

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



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Exaltation of the Holy Cross - 14th Sept 2025

This Weekend	September 13th / September 14th
7.00 p.m.	Kitty Kelly, her sister Sr Catherine and her parents Stephen and Annie.
11.00 a.m.	1. Mary Greene, Devine Crescent (8 th Anniv). 2. Deceased members of Mostrim GAA. 3. Gerard Fagan (1 st Anniv) and his parents Bernard & Ellen Fagan.
Weekday Masses @ 11.00 a.m. - Our Lady's Manor	
Next Weekend: September 20th / September 21st	
7.00 p.m.	1. Patrick Turner, his son Adrian and deceased members of the Turner and Eivers families. 2. Dorothy Farrell.
11.00 a.m.	Ned, Anna, Eugene and Nora McGerr.

Offertory Collection: Sat 6th / Sun 7th September - €1,105 - sincere thanks.

BAPTISMS - We welcomed Lilianna Emma Rzehak, Clover Well into our Christian community recently.

Sunday Scriptures - First Reading -

The people have strayed from the path God marked out for them. They have turned their backs on the God who brought them out of Egypt and have failed into idolatry, but Moses intercedes for them.

Second Reading - Paul says that Christ came into the world to save sinners. In his conversion he himself experienced the saving mercy of God.

Gospel - The Pharisees complain because Jesus has been mixing with sinners. Jesus justifies his actions in three parables: the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son.

SUNDAY REFLECTION - People undergoing counselling and therapy sometimes have a block or memory, which is holding them back, often an earlier difficult experience of some kind. Something like that is happening in the Old Testament folk tale of the bronze serpent. The power of the serpents to cause harm is taken away once they are confronted straight in the eye, through the symbol of the bronze serpent. We may say the same of Jesus as he faced death for us. Being lifted up for our sake, he looked death in the eye and took away its power over us.

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - Do you, as an adult (over 18 years), or someone you know, want to become a Catholic and receive the Sacraments - or are already a baptised Catholic and would like to receive First Communion or Confirmation? If so, please contact the Parish Office and leave your details. It is intended to commence the program at the end of October.

- Fr Tom Healy -

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

John 3:16 'God so loved the world...' is arguably one of the best-known and most often quoted Bible verses. This verse is so beloved because it is the core of our faith: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life.' When we meditate on this and repeat it to ourselves, we come to a deeper understanding of God's very personal and intimate love for each one of us. We should repent, confess our sins, and always strive to do better. However, we can hold tightly to Jesus's promise: He does not want to condemn us; he wants to save us. - INTERCOM

• Points to Ponder •

Have you ever pondered why Christ, the pure embodiment of Love, had to endure the Cross? Could there have been another way? Perhaps the answer lies in the very nature of love. True love isn't simply about joys and comforts; it's also about sacrifices, about giving without counting the cost. The Cross, in its raw, unfiltered brutality, became the canvas upon which the greatest love story was painted.

'For God so loved the world...' These aren't mere words, but a profound declaration. It's as if Love itself, in its infinite wisdom, chose the Cross to prove its depth. In the eyes of the world, the Cross may appear as a symbol of humiliation, but in the eyes of faith, it's the ultimate symbol of love.

Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel is a profound one. He speaks of belief, of eternal life, of salvation. It's a reminder that the Cross is not the end but a bridge - a bridge to resurrection, to eternal life.

But there's another layer here: a call to action for each of us. How often do we lift our personal crosses? Do we see them as burdens or as bridges to a deeper communion with Christ? Just as the bronze serpent brought healing, can our crosses, when united with Christ's, bring about transformation within us?

Today, let us gaze upon the Cross, not with sorrow but with gratitude. For in its shadow lies the promise of hope, the assurance of love, and the path to eternal life. In a world often marred by hatred and division, may the exalted Cross remind us of the lengths Love will go to embrace and heal us all.

Season of Creation 2025 - "Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children." Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.

Peace with Creation - This year's Season of Creation has as its theme "Peace with Creation", inspired by the passage from Isaiah 32:14-18; "My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." In a world of challenges and division, marked by war and climate change, how can we as people of faith create and work towards peace with creation?

The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since the late Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment.

READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Mary Reynolds.

Sunday 11.00 a.m.: Helena Quinn.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Diane Spillane, Maura Coyle.

Sunday 11.00 a.m.: Ita O'Farrell, Emma O'Reilly.

Please arrange a substitute if you cannot be present.

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