

**Brendan O'Connor: When it's too hot to go on holiday something is very wrong**

Not to be dramatic, but it feels as if things are never going to be the same again, doesn't it? The news that we have probably entered the Anthropocene, the first epoch of Earth that will be defined by the overwhelming impact of humans on the planet, might have been a bit of an abstract notion for some of us. But a second summer of it being too hot to go on holidays tends to hit home. Compared to the other effects of climate change, it's a first-world problem. But it might be a useful wake-up call. These are not far-off islands warning about sea levels, or Amazonian rain forests. This is in our backyard.

It's not so bad where I am right now in southern Italy — up a hill and with a sea breeze. But each year I come back it's different. Last year, the locals thought it was possibly a fluke. This year they're starting to think things are never going to be the same again. Apparently you can't even rely on June to be milder any more. Last year, at the end of June, the agapanthus around the garden of the old farmhouse had come and gone already. The farmer who tends the garden was spooked by it. His son, who helps him out, was too. Lots of people here are very dark. The farmers are like lads from deep West Cork or Connemara, weathered by the elements. As we talked about the changing weather, the farmer's son pointing something out. "My neck," he said, showing me, marvelling at it. It was sunburn, the first time he'd ever been sunburnt. He barely knew what it was.

Even those who were bred for generations to exist in this furnace aren't built for how hot it's become. But even as Italy puts 16 cities on red alert for extreme heat this weekend, we know it could be worse.

People here are coping. They get out early in the day and get stuff done, they stand in the sea, they soak themselves in the fountains of drinkable water — which, incidentally, some of them will defiantly tell you were Mussolini's great gift to the south. But the WhatsApps and the texts are humming all over Europe. People comparing notes from Tuscany, where many are housebound, to Greece where they're hanging out in museums to keep cool. Sicily and Sardinia — epic, elegant and rugged all at once — are now

becoming endurance tests. Spain and Portugal, parts of which are practically suburbs of Dublin in summer, are suddenly not those comfortable places people return to again and again — but hostile environments. Indeed, there seems to be a growing school of thought that inland Spain is getting uninhabitable, as farmers flee and sell their land to solar farm operators. It seems we could have full deserts before long. People can bluster on about the one-off El Niño effect. But we don't need to be scientists to see that this is happening, here, now. And none of us really believes we will do enough, soon enough, to stop any of it.

There was a certain poetic justice to Bishop Martin Hayes's suggestion last week, that a third of church land should be returned to nature — taken from the God in the sky and given back to the god beneath our feet. But it's hard to escape the feeling, as we start to question the sanity of the habit of flying a couple of hours south in summer, that things are never going to be the same again.

**Our Parish Community** wish Barry Nash and the Limerick team all the very best in the All Ireland Final ,



**Luimneach Abu**

**Annual Parish Knock Pilgrimage:** Thursday 17th Aug Bus is fully booked up, Bus will depart Day Care Centre @10am SHARP. Many thanks Bridget 061 351023.Naomi 086 6072593 Margaret 087 2775103 for arranging this day trip.to Knock

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

**Third World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly Sunday, July 23rd**

Bishop Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin Diocese will be leading the ceremonies for the Annual Catholic Grandparents Association Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine with anointing of the sick at 2.30pm

and Mass at 3pm followed by the procession. . This is the third year of this particular celebration. Pope Francis places a strong emphasis on the connection young people have with their older relatives. He says , "friendship with an older person can help the young to



Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat.22nd July	7pm	Albert McDonagh, Gerard & Myra McDonagh
Mon.24th	10m	
Tues 25th	10am	No Mass
Fri 28th		
Sat. 29th July	7pm	
Knockea		
Sun 23rd July	11am	Parish Intentions
Wed.26th	10am	St Joachim & Anne
Sun 30th July	11am	MM) Catherine Marri-nan



*Part In Peace*

**Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro**  
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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**

*derness accompany me on the way. Your presence, Mother of love, brings us to experience the joy of seeing our families united. Help me to transmit the tenderness and Love of God to the grandchildren and youth so that, in addition to praying for them, we can pray with them. Mary, may the gift of the Holy Spirit intercede for me: sustain my weakness; breathe into my heart the consolation that I may leave traces of faith among the young, bearing witness to the beauty of life, knowing that life has a limit and that beyond it lies before us our Father's embrace. Amen*

**Weekly Lotto €5,500** no winner, winning No's 10,16,20,22. Lucky dips. 1.Maurice Barrett 2.Joan Dooley 3.Helen Burke 4.Aidan Bennett 5. Billy Clifford 6. Fiona O'Mahony Next Jackpot €5,600 Draw Tues 25th July 9.30pm Four Elms many thanks.

see life not only in terms of the present and realize that not everything depends on them and their abilities". In his message he makes a clear connection between this World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly and the celebration of World Youth Day in Lisbon, encouraging the young to visit their grandparents or the elderly who live alone before they travel. your attention to the already referenced excellent suite of resources for this day and also to consider visiting the website

[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)

The theme for this year is "His Mercy is from Age to Age" (Lk.1:50) using the image of Mary visiting her elderly cousin Elizabeth.

**PRAYER FOR THE THIRD WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 2023**

*Virgin Mary, Mother of faith and hope, an example for this humanity bent by indifference, make me as willing as You to accept the will of God, to magnify and praise His Mercy. Mary, Mother of fortitude, you who knows my heart, do not allow me to become discouraged. I confidently surrender my life into your hands. Heal my wounds. May your ten-*

