

The strength of community shines through in such dark times



In modern life it is often the case that we are hyper-separated from each other. And then comes a cataclysm, and we are immediately drawn closer together,

as if the only thing capable of holding us up is our community.

Ten red candles burn in St Michael's Church in Creeslough, Co Donegal, as the first of the victims of the tragedy are laid to rest. "One of the hard things, I think, to accept and come to terms with was that it was just out of the blue. You wake up in the morning and you don't come home in the evening, and that was very hard." These were the words spoken by Creeslough village GP, Dr Paul Stewart, who found himself in charge of fatalities after the blast. "These wounds are going to take years to heal," he added. Expressions of consolation and comfort will be offered, but it is the tenderness of action which more faithfully honours the compassion of the village.

There were the human chains that formed in the immediate aftermath of the huge explosion to sift through the rubble. As early hopes faded over time, the painstaking work went on, just in case. The bereft parents of 14-year-old Leona Harper spoke in praise and gratitude of the merciful work done by all. Leona's mother Donna thanked the digger driver who found her body after a 24-hour search. "I did personally know the digger driver – a massive thank you to him because he just didn't stop until he got her," she said. Despite the devastation and the life-size hole torn in their worlds, they felt moved to acknowledge the decency and dignity that had survived, when so much else had been stripped away.

"There is a powerful thing in coming together," Bishop of Raphoe Alan McGuckian said. "There is something about the depth of the experience these people are going through that it is OK to be quiet and it's good to be quiet with other people." The small white church in the shelter of Muckish Mountain has become a sanctuary. For the next few days it will be filled with love and also hurt.

The people of the parish will share their extreme loss and incomprehension, the people of the country will hold them in thoughts and prayers. Hopefully they may find some of their togetherness even in the depths of their brokenness. As one local put it: "It's the first time in my life I've woken up in the morning feeling like I'm living in hell.

"We know everyone who's gone. There are no words." Nor are there. Being tongue-tied by ineffable tragedy is entirely natural. In time, community may have a healing role to play in salving the pain of those left most grief-stricken by this tragedy. In time, also, we may have an understanding of the what, and the why: but for now it must be about the who; the victims and their families. It's from the weavings of all the individual threads of solidarity especially in times of deep sorrow that we experience the power of support.

This October, we are celebrating World Mission Month, a month dedicated to the life-giving work of missionaries around the world. This year, we walk hand-in-hand with the Church of Ethiopia and the local communities towards providing life-changing opportunities to those most in need.

Pope Francis, in his 2022 World Mission Sunday message, invites everyone to answer the call to be missionary, sharing that "Mission is carried out together, not individually..." Each year, the second last Sunday of October is dedicated to World Mission Sunday. Happening on the 23rd of October, it also offers us the opportunity to commemorate 200 years of Mission," says Fr Brian Lucas, Catholic Mission National Director. Through your generosity, we raised £483,798 on World Mission Sunday in 2021! That money went to help missionaries and projects around the world, including the Women's Interfaith Council in Nigeria.

There are many ways to get involved this World Mission Month.

Sympathy to the family of Thomas O'Brien Ballinagarde, Ballyneety, Funeral was today Saturday at Donoughmore 11am. Burial in Raheen Cemetery (MM) Beirne Byrne took place on Friday evening at 7.30pm May they rest in peace.

Visit to Our Lady's shrine at Lourdes, a few people are travelling to Lourdes this week for a few days if you wish to have a petition prayer to be taken there please give to Caroline Walsh before Tuesday next.

Limerick Diocese /Funeral bereavement are offering a training/reflection session , first on **18th and**

Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sat 15th Oct	7pm	Parish intentions
Mon.17th	10m	
Tues 18th	10am	No Mass
Fri 21st	10am	
Sat 22nd	7pm	Josephine Grimes Maire Power (MM) Patricia Dillon
Knockea		
Sun 16th	11am	
Wed 19th	10am	
Sun 23rd	11am	Mission Sunday

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 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.

**Parish of
Donoughmore/
Knockea/Roxboro
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The Eircode for St. Patrick's Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.
Knockea is **V94 D938**.
**Pastoral Area Donoughmore /
Knockea/ Roxboro, Queen of Peace,**

DKR and BCDA Community Associations invite you to the official launch of the Ballyneety Defibrillator on Saturday 22nd October 2022 at 4pm. Outside The Courthouse, Ballyneety Village. All welcome. Followed by light refreshments in The Stroller. --
Naomi Cleary Graham

Training. For the Defibrillator at Knockea school will be Sat. 5th Nov. in the School please give your name to Dolie at Knockea, Church if you would still like to come along to be familiar with this medical device.

Weekly Lotto €1,500 no winner winning No.5,11,20,25. Lucky dips 1 Rebecca Hayes 2. Kathleen Toomey 3.Margie Dooley 4. J Wade 5. Harry & Anna Flood 6. Alan Rowan Next Jackpot €1,600 Draw Tues 18thOct. Four Elms 9.30pm Thank you

