

**Reflections on the Donoughmore Summer Solstice 2**

The Donoughmore Summer Solstice on June 21 is a spiritual allegory that poignantly reveals the fundamental nature of God. The day of the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere has been and will always be on June 21 for evermore. That rising sun, symbolising ‘the radiant glory of God’ (Rev 21:23) ascends over the horizon. It will shine through the large sanctuary window towards the main entrance to the church. There the golden light of God will meet and greet the incoming believers. That light is gentle and soft which is unique to this first hour of the day known as the golden hour. The welcoming warmth of sun and God will enrapture the incoming faithful.



We are asked to tilt and turn our lives so we can let the greatest amount of God’s light and love into our lives. God wants to enlighten our lives with his Word and warm our hearts with the heat of his love so we can have the fullness of life. Like the church architect that left a large aperture in the church wall with the large gothic window for the golden summer solstice light to shine into the church, we too are asked to open fully the aperture into our lives for God to shine there also. God wants nothing to eclipse the light and love of his heart entering our lives. Or the more poetic person might like to think that the sun will stoop down and stretch its warm and bright rays into the darkened corners and crevices in the distant interiors of the church’s nave. This is what God’s love wants to do with some dark and uncultivated corner of our lives. Like all allegories they have limitations. While the sun’s rays shine straight through the sanctuary window for a few days in June, the rays of God’s love and light is perennial, perpetual, persistent and permanent. Let June 21 each year be a reminder to us to begin again to open more of our lives to the light and love of God who will infuse our lives with new life. Finally, we bid farewell to the sun, as it begins its retreat away from the sanctuary window and the inner sanctum of Donoughmore Church, down south towards the southern hemisphere to give its blessings to other lands and people.



Let the battle begin ! Start of a great sporting weekend Limerick Abu .....please note evening Mass in Donoughmore will be 5pm

**Our Prayers and Sympathies** to the family of Martin Corbett, Ennis Rd , formerly An Garda Siochana & Conbur, Co. Galway Dad to Mary Nash and grandad of Barry, Bushy Is, reposing at Griffins funeral home John’s Gate Sunday evening 4.30-6pm 5-7pm, funeral Mass Monday 11am St. John’s Cathedral. May he rest in Peace


**Annual Parish Knock Pilgrimage:** Thursday 17th Aug 2023. €35. Bus is filling up, book your place asap. Please give your sealed envelope with your name and money to any of the three below before 1st Aug. Bus will depart Day Care Centre @10am SHARP. Bridget 061 351023.Naomi 086 6072593 Margaret 087 2775103

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock on July 22nd,** Join one of the buses travelling or people make their own way

**DKR Comm. Café** courthouse Ballyneety Fridays 10.30am....call in for a free cup of tea/coffee any Friday morning

**On-line donations system** An alternative facility to allow parishioners make financial contributions to the parish Use the camera on your smartphone to scan this QR Code our parish website [www.dkrparish.ie](http://www.dkrparish.ie) follow the Donate button

**Both climate and farming needs must be considered when it comes to EU demands.** For most of its 77-year existence, Bord na Móna was engaged in draining bogs and the mass cutting of peat. Now it has a new role as bog protector and restorer. A new draft EU law, called the Nature Restoration law, puts a major focus on rewetting bogs as an important part of restoring plant life and bird and animal habitats which have been destroyed over the past half century. This is not a uniquely Irish problem, as by some estimates, only 10pc of Europe’s bogs are not in good shape and bogs also have an important role tackling climate change because they act as natural carbon repositories. The EU’s lawmakers are nearing agreement on the package which will apply across the 27 EU member states. Agreement is expected within weeks so the debate will soon become

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		 <i>Rest In Peace</i>
Sat.8th July	5pm	
Mon.10th	10m	
Tues 11th	10am	No Mass
Fri 14th		
Sat. 15th July	7pm	
Knockea		
Sun 9th July	11am	Willie Aherne (1st) & Mrs Annie Smith Tom Hanrahan (5th ) Kevin O’Mara
Wed. 12th	10am	
Sun 16th July	11am	John O’Donoughue (MM) Roger Smith

central to Irish public life. The individual governments will have a deal of flexibility in how it is applied but the targets must be met. The issue has alarmed individual farmers and their organisations in the midlands and west of the country especially. Some Independent TDs, representing these rural areas, very vocal in their opposition to the measure which is putting pressure on representatives from the two large coalition parties, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. The measure has the potential to seriously fracture the three-party Coalition. Last week, the Taoiseach said the proposals go too far. The issue is central to the Green Party’s ambitions to tackle the fallout from climate change. Supporters of the measure argue there is a deal of hysteria surrounding the topic and insist that Ireland’s national targets for environmental remediation exceed these EU proposals. Agriculture Minister Charlie McConalogue has said all the EU rewetting targets up to 2050 can be met using state land only. If that is borne out in reality, any kind of compulsion on farmers could be avoided. But farmers have other

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

concerns related to this issue, including the impact of rewetting of state land on adjoining ground which they are farming. There are also upcoming changes in Common Agriculture Policy grants for peat farmland, with restrictions on land use in some cases. Department of Agriculture are currently assessing these changes a time of further change in many rural areas. But the final result does not have to be one of calamity. Everyone concerned must focus on conciliation and compromise. It is clear that Ireland must play a full part in overdue EU action on tackling the challenges of climate change and restoring seriously impaired biodiversity. But measures must also be fair to farmers and rural communities.

**Weekly Lotto** €5,300 no winner, winning No’s 5, 13, 18,21. Lucky dips. 1.Karen Lee 2.James & Mary Moloney 3.Declan & Nicola Dalton 4.Declan Keane 5.Erin Hildebrand 6.Paul McMahon Next Jackpot €5,400 Draw Tues 11th July 9.30pm The Four Elms

