

The ACTS of the Apostles

A CONTINUATION OF JESUS' MINISTRY

The opening verses of the Acts of the Apostles remind a reader that Acts is the second part of a two-volume work (Acts 1:1-2). The first volume is the Gospel of Luke, and it is not surprising that Acts picks up the story where Luke's Gospel finishes, by recounting the story of Jesus' Ascension (Acts 1:2-11; cf. Luke 24:50-53). Recognising the connection between Luke's Gospel and Acts encourages us to interpret both books together. This is important, because we get a greater sense of the major ideas, themes, values, and theologies that Luke is trying to communicate by means of acquiring the bigger picture from reading both volumes. Luke shows us what is central to his thinking by emphasising it again and again and again!

While Luke's Gospel naturally focuses on Jesus as the protagonist, Acts deals with events surrounding a number of key characters, including, Peter, Stephen, Paul and his many associates. It is most interesting that there are distinct parallels between the ministry of these characters in Acts and the ministry of Luke's Jesus.

For example, a primary recipient of both the ministry of Jesus and the apostles in Luke-Acts is the Jewish underdog. Right from the beginning of his public life, Jesus shows us that the blessings of his ministry are for those on the margins of Jewish religious life. In the synagogue at Nazareth, *Jesus selects* and reads a passage that is focused on those who have found themselves on the periphery of society because of their difficult contexts:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the *captives* and recovery of sight to the *blind*, to let the *oppressed* go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Luke 4:18-19).

Ministering to the Jewish outsider is also a

concern of the apostles in Acts. This is evident in numerous places, such as the story where Peter heals a crippled beggar (Acts 3:1-10), a man on the margins of Jewish society because of his affliction and his poverty. This healing is reminiscent of Jesus' healing of a blind beggar in Luke 18:35-43. The similarity between the ministry of Jesus and the apostles is particularly pronounced in Acts 5:12-16, which refers to apostles' healing of the sick and those with unclean spirits, two central aspects of Jesus' ministry.

Furthermore, Peter's reputation as a healer is on a par with that of Luke's Jesus, so much so that the sick are laid on cots and mats in the streets in order that Peter's shadow might fall on them as he passed by (Acts 5:15). The people's faith in Peter's healing ministry here is reminiscent of the woman's faith in Jesus' healing ministry in Luke 8:43-48, displayed by touching the fringe of his garment in the hope that her haemorrhage will stop.

These are just a few examples of the numerous similarities that exist between the ministry of Jesus and that of the early Church in Luke's two-volume work. Recognising such similarities prompts us to enquire about why Luke's portrait of the early apostles is very similar to his portrait of Jesus. Luke, perhaps, is seeking to show the unity between the ministry of the early Church and that of Jesus. This unity makes sense given that the Spirit that fuelled Jesus' ministry since his Baptism (Luke 3:22) is also inspiring the ministry of the apostles, since their reception of the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13). The Spirit-filled ministries of both Jesus and the apostles assure continuity between Jesus' work and the labour of the early Church. ■

3 April 2016 – 2nd Sunday of Easter [Divine Mercy Sunday] Year C

SoulSpace

The ACTS of the Apostles

A Continuation of Jesus' Ministry

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Season colour: **WHITE**

SERIES: The Acts of the Apostles – The Church's Beginnings

In this series, **Diane Corkery** invites us to reflect on some of the key themes of the Acts of the Apostles

Today's readings:
Acts 5:12-16
Ps 117
Rev 1:9-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

3rd April 2016

We are all a bit like Thomas, unless we see we find it difficult to believe. However, faith is a way of seeing, seeing beyond the apparent problems of life to the hope given by the Resurrection of Jesus; the hope of sharing heaven with Him.

EASTER HOLY WATER

Easter is a time to remember the sick and the housebound. Small bottles of newly blessed Easter Water are available at the Garden of the Resurrection. Please collect one for anyone whom you know who may be unable to attend the Ceremonies.

OFFERING FOR THE SUPPORT OF CLERGY

Sincere thanks to all Parishioners who contributed to the Easter Collection for Support of Clergy. The amount collected so far is €4,504. For those who have not yet had the chance to return their envelope there is still time to do so as the need is ongoing and the collection is vital for the support of our four Clergy. Please support your Priests. Thank you.

**CLUSTER OF PARISHES MISSION
SLIGO CATHEDRAL**

26th - 30th SEPTEMBER 2016

A meeting of the Planning Group for the upcoming Mission that will take place in our Cathedral in the Autumn will be held on Wednesday, 6th April at 8.00 p.m. in the Gillooly Hall.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 28th August - 2nd September 2016. booking forms are available from each deanery town. Cost is €710pps. To book phone Joe Walsh Tours o 01 2410810. For sick/ assisted pilgrims who wish to travel, please contact Fr. Ray Milton 090 6661115.

CHARITY TAX FORMS - REMINDER

Sincere thanks to all who have so far returned their charity tax form. If you have not already returned your tax form please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your ongoing financial support of our parish. It is deeply appreciated.

YEAR OF MERCY 2016

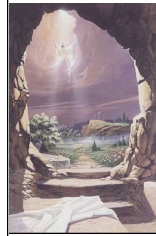
"If we open ourselves up to welcome God's mercy for ourselves, in turn we become capable of forgiveness." Pope Francis.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK Eternal God, in who mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, so that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your Holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 10th APRIL 1st Reading: Acts 5:27-32. 40-41; 2nd Reading: Apoc. 5:11-14; Gospel: Jn. 21:1-19.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY-TODAY, 3RD APRIL
YEAR OF MERCY CELEBRATIONS**

Gathering at 2.45pm in the Peace Park to process through the Holy Door of Mercy in our Cathedral followed by Holy Hour led by Bishop Kevin. Confessions available - all welcome.



