



Celebrating Funerals Reverently 30 Oct 2022

Earlier this year I attended three funerals in the space of one week in the counties of Cork, Limerick and Galway. But there was a marked difference in the three celebrations.

As I look back over the past 50 years, the church liturgy for funerals has also changed. This change has occurred at parish level but not so at official levels in the church. These differences are most poignant when we contrast a catholic funeral with a humanist funeral. The focus for the humanist is a celebration of thanksgiving honouring the giftedness and contributions of the deceased. The catholic celebration would be, or should be if protocol is followed, more humble in its tone. The focus is God from whom we receive our dignity; we are his loved children who are called to share eternal life with him. Another contrasting feature of a catholic funeral is approaching the celebration with a contrite heart seeking God's mercy for past sins. The prayers confirm this theme throughout the celebration. It's how we begin the celebration when we pray the "I confess...." I feel our funeral celebration has changed also. Have we adopted and adapted some humanist practices? . You might recall the funeral of a young man from Dublin some years ago causing a furore. He was lauded for how crafty he was with a screwdriver which was a symbol at the funeral Mass, which he used to break into houses. While this is a rarity, I have witnessed words and symbols and songs associated with the culture of excessive drinking being applauded. This is in stark contrast to the gospel message, particularly from this Sunday and last Sunday, of a person's unworthiness before God: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner. This man, I tell you, went home at rights with God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted, says Jesus" (Lk 18:13-14). As the misunderstanding of the tenets of the Christian faith and its practice increase, the integrity of the catholic funeral is under strain.

Though I have used symbols and delivered eulogies at funerals, I believe there are two guiding principles we should follow if we decide to use either. **Be mindful of the role God played and is playing in the deceased person's life**

and death . As Christians we believe that all praise we receive belongs ultimately to God. Take the words uttered by Our Lady in the Magnificat: "God looks on his servant in her lowliness, henceforth all ages will call me blessed. The Almighty works marvels for me." As Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, 'Any honours that come our way are only stolen from him to whom alone they really belong, the Lord God who sent us' Secondly, **be aware of the equality of all people as we stand before God.** In an effort to achieve that, some churches drape a plain white pall over the coffin to disguise the opulence or moderation in the style of coffin. The church doesn't want to endorse the greatness of one person's worldly achievements when it is unable to do so for all. It can be belittling for people of humble means to live in such a community. Our pope certainly doesn't want it to be a church for the rich and great. We wouldn't take kindly to a teacher publicly applauding a few great students in the classroom or an employer admiring only a few great workers. The simplicity of the papal coffin is a suitable template in setting the tone for a catholic funeral. Finally, for people organising funerals, don't feel under pressure to script eulogies or organise symbols and songs. A very reverend and dignified liturgy can be celebrated in their absence. All that's asked for is a spirit of humility and prayerfulness. JK

Nov. 1st & 2nd the Feast of All Saints and All Souls. All Saints Monday eve 31st Oct Mass 7pm in Donoughmore. Tuesday 1st Nov. 11am Knockea, All Souls Wed. 2nd Nov 10am Knockea

Sympathy to the families of Pdraig O'Riordan, late of Drombanna, Raheny Dublin and London funeral arrangements later. To the family of Leslie Cowpar Limerick. May they rest in peace.



Clocks go back this weekend The further north you are from the equator, the greater the loss of light during the winter months. and its Halloween The experience of Halloween is not just for children but it also resonates with adults too. Halloween has its origins

going right back to our Celtic ancestors who celebrated the feast of Samhain on Nov 1st. They celebrated the new year on this day because it was a time of transition from light to darkness. They also believed that the boundary between the living world and that of the dead was very thin, so much so that the spirits of the dead



Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat 29th Oct.	7pm	Una Webber (2nd)
Mon.31st	10m	No Mass
Public Holiday		
1st Nov.		
Eve of All Saints	7pm	Martin Flynn
Tues 2nd Nov.	10am	No Mass
All Saints		
Fri 4th	10am	Sean Sheehan
Sat 5th	7pm	Kayla Hope Grimes
Knockea		
Sun 30th	11am	Parish Intentions
Tues.1stNov.	11am	Mass
AllSaints		
Wed. 2nd Nov.	10am	Mass
All Souls day		
Sun 6th Nov.	11am	Jack & Nancy Leahy John Frances Sheehan (MM0)



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, Holy Family

Thursday Night Club has resumed after a long break due to Covid. We meet in The Day Care Centre, every Thurs. night at 7 15pm, to play 45' and Bingo. We take a short break for tea at 8 30 and then resume till 10pm. It is always a very enjoyable night, we are a small friendly group always ready to welcome new members. If you would enjoy a sociable game of bingo or 45' please come along any Thurs. night. Kathy O' Riordan Organiser.

Weekly Lotto €1,700 no winner winning No.8,17,24,28 Lucky dips
 1.Alan Rowan 2.Fiona O'Mahony
 3.Ann Wade 4.Conor Hillebrand
 5.Michael Butler 6.Oliver Neville
 Next Jackpot €1,800 Draw Tues 1st Nov. Cat's Cradle 9.30pm

Happy Halloween & safe driving over the Bank holiday weekend

returned The tree's shedding its leaves outside reminds us that November is here The leaves scattered under our feet are an anthem for the decline of another year. It's no coincidence that November, the month of leaf-taking is also the time of the year when we remember the leave-taking of our beloved dead It's natural to remember and it's part of our nature to remember the dead because they are part of who we are. **Our Annual Mass** for Deceased Members of the Parish will be next weekend in Donoughmore & Knockea Churches. The names of our deceased can be written on the purgatorial sheets available in our Churches and will be placed on the altar for November and prayed for at all our Masses "Though we need to weep your loss, You dwell in that safe place in our hearts, Where no storm or night or pain can reach you." 'John O'Donoghue' . Mass deceased Members Ballyneety Golf Club Mon. 7th -7pm

