

NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2021

OUR LADY OF GALWAY NOVENA

Thanks to Fr. Frank Downes, OP (Limerick) who was our visiting preacher, for helping us to celebrate Our Lady as we emerged from the recent long lock-down. His contribution was much appreciated by the members of our congregations (subject to current restrictions). We have been assured that many more have joined in the daily sessions by means of webcam – from Galway and elsewhere, especially Boston. Your positive comments are much appreciated. (*See Information re Our Lady of Galway on opposite page*)

MONDAY 31st MAY – 6.30pm: ENROLMENT MASS 'DO THIS IN MEMORY' MASS

This Mass on Monday is a special 'Do this in Memory' Mass for the children from First Communion Class with their parents. As the programme of preparation was interrupted by the 'lockdown', it is being resumed now with the Enrolment ceremony.

FIRST CONFESSION is scheduled for Wed 16th June at 6.00pm

PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

The programme of preparation continues in the school and in the homes of the boys/girls. Last week we celebrated their enrolment Mass. The *Ceremony of Light* will take place later in June.

FRIDAY 4th JUNE: FIRST FRIDAY

We are happy to bring Holy Communion to the people who are sick or housebound on Friday. If you are not already on the list, please phone the Priory Office 091 582884.

SUNDAY 6th JUNE: FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

This is the anniversary of all our First Communions. Due to the continued restrictions, there are no plans for a Corpus Christi Procession this year.

'MIDDLE ARCH'

When the sun shines in Galway the area at Middle Arch and Spanish Arch is a favourite place for people to relax and enjoy themselves. However, when the barriers were lifted during the week, huge crowds descended: no evidence of social distancing or masks being worn etc. We are very grateful to all- those in public office, and neighbours, and Gardai, who helped to address the problems created, and to those who offered their advice and help. We look forward to the day that large numbers are permitted to gather again in safety.

MASS ON WEBCAM

Thanks to our generous sponsor – Parishioner Bob Deegan and to MCN who provide technical support- facilitates live transmission of Masses etc. here in Claddagh Church.

FUNERALS, WEDDINGS ETC.

Limit of 50 at present. BAPTISMS – small numbers -

PARISH VISITS, SICK CALLS ETC

Should you require a visit from a priest, please let us know :Please phone 091 582884

OUR LADY OF GALWAY



As we came out of the latest lockdown, the Catholic community in the Claddagh (and visitors from all over Galway, not to mention those of many nationalities who watch Claddagh services of worship online), we celebrated a novena in honour of Our Lady of Galway. A tradition that was mentioned by Fr Frank Downes, the preacher of the novena, a tradition at the heart of the hope and belief, not least of those people whose livelihood over the centuries was seeking to harvest fish from the Bay. The mosaic that was ‘unveiled’ 97 years ago in 1924, at the Chapel of Our Lady in the Claddagh Church, shows our Lady ‘on the hill’, overlooking Galway Bay where a boat is struggling in stormy waters. And in the bottom corners of the intriguing mosaic, we see a young Claddagh man and woman, both depicted as being in a moment of prayer, symbolising I’m sure the thousands who over the centuries of the fisherfolk tradition in The Claddagh have placed themselves, trustfully, in the care of Our Lady of Galway. As Mary informed her Son in Cana that they had run out of wine at the wedding reception, so she will let Jesus know, or – more accurately – join Him in His risen care for us all.

(Text by fr Thomas McCarthy, OP, St Marys, The Claddagh, depending however heavily on the work of the late fr Eustás Ó Héideáin, op, *The Dominicans in Galway 1241-1991*).