GARDEN OF RESURRECTION

Our Garden of Resurrection in the Cathedral is a symbolic representation of the tomb from which the Risen Lord came forth to declare that the life of faith triumphs over death itself. Let us join with family and friends in visiting his place of prayer and hope and especially remember those who have gone before us marked with the sign of hope in the Resurrection.

APOSTOLATE OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

All parishioners are invited on a special Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on Sunday, 24th April. There is a full programme organised for Adults, Teens and Children. The launch of a National Crusade of Prayer for Vocations will take place at the 3pm Mass. The programme begins at 11.30am. Bishop Kevin Doran will be chief celebrant. Fr. Declan Hurley Adm. Navan, will give a talk on 'Gazing at the face of Mercy' at 1.30pm in the Basilica. For more visit www.eucharisticadoration.ie

EVENINGS FOR PARENTS A 6 session course commencing on Tuesday, 12th April at 8pm in Summerhill College, Sligo. This tried and tested course has contributed to quality of family life for many families. Early booking advised. For more visit www.elphindiocese.ie/parents

TRÓCAIRE BOXES RETURN

Our thanks to those who have handed in their TRÓCAIRE Boxes. The amount so far is €2,525. If you have not yet returned your box you may do so at any Mass over the coming days. Thank you.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL A reminder that the first training evening for new members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held in the Gillooly Hall at 8pm on Thursday, 7th April. Your attendance would be much appreciated.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT WORKSHOP

For men considering Diocesan Priesthood will take place on 8th - 9th April in the Star of the Sea Retreat Centre, Mullaghmore. For further info: Rev. Jim Murray at 071 9162136 or Rev. John Coughlan at 071 9662012 or email vocations@elphindiocese.ie

BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL

Bingo returns Tonight, SUNDAY 3rd APRIL at 9PM With a jackpot of €1,050. All welcome!!

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH - 2200 FAMILIES

EASTER SUNDAY, 27th MARCH
PARISH ENV: €810 PL/STAND. ORD: €2,541
THANK YOU for your contribution.
ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261

DATES TO REMEMBER

ULSTER UNIVERSITY CHOIR CONCERT in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sligo on Friday 22nd April at 7.30pm. Admission free.
MIDLAND MOVE Are you losing your temper, Is it affecting your wife/ partner and children? If you want to change your behaviour Midland MOVE are taking referrals for an upcoming programme..Contact Midland MOVE at 086 721564 or 090 6472174 or www.moveireland.ie

ST. BERNADETTE'S CHAPEL Rockwood Parade. Mass will be celebrated on Monday, 4th April at 5.15pm. All welcome.

ANAM CARA MAYO - Launch of Information Pack for Bereaved Parents at Harlequin Hotel, Castlebar on 12th April at 11am.

HSE RETIRED ASSOCIATION GROUP Monthly meeting- in St Michael's Family Life Centre on Thursday, 7th April at 3pm. New members welcome.

GALILEE COMMUNITY, BOYLE Alf Monaghan will give a series of talks on early Irish Christianity, at Galilee Community, Boyle, every Tuesday evening of April at 8pm.

Contact: 071 9664101 or email: galileecommunity@gmail.com
ALZHEIMER CAFÉ-SLIGO. Alzheimer Café the Glasshouse Hotel, Friday, 8th April 2016 from 11.00am to 1.00pm in the view bar. Alzheimer Café mornings are free and anyone affected by dementia are welcome to attend. This months information session is being given by Claire Mc Cusker, Speech Therapist from the HSE.

FAMILY CARERS IRELAND are providing the QQI Level 5 Healthcare Support Full Award Training in your area in April 2016. This training will be run one day a week for five weeks from 9.30am to 4.30 per module. This qualification will qualify you to work in areas of the care sector. For more info contact the training department on 057 9370221.

ENCOUNTER WEEKEND YOUTH RETREAT

Rossnowlagh, Co Donegal Fri 22nd to Sun 24th April. Cost €60 pps full board with free buses from Sligo.

CROAGH PATRICK YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2016 Saturday, 14th May with transport provided.(17-35 Years) Contact: Frank McGuinness, St. Mary's, Temple Street ,Sligo. (087 9880690) Saturday, 14th May with transport provided. Contact: Frank McGuinness, St Mary's, Temple Street, Sligo.

☎ 087 9880690 or email: frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie

anniversary & remembrances

DAY	8.00 A.M.	10.30 A.M.
MON 4 th	DANIEL & KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM	<u>Month's Mind</u> GRETTI QUIGLEY ✝
TUES 5 th	UNA O'ROURKE & DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS	FRANK KERRIN
WED 6 th	ROBERT MCGOLDRICK	PATRICK & KATHLEEN BALLANTYNE
THURS 7 th	DANNY FOY	CLIVE HOWARD
FRI 8 th	MARGARET HIGGINS	<u>Month's Mind</u> FR. SEAN McTERNAN ✝
SAT 9 th	PATSY DIAMOND	<u>Month's Mind</u> KEVIN HARAN ✝

REST IN PEACE Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: Rev. COLM HAYES, St. Patrick's Tce.; MARIA LYONS, Kestrel Drive, Kevinsfort and JAMES BERNARD DUGGAN, Sooney, Brother of Betty Comiskey, Cathedral Sacristan and Kitty Duggan, retired housekeeper, St. Mary's Presbytery. May god grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.