

**Feast of Corpus Christi—the Body & Blood of Christ.** In Ethiopia during the 3 years of famine, in 1984 to 1986, over one million Ethiopians died of hunger. Cardinal

Hume of Westminster Cathedral London made a pastoral visit there. Upon his return to England he told the following story. ‘On one occasion, I boarded a helicopter that flew me to a mountain settlement high up in the hills where people were starving and waiting for food. When I stepped out of the helicopter, a little boy of ten ran up to me and took my hand. He wore only a loin cloth around his waist. The whole time I was there he would not let go of me. I have never forgotten this incident, continued the Cardinal and to this day I wonder if that little child is still alive. In today’s Gospel, *Jesus says to the people who come to him... ‘I am the living bread that came down from Heaven, whoever eats this bread will live forever’.* Cardinal Hume carried this story with him always, the sad and reproachful look in the little boy’s eyes. He told the story very often of what he witnessed with the famine and that boy who in the moment of great distress and anguish of his people, reminding the Cardinal of life’s terrible truth—*without bread and without love, we cannot survive.* Jesus has taken both the bread and his love and made of them the bread and the love of God, truly the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist, that is where he is for us

**What is a Church? Part 2 of 5**

Two weeks ago we saw that gothic churches were lighthouses, chambers of light. They are consuming the heavenly light streaming from the celestial heights. Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world’ (Jn 8:12). Light streaming into the church from the windows high up in the walls portrayed an image of God descending into the church illuminating everything within. While it showed something of God, it also showed God as moving, as intangible, as a Being that cannot be contained in any earthly vessel. Under Christian traditions, churches are built so the worshipping people are facing eastwards. This follows the belief that the Second Coming of Jesus



would occur from the east, the place of the rising sun. This belief originates from a statement in the Gospel of Matthew where the return of Jesus would originate from the East: ‘the coming of the Son of man will be like lightning striking in the east and flashing far into the west’ (24:27). In the Book of Revelation the Holy City is described: ‘the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it’ (21:23), ‘it will never be night again and they will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will be shining on them (22:5). It is beautifully captured by Joseph Locke in the song, *Holy City*. In this biblical book, it goes into much detail in describing the Holy City. Church architects borrowed heavily from it in trying to replicate it in the designing of their churches.

Moving to Donoughmore as a gothic church. When it was built in 1822 it was most certainly a lighthouse, a chamber of light in the community. Why can such a claim be made? Architects relied on the generosity of the protestant landlord to get a site for this church. The maps show that the current site for Donoughmore Church is actually larger than the original site. The body of the church is designed and situated so it can capture as much sun light and heat as is available. The sacristy is situated so it gets little or none. Having it on a raised site also helps with no natural obstacles to the sun. The church is not facing due east, which was customary, rather it is northeast. What kind of a relationship does the church have with the sun? From December 21st the sun is rising higher up our earthly planet, moving in a northerly direction. For us living here in Donoughmore Parish, just think of the rising sun making the journey from Dungarvan all the way up to a point 17 km north of Drogheda between Dec and June when it is rising over our horizon each morning. It does the reverse journey for the following six months. On that journey on March 19 the sunrise will appear over the horizon at a point due East of Donoughmore Parish. The same thing will happen on Sept 25. It’s only a day or two out from the spring and autumn equinox. In March, the sun has made half of its journey up the northern hemisphere when the morning sunrise hits our parish from due east. In Sept, the sun has made half of its journey down to the southern hemisphere when the morning sunrise hits our parish from due east. That’s just a piece of astronomical information. The ultimate question that I am chasing after in the study of lighting churches naturally is this: Will the nave, the main aisle in Donoughmore church experience a summer solstice each year? JK

**We continue to remember all doing exams** Bishop Brendan Leahy said: “First and foremost, I wish the

| Remembered In Mass |      |  |
|--------------------|------|--|
| Donoughmore        |      |  |
|                    |      | <br><i>Rest In Peace</i> |
| Sat.3rd June       | 7pm  | Parish Intentions  |
| Mon.12th           | 10m  |  |
| Tues 13th          | 10am | No Mass  |
| Fri 16th           |      |  |
| Sat. 17th June     | 7pm  | Jack Brosnahan (1st)   |
| Knockea            |      |  |
| Sun 11th           | 11am | Joseph & Annie Hartigan. Richard & Ellen Power. Mai Kirke  |
| Wed. 14th          | 10am |  |
| Sun 18th           | 11am | Willie Cooney (7th) & his parents James and Mary Cooney  |

students well; that they manage to get the best out of themselves as they sit their exams no matter what level they achieve. “These exams are, of course, academically important at this stage of their lives but there’s no one I know who would look back thirty years or so later and say that their life course was set just by their leaving cert weeks. So there does need to be a level of perspective put here, that if they don’t work out as the students hope, other doors can open. Ultimately, I think students should pat themselves on the back today for getting to this moment, for putting the work in. Bishop Leahy also had words for both parents and teachers. “I think it’s also a huge day for parents and, indeed, other relations and guardians as they all have such hopes for these young adults, that they will do well and I know the support that they can and will be throughout these exams. So, I wish them the very best on this day

**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 Unit ‘Sli Padraig’ Patrick’s Way ;Donoughmore /Knockea/ Roxboro, Queen of Peace, Holy Family**

**DKR Comm. Café** courthouse Ballyneety Fridays 10.30am....call in for a free cup of tea/coffee any Friday morning  
**DKRComm.Assoc.in** conjunction with Ballyneety Mens club will host Community Law and mediation information evening thursday next 15th June 2023 Purpose is to inform every person re making wills and things people need to know about before decisions are made. Venue; Session House Ballyneety V94T6FA Time 7.30pm to 8.30pm. All welcome  
**Weekly Lotto €4,900** no winner, winning No’s 10,15,22,24. Lucky dips.1.James & Finn Kelly 2. Caroline Carr 3.Martin Lynch 4.Eoin O’Riordan 5.Geraldine Kelly 6.Rebecca Hayes Next Jackpot €5,000 Draw Tues 13th June 9.30pm The Four Elms  
*Munster Final decider Limerick & Clare, one of hurling’s great rivalries*

