



What is a Church? Part 1 of 3

What's a church? A sacred place that's devoted to praying and celebrating the sacraments. But that's the function of a church. As a building what is a church? How does it differ so much from other buildings.

Apart from saying that it's a place of prayer and protecting us from the atmospheric conditions, there's much more to be said. There's a marked difference between the pre and post Vatican II churches. In the pre-Vatican era, there's a marked difference between the Romanesque and Gothic Churches with most of churches being Gothic here in Ireland with a few exceptions. Augustinian, Sacred Heart Church, St. Michael's Church and the highly ornate St. Mary's Catholic Church in Limerick are Romanesque.

For about the first thousand years churches were Romanesque, recognised by their rounded arches and the windows would have arched tops. Nine hundred years ago, gothic style churches started in Paris, with Chartres Cathedral being one of the first and most famous to this day. They are recognised by their pointed arches which are especially used in constructing their windows. Our two parish churches are gothic in style.

I'd like to bring your attention to the most beautiful gothic churches that are so close to us. These churches are in Limerick city: Redemptorist and Dominican. Even though I admire St. John's Gothic Cathedral because of its enormity and massive three stained glass windows, there are features in the other churches it lacks particularly the golden colours. If you walk into the Redemptorist or Dominican churches, close the doors behind you, what don't you see and what do you see? You will see nothing of the world outside, the world in which we live and work in.

The architects want you to leave behind the secular world and enter the heavenly realm. You are getting a preview of the next world. They were endeavouring to replicate the Kingdom of Heaven in what you'd hear, see, touch, smell and eat. They want to use the best of materials like marble and stained glass and the best of craftsmen for everything especially painting and carving. They wanted to give a transforming experience to the people who enter the sacred, something they wouldn't encounter any place

else. They are very unlike our own homes, where we are now trying to bring the outside in and the inside out. Not so with these gothic architects. Even the spires pointed to the heavens above.

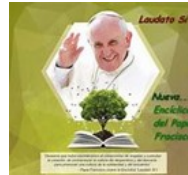
Churches are chambers of light. They are light-houses but instead of emitting light, churches are consuming light. Gothic arches allowed much larger windows to be built. Windows were raised high up on the church walls so our eyes could only see the heavenly light streaming from the celestial heights. This was portraying God as the light of the world. Statues and stained-glass windows were introduced to show us some of the heavenly residents. But the rays of sunshine shining through the different coloured glass symbolised something of the mystical movement of the Holy Spirit.

In the Dominican Church there's a very large painting over the altar showing God and the heavenly powers at work. The Redemptorists have highly ornate side chapels and use mosaic to heighten the heavenly effect. It's worth taking a visit to the Jesuit Church in O'Connell St to see the fruits of the painters who have been painstakingly working on the ceiling.

Then the believer hears the sound of the organ and the choir but doesn't see either, adding to the mystery and mystic of where it is coming from. We are listening to heavenly music from the greatest composers coming from above and beyond, as if from heaven. The minsters would use incense to further evoke a heavenly feeling. The vestments they wore were much more ornate than those of today. It was transposing the person to have a mystical experience with the impact the surroundings are having on the senses. JK

During the past week from May 21st -28th we celebrate Laudato Si Week.

Laudato Si is a beautiful ground-breaking piece of work written by Pope Francis on the care of our planet earth and what we can do to combat climate change. It is one of the most discussed documents written by a Pope and it is addressed to every living person on this planet. To keep these discussions ongoing an official week has been dedicated to Laudato Si. The theme this year is 'Hope for the earth. Hope for Humanity. 'Everyone knows our planet is under severe pressure and scientists are constantly talking about extreme weather events becoming more common. We have all heard how Spain has had to deal with temperatures of 40C in recent weeks. They are experiencing severe drought and water restrictions, and this is before the summer has even begun properly. So, we know what is going on all around us with facts, statistics, and the



Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sat.27th May	7pm	John Wade. (2yrs) Jimmy & Aine Maher
Mon. 29th May	10m	
Tues 30th	10am	No Mass
Fri 2nd		No Mass
Sat. 3rd June	7pm	Peg Noone
Knockea		
Sun 28th Pentecost Sunday	11am	Parish Intentions
Wed. 31st	10am	No Mass
Sun 4th	11am	Frank & Hilda Mad- den

knowledge of scientists. But a key question to ask is are we really listening? Do we really care? Do we want to be part of solutions going forward? it's not all bad news. Many people from young to old are becoming increasingly aware of and are active in environmental causes. Many are making eco-friendly changes in their lifestyles. There is a growing appreciation of the beauty of nature and a realisation that consumerism and capitalism does come with a cost. There is a growing realisation that we can do something and that we must do something. Pope Francis wants us to reflect on all these things during the coming week. He is genuinely hopeful and positive that something can be done to protect our planet earth going forward..

Our Prayers and Sympathies: to the family of Jackie Nolan, Bourreen to the family of Roger

Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro Fr Tom Mangan PP



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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

Smith, Bushy Island and to the family of Anne Plunkett, Drombanna May they rest in Peace.

DKR Comm. Café in the courthouse Ballyneety on Fridays 10.30-call in for a free cup of tea/coffee,.

Weekly Lotto €4,700 no winner, winning No's 5,6,8,21 Lucky dips.1. Johnn & Mary Ryan 2.Carmel Nolan 3.Terry McCarthy 4.Jean Noonan 5.Majella Lynch 6. Vincent Hayes Next Jackpot €4, 800 Draw Tues 30th May 9.30pm The Four Elms

Good luck Munster V Stormers in Cape town South Africa-URC Grand Final and to Limerick as they play Cork in round 5 of the Munster Senior Hurling Championship at 4pm this Sunday in the Tus Gaelic grounds, also the 1973 Limerick winning team will be introduced to the crowd.-50yrs Limerick ABU

