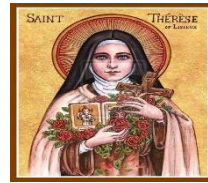
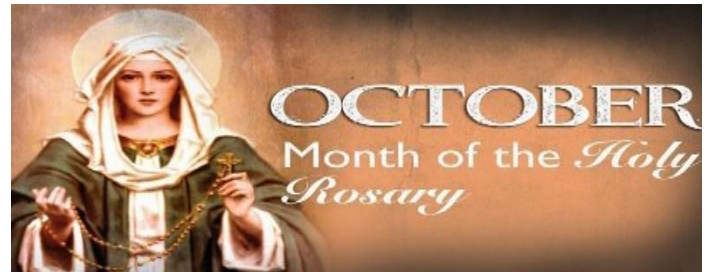


From the Deacon: *“People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs”*

This section from our Gospel reading today is often read at Baptisms. It shows the importune that Jesus attaches to children in the life of the church and his genuine concern and care for them. I was reflecting on this during the week when we celebrated the feast day of St Therese of the Child Jesus last Tuesday. My wife Beatrice and I spoke at a Triduum in St Brendan's Church Coolock, and it was lovely to see people bringing roses to the church to be blessed on her feast day. It was moving to experience the devotion of so many people to the Little Flower as they brought their prayers of thanksgiving and petitions to her shrine. Therese's autobiography *The Story of a Soul* is now famous the world over. She was canonised in 1925 and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Saint John Paul II in 1997, one of only four women to receive this honour. The others are her fellow Carmelite and great spiritual guide, St Teresa of Avila, St Catherine of Siena and St Hildegard of Bingen. For a lot of people, I think it is the simplicity of St Therese's message that is most attractive and accessible. She recognised that God is present in the small things of life and there is great significance in doing little things well. Not everyone is capable of great deeds and, even if we are, they will only be for a very small part of our lives. Instead, we should focus as Christian people in offering the simple work of our daily lives to God and realise that this is immensely important to him. Writing about St Therese last year, Pope Francis said, that one of the most important insights of St Therese for the benefit of the entire People of God is her “little way”, the path of trust and love. Everyone can follow this way, whatever their age or state in life. It is the way that the heavenly Father reveals to the little ones. Pope Francis concludes his recent reflection with these words: *“A century and a half after her birth, Therese is more alive than ever in the pilgrim Church, in the heart of God's people. She accompanies us on our pilgrim way, doing good on earth, as she had so greatly desired. The most lovely signs of her spiritual vitality are the innumerable “roses” that Therese continues to strew: the graces God grants us through her loving intercession in order to sustain us on our journey through life.”* Let us pray in the coming week that we may be inspired by the example of St Therese of Lisieux and maybe take a simpler approach to life focusing on the smaller



things that really matter to God and to others. Deacon Gerard



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

Common Fund € 1329

Share € 785

Sincere thanks for your continued support.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased: Kathleen Cassidy, Burrow Court, Dermot Buckley, Suncroft Ave., Gerry Butler, Fairview.

Saturday, 5th October, 6.30p.m

ANNIVERSARIES: Tony Robinson (1st), Joan Morris (14th), Shay Rogers (14th), Martin McCormack, William Ennis (30th), Rita Cahill (2nd).

Sunday, 6th October, 10.30am ANNIVERSARIES:

Mary and Sonny Halpin and deceased Family members, Nuala and Tommy Clarke and deceased Family Members, Baby Michael Wright, Anne Carroll, Kay O'Sullivan (14th), Mary and Daniel Casey, Maurice Shanahan (RD).

12 noon: MONTH'S MIND: Claire Rooney, Teresa Doran. **ANNIVERSARIES:** Kay O'Sullivan (14th), Ronan Coughlan (2nd), Kathleen Cassidy (RD. Special Intention)



**ST BERNADETTE - RELIC
PILGRIMAGE:** Mary
Immaculate, Inchicore,
October 23-24; Adam &
Eve's, Merchants Quay,
October 25-26.

**PATRON SAINT OF CREATION :
'LAUDATO SI'**

**There has never
been a better
time to be a
Diocesan Priest
in Ireland**

WHY?



FIRST

*Holy
Communion*

2025

**St Marnock's NS Sat. 17th May 11am
St Helen's JNS - Sat. 24th May 11a.m.**

Confirmation *2025:*

**St. Helen's SNS Thurs. 1st May 11a.m.
St Marnock's NS Fri 9th May 11a.m.**

Welcome to the Families who will present their children for the Sacraments in 2025. The Parish programme of preparation for your children will involve their active participation in the life of the Parish, **especially in the Sunday Mass**, in this year leading up to their reception of the Sacraments. Those Parents/Guardians who wish to enrol their children for the Sacraments are invited to **register on the Parish website** www.portmarnockparish.ie Registration will be open during the month of October and should be completed by mid-term. Parish meetings for Parents in preparation for the Sacraments will be held during January and February 2025. Only those children registered with the Parish by their Parents/Guardians can be enrolled and admitted to the Sacraments.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL meeting Wed 9th October 7.30pm



**4TH
OCTOBER
FEAST OF
ST. FRANCIS
OF ASSISI**

EXPLORING PRIESTHOOD

If you are a Catholic man over the age of 18 and would like to find out more about being a diocesan priest, come to our open day in UCD. To find out more about the day and to register interest, scan the QR code or visit our website.



University College Dublin (UCD)

Saturday 12th October 2024 from 11 am to 5 pm



vocations.ie

For Further information

Visit: vocations.ie/exploring

Or scan the QR code above

IRISH BISHOPS' AUTUMN MEETING Members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference gathered this week in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, for their Autumn 2024 General Meeting. The President of the Conference is Archbishop Eamon Martin and the Vice-President is Archbishop Dermot Farrell. Issues discussed by the bishops during their Autumn General Meeting included:

- First anniversary of Israel-Hamas war; praying for Irish peacekeeping troops
- Safeguarding – Scoping Inquiry
- Praying for the success of the Universal Synod in Rome; membership of Irish Synodal Pathway
- Bishops to publish Pastoral Letter addressing Immigration in Ireland
- Countdown to Jubilee Year 2025 in Ireland and in Rome
- Mission Sunday on October 20 encourages encounter with God
- Addressing key public policy issues in Northern Ireland
- Open days for vocations to the priesthood – see vocations.ie
- Season of Creation