

Thank God for the Fleas, 9 Oct 2022

In her book *The Hiding Place*, Corrie Boom tells of a time she discovered that God was working even in the most horrific circumstances.

Corrie and her sister Betsie had been imprisoned by the Nazis in the notorious Ravensbrück Concentration Camp north of Berlin for hiding Jews behind the wall of their Holland home, and Nazi prison conditions were pretty unbearable. Corrie writes: "Barracks 8 was in the quarantine compound for newcomers. Next to us were located the punishment barracks. From there, all day long and often into the night, came the sounds of hell itself. They were not the sounds of anger, or of any human emotion, but of a cruelty altogether indescribable: blows landing in regular rhythm, screams keeping pace. We would stand in our ten-deep ranks with our hands trembling at our sides, longing to jam them against our ears, to make the sounds stop.

"It grew harder and harder. Even within these four walls there was too much misery, too much seemingly pointless suffering. Every day something else failed to make sense, something else grew too heavy." Yet, in the midst of the suffering, the women prisoners around Corrie and Betsie found comfort in the little Bible studies they held in the barracks. Corrie writes they gathered around the Bible "like orphans clustered around a blazing fire...The blacker the night around us grew, the brighter and truer and more beautiful burned the Word of God." When they were moved to Barracks 28, Corrie was horrified by the fact that their reeking, straw-bed platforms swarmed with fleas. How could they live in such a place? It was Betsie who discovered God's answer: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus (1 Th 5:16-18)." That's it, Corrie! That's His answer. "Give thanks in all circumstances!" That's what we can do. We can start right now to thank God for every single thing about this new barracks!"

"I stared at her; then around me at the dark, foul-aired room..." They thanked God for the fact they were together. They thanked God they had a Bible. They even thanked God for the horrible crowds of prisoners, that more people would be able to hear God's Word. And then, Betsie thanked God for the fleas. "The fleas! This was too much. 'Betsie, there's no way even God can make me grateful for a flea.'

"Give thanks in all circumstances," she quoted. 'It doesn't say, "in pleasant circumstances.'" Fleas are part of this place where God has put us.' "And so we stood between tiers of bunks and gave thanks for fleas. But this time I was sure Betsie was wrong." It turned out that Betsie was not wrong; the fleas were a nuisance, but a blessing after all. The women were able to have Bible studies in the barracks with a great deal of freedom, never bothered by supervisors coming in and harassing them. They finally discovered that it was the fleas that kept those supervisors out. **Through those fleas, God protected the women from abuse and harassment.** Dozens of desperate women were free to hear the comforting, hope-giving Word of God. Through those fleas, God protected the women from much worse things and made sure they had their deepest, truest needs met.

We all have "fleas" in our lives. We all have those things that we can see no use for, things that are obviously horrible, unpleasant, painful things that we want gone. No life is free of "fleas", but if Corrie and Betsie can be our examples, **God can use even these nasty insects for our protection and blessing.** Let's thank God for His constant care and provision, and for His hidden blessings that come in ways we can easily overlook

Sympathy to the families of John Sheehan, Ballymacreese, funeral was at Knockea on Wednesday, Mary O'Sullivan, late of Lynwood park, Miltown Malbay funeral St John's Cathedral last Thursday. Edmond McDonnell, Doneraile Cork brother to Betty Fenton, funeral was Friday. Applegreen petrol station explosion Creeslough tragedy 10 confirmed deaths May they rest in peace.

Limerick Diocese are offering a training/reflection session for **Ministers of the Eucharist on Tuesday 11th October from 7:30pm to 9pm** in the Diocesan Centre. Again, this session is suitable for new Ministers of the Eucharist or can also be a reflective opportunity for existing Ministers. You can register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MinistryTrainingReflection> Two nights of training for **Funeral/Bereavement Teams** will be offered on **18th and 25th October from 7:30pm to 9pm** in the Diocesan Centre. The training will cover the practical steps involved in setting up, resourcing Funeral/Bereavement Teams in pastoral units/parishes. Following these initial two nights, additional supports and resources needed will be considered further training sessions will be developed. We would encourage people who have a sense of calling to this ministry area, as well as those already involved, to register

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat 8th Oct	7pm	Patrick Shanahan Michael & Josephine Sheahan
Mon.10th	10m	Michael John Noone
Tues 11th	10am	No Mass
Fri 14th	10am 7.30	Bernie Byrne (MM)
Sat 8th	7pm	
Knockea		
Sun 9th	11am	John Ryan (2nd) Tony Spellacy
Wed 12th	10am	No Mass
Sun 16th	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**.
Pastoral Area Donoughmore / Knockea/ Roxboro, Queen of Peace,

Support Your Parish As well as the usual way to donate to your parish through envelope and now online through our parish website; dkrparish.ie on **Easy payments plus** Thanks for your generosity

Gathering- Finance committee members to discuss Finances for parishes Tuesday 11th Oct. Limerick Diocesan centre 7.30pm –9pm.

DKR Comm. Assoc. Monday 10th Oct. at 8pm, The Courthouse

Weekly Lotto €1,400 no winner winning No.5,10,20,24. Lucky dips 1. Una & Jake Hartigan 2. Helen Grimes 3. Brid Kennedy 4. Vincent Hayes 5. Dennis Sutton 6. Joe Sheahan Next Jackpot €1,500 Draw Tues 11th Oct. Cat's Cradle 9.30pm Thank you

for the two nights so we can learn from each other's experiences. You can register for the two nights of training here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/FuneralBereavementTeams, from the perspective of our Parish and Pastoral Unit here we would hope to begin this Ministry.

Ukrainian Family Michail, Elina & Arina that recently moved to our area, staying in the home of Teresa O'Connell Drombanna have now moved to Canada. Tony O'Connell wishes to thank all the neighbours & everyone who were very kind in everything they did for them.

Training. Defibrillator at Knockea school is to begin shortly, would you please give your name to Dolie at Knockea, church.

