

Parish of Sts. Mary & Peter, Arklow
with St David's Johnstown
3rd March 2024
Third Sunday of Lent



Saturday 2nd March
6.30pm

Marion Duffy
 (Birthday Remembrance)
 Deceased Members of the
 Arklow Music Festival

Sunday 3rd March
8.30am

Madge Sheering (Anniv)

11.30am

Paddy Cox (2nd Anniv)
 Christopher Rush (Anniv)

Monday 4th March
9am

Marie Kane (Anniv)

Tuesday 5th March

9am Betty Condren
 (Birthday Remembrance)

Castletown

Saturday 2nd March
8pm

Michael O'Connor (Anniv)



Lenten Talks

Continues this Wednesday
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 Árus
Lorcáin at 7.30pm.

Irish Pilgrimage Trust
Collection at all Masses
this Weekend
2nd & 3rd of March

Welcome to all the Confirmation Candidates who are here with their parents to celebrate their Ceremony of Light.

With Sympathy

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends

Jeff Hoskin

&

Allen Patrick Proby

May they rest in peace.

St Mary & Peter's Church will reopen next Weekend Saturday & Sunday 9th & 10th March.

Our beautiful Church has been repainted and looks amazing. Please join us next weekend to celebrate the opening.

Liturgical Calendar March



Monday 4th	St Casimir
Tuesday 5th	St Kieran
Thursday 7th	St Perpetua
Friday 8th	St John Of God St Senan
Saturday 9th	St Frances of Rome

Come celebrate 'Inspiring Women' in Avoca

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY '24



St. Mary & Patrick's Church, AVOCA @ 8 p.m.

Music by Mary Graham & Neasa Kenny

Exhibition of Craftwork from Avoca ICA

Raffle Prizes include €350 Hamper from Brown Thomas & Dinner for 2 in the Woodenbridge Hotel

Tickets €10 from local businesses or Tel: 0402 31943

Arklow Parish would like to wish the Arklow Music Festival every success with their upcoming event and the very best of luck to all those competing during the week long event.

Arklow Music Festival will run from March 2nd to March 10th.

Wicklow Dementia Support (WDS) is seeking volunteers from Arklow. ALZPALS is a befriending service which supports people with dementia who are living at home.



We are looking for volunteers to become a friend to someone with Dementia. Volunteers are required to drop in to visit a person with dementia once a week for two hours and give their carer a break. Full free training and ongoing mentoring provided.

If you feel you can help, please contact Wicklow Dementia Support on info@wicklowdementiasupport.org or call Kate on 085 1345128

Last week we presented Part 1 (Removing the Family based on Marriage and replacing with the idea of "durable relationships") of the Irish Bishops' statement on the two Articles of the Constitution which they propose to amend. Today we print Part 2 which deals with Care, women, and the family, giving women who wish to stay home and care for their family the recognition they deserve.

The Care Amendment – 40th Amendment (deleting Article 41.2 and inserting a New Article 42B)

In an age when people, and especially women, often emphasise the desirability of balancing work and domestic commitments, it is noteworthy that the Irish Constitution already recognises and seeks to facilitate the choice of mothers who wish especially to care for the needs of the family and the home. Contrary to some recent commentary, the present constitutional provision emphatically does not state that "a woman's place is in the home". Neither does it excuse men of their duties to the home and family.

It is reasonable to ask what benefit is it to Irish society to delete the terms 'woman' and 'mother' from the Constitution of Ireland? People generally recognise the enormous commitment that women in Ireland have given, and continue to give, in relation to care, love and affection in the home. Pope Francis has said "Families and homes go together" (AL44). We therefore have similar concerns about the removal of the term 'home' from this article.

In contemporary society there now exists a welcome co-responsibility between women and men for every aspect of domestic life, including the provision of care in the home. We believe that, rather than removing the present acknowledgement of the role of women and the place of the home, it would be preferable and consistent with contemporary social values that the State would recognise the provision of care by women and men alike. Care, both inside and outside the home, is at the core of compassion. Without such care in the family, the common good of society cannot be achieved. The State has to date failed to financially acknowledge the role of women in the home; once again there is no indication that there will be provision for the adequate financial remuneration of carers. The proposed term 'strive to support' appears to weaken the state's constitutional responsibility to materially and legislatively support such care. Indeed, the proposed new Article 42B does not actually confer any enforceable rights for carers or for those being cared for.

It is right to recognise that care within the family and the wider community takes many forms and is provided by a wide variety of people. In the words of Pope Francis speaking at the Festival of Families in Croke Park on 25 August 2018 "in any family celebration, everyone's presence is felt: fathers, mothers, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles and aunts, cousins, those who cannot come and those who live too far away".

The proposed amendment would have the effect of abolishing all reference to motherhood in the Constitution and leave unacknowledged the particular and incalculable societal contribution that mothers in the home have made and continue to make in Ireland. The present constitutional wording does not in any way inhibit women from working or taking their proper place in social and public life. It does, however, respect the complementary and distinct qualities that arise naturally within the Family. The role of mothers should continue to be cherished in our Constitution.

The Importance of voting

Pope St John Paul II said in Ireland back in 1979: "The family is the true measure of the greatness of a nation". In a democracy that guarantees the freedom to vote, it is important that citizens cast their ballot on March 8th with matters of such importance at stake. As pastors, concerned for the common good as well as the moral and spiritual well-being of God's People, we offer these reflections in order to help inform the consciences of Christians and others who are concerned to preserve and foster the dignity and value of family life and motherhood.

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

Sweet Heart Of Jesus

Sweet Heart of Jesus!
 Fount of love and mercy,
 Today we come Thy blessing to
 implore; Oh touch our hearts, so cold
 and so ungrateful and make them,
 Lord, Thine own for evermore.

**R/ Sweet Heart of Jesus, we implore,
 oh, make us love Thee more and
 more.**

Sweet heart of Jesus!
 Make us pure and gentle;
 And teach us how to do thy blessed
 will, to follow close, the prints of thy
 dear footsteps and when we fall
 Sweet Heart Oh love us still. R/

