It is a wonderful occasion. The Spirit and energy of God is alive and active in our lives not just on the occasional one day event but through every single day. This is often referred to as the good news of the gospels. But we are so busy with endless things to do that we often forget the energy and presence of God all around us. So who is the Holy Spirit for each of us? Very simply the Holy Spirit is our friend and is the breath of God in our daily lives. A good image to hold is that of a yacht. As soon as a yacht lifts up its sails to catch a breeze it becomes alive and moves through water full with purpose, energy and delight. If the sail is taken down and put away the yacht is almost lifeless and just drifts along. With regard to the Holy Spirit we have sometimes forgotten to put up our sails to catch and harness a unique presence in our world today. The following prayer to the Holy Spirit could be our way of marking the special day that it is *‘Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.*

The D in D-Day refers to Tuesday, 6 June 1944 and nothing more. Some might think it refers to Deliverance Day which is coincidental. On that day the Normandy Invasion began. It consisted of about 156,000 Allied troops leaving the south of England to cross the English Channel to the Normandy beaches, stretching for 50 miles from Le Havre down the coast to Cherbourg. According to some estimates, 4,414 troops lost their lives in the D-Day invasion. The Green Fields of France was written in 1976 by Eric Bogle - a Scottish-Australian songwriter. He wrote it after visiting military cemeteries in both North France and Flanders. Davey Arthur and the Furey Brothers recorded the song in the 1980's and has since become very popular world-wide. Here are some of its lyrics: ‘I see by your gravestone you were only nineteen... But here in this graveyard it's still No Man's Land, the countless white crosses stand mute in the sand... Did they believe when they answered the cause. Did they really believe that this war would end wars? Well the sorrow, the suffering, the glory, the pain, the killing and dying, were all done in vain. For young Willie McBride, it all happened again and again, and again, and again, and again’. Out of the many, many military cemeteries, the song writer could have visited the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. This cemetery is the most visited cemetery run by the American Battle Monuments Commission with one million visitors a year.

The cemetery is located on a 172 acre site overlooking Omaha Beach (one of the landing beaches of the Normandy Invasion) and the English Channel. It contains the remains of 9,388 American military dead, most of whom were killed during the invasion of Normandy and ensuing military operations in World War II. Last month I visited another Normandy cemetery at Bayeux. The most common age profile of soldiers was 19, 20 and 21 years of age. 19 years old, that's a teenager, a youth an adolescent. What's also saddening is the fact that many of these youths died on the 6 June 1944. They died within hours of entering battle. And there are also several graves of soldiers whose identities are unknown. Then the guide brings us to the war museum. Some of the army tanks are up to 40 tonnes weight made of military grade steel up to two inches thick. The dumb bombs ejected from airplanes are half a ton weight. The destruction and carnage inflicted on buildings and people is unimaginable. Even though Europe has been a Christian continent for two millennia it has always been a war-torn continent. But the people who are currently living in the great nations of Europe are the first people to have never seen war in their country. Let us pray and practice the words of St.

Francis of Assisi. Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. JJ

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat 4th	7pm	Frank Ahern (4th)
Mon.6th	10 am	No Mass
Tues 7th	10 am	Parish Intentions
Fri 10th	10am	
Sat 11th	7pm	Marie Hartigan (MM)
Knockea		
Sun 5th	11am	Frank Madden
Wed.8th	10am	
Sun 12th	11am	Hilda Madden
Roxboro		



Parish of Donoughmore/

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

Our Sympathy and prayers to the family of Fr Charlie O'Neill, retired priest of Castletown, Ballyagran & Colmanswell, late of Drombanna, funeral took place in St. Michael's church Ballagran on Tuesday at 12 noon. May he rest in Peace

Weekly Lotto €2,200 winning No5,7,24,28 No Winner. Lucky dips 1. Sinead Le Gear 2.Margaret Dooley 3.Pat Considine 4.John Sheehan 5.Michael Malone 6.Rose & Catherine Next Jackpot €2,300 Draw Tues. 7th June 9.30pm Cat's Cradle

Good luck to the Limerick Senior Hurling team who contest the Munster hurling final against Clare at Semple stadium. We wish John Kiely the management team and players the very best of luck.

We remember today all those doing the Junior and Leaving Cert exams which start officially on Wednesday.

Drombanna Community Singers would like to sincerely thank all singers and friends who supported us on the recent Charlie Bird/Pieta House Limerick Greenway Sponsored Walk. Total raised €355

