

Parish of Sts. Mary & Peter, Arklow
with St David's Johnstown
25th February 2024
Second Sunday of Lent

**Saturday 24th February
6.30pm
(Anniv)**

Joe, Peter, Annie & Joe Weadick
Breda & John Broughan
Ann & John Lambert
Margaret Kavanagh
Martha Sweeney

**Sunday 25th February
11.30am**

Breda Fitzgerald (Month's Mind)
Kevin Rush (1st Anniv)
Stefanie Hawtin (Recently deceased)

(Anniv)

Michael Brauders
Ann Ennis
George Cassell
Michael, Ellen & James O'Brien
Peg Byrne
Jimmie Mills (Jnr)
7pm
Kathleen & James Ryder (Anniv)

**Monday 26th February
9am**

Lucy & John Laffan (Anniv)
William P O'Connor (Birthday Remembrance)

**Thursday 29th February
9am**

Ann Berry (Month's Mind)

Castletown

**Saturday 24th February
8pm**

Joseph, Catherine & Baby Matthew Gooding (Anniv)

Johnstown

**Sunday 25th February
10am**

Rosie Monaghan (Anniv)

With Sympathy

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends

Denis Hannigan

Maura O'Loughlin

Robyn Archer

Rita Hall

Kevin Forde

&

Kevin Browne

May they rest in peace.



Lenten Talks

**Beginning this Wednesday
28th February, 6th March,
13th March and 20th of March,
Talks will be on the Mystery
of the Mass a series of four
interactive talks open to
everyone in the Árús Lorcáin
at 7.30pm.**



World Day of Prayer

Informed Prayer. Prayerful Action.

**Friday 1st March Prayer
Service**

Árús Lorcáin 7pm

The World Day of Prayer Service for 2024 has been prepared by the Women of Palestine. We hope and pray that many people will attend and pray together in a spirit of unity and solidarity, especially at this time of War, conflict and division in our World.

THIS IS MY SON, THE
BELOVED. LISTEN TO HIM.

Mark 9:7



Irish Pilgrimage Trust

**Collection at all Masses
Weekend 2nd & 3rd of March**

The Wicklow group of the Irish Pilgrimage Trust bring young people to Lourdes at Easter, Many of the young people with extra needs have never been away from home before. A full team of volunteer carers including a nurse and a chaplain look after

the young people on a week of activity, music, adventure and prayer all around Our Lady's Grotto. All of our volunteers pay their own fare but we fundraise to pay the fares of the children. We don't receive any grant or public funding so depend on donations from the good people of the area. If you would like to know more or get involved. Dara Kavanagh 087 9049059 or

info@irishpilgrimagestrust.com

Service of Light Ceremony

**Saturday 2nd March
St Patrick's Church
Castletown**

Confirmation Class from Castletown National School will celebrated with their parents their Service of Light Ceremony on Saturday evening at 8pm Mass.

**Sunday 3rd March
St Mary & Peter's Arklow**

Confirmation Class from St John's Senior School and Carysfort National School will celebrate with their Parents their Service of Light Ceremony on Sunday evening at 7pm Mass.

We publish the Irish Bishops Statement on the forthcoming Referenda – Part One this week (on the Family) and next week Part Two (on Care)

The Irish Episcopal Conference Message re: the Referendums on March 8th

On his visit to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families in 2018, Pope Francis met with representatives of civil, cultural and religious life, including the Taoiseach and members of the Government. He said he was visiting Ireland to help families "reaffirm their commitment to loving fidelity, mutual assistance and reverence for God's gift of life in all its forms, but also to testify to the unique role played by the family in the education of its members, and the development of sound and flourishing social fabric". He added, "Families are the glue of society, their welfare cannot be taken for granted, but must be promoted and protected by every appropriate means".

In this context, we wish to comment on the two important referendums on family and care which are taking place on the 8th of March 2024.

The Family Amendment – 39th Amendment (amending Article 41)

The Family, based on the exclusive, life-long and life-giving public commitment of Marriage, is the foundational cell of society and essential to the common good. This reality of the Family corresponds to the unchanging plan of God for humanity and the importance of the Family continues to be acknowledged by people of good will, whether they be persons of faith or not.

The family is acknowledged as the place where generosity, tenderness, forgiveness, stability, care, love and truth can best be taught and learned by children. We recognise, of course, that there are families in all our communities which are not founded on marriage. They form part of the reality of family life, which Pope Francis described as "a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems".

We believe, however, that the commitment of marriage contributes to the common good in a unique way, by bringing stability to the family and to society, and that it consequently deserves the protection of the State, which is currently guaranteed in the Constitution. The Constitution of Ireland rightly qualifies the Family as a "moral institution" and one that enjoys "inalienable and imprescriptible rights, antecedent and superior to all positive law". We are concerned that the proposed 'family amendment' to the Constitution diminishes the unique importance of the relationship between marriage and family in the eyes of Society and State and is likely to lead to a weakening of the incentive for young people to marry.

While 'Marriage' entails a public and legal commitment, the term 'durable relationship' is shrouded in legal uncertainty and is open to wide interpretation. It does not make sense that such an ambiguous reality would be considered 'antecedent and superior to all positive law' and acquire the same 'inalienable and imprescriptible' rights as those ascribed to the 'family founded on marriage'. Various commentators have suggested that the term 'durable relationship' risks leading to unforeseen and unintended consequences.

**Liturgical
Calendar**

February/March

Tuesday 27th St Gregory of Narek
Friday 1st St David



Polish Mass

Sunday 3rd March at 10am
Kolejna msza w języku polskim odbędzie się 03/03/24 o godzinie 10.00. Next mass in polish will take place on 03/03/24 at 10 am.

Entrance Hymn:

'Christ be near at either hand'

Christ be near at either hand,
Christ behind, before me
stand, Christ with me where
e'er I go,

Christ around, above below.

Christ be in my heart and
mind, Christ within my soul
enshrined, Christ control my
wayward heart;

Christ abide and ne'er
depart. Christ my life and only
way, Christ my lantern night
and day; Christ be my
unchanging friend,
Guide and shepherd to the
end.

Recessional Hymn

Here I am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin,
my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness
bright.

Who will bear my light to
them? Whom shall I send?

**Here I am Lord, is it I Lord.
I have heard you calling in
the night. I will go Lord, if
you lead me. I will hold
your people in my heart.**

I the Lord of wind and flame.
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save. Finest
bread I will provide,
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them

Whom shall I send? R

**New Parish Facebook Page
Arklow Parish please
follow, like and share.**