

# SoulSpace

SERIES: EASTER JOURNEY

Season colour: **WHITE**

In this series, Fr George Wadding reflects on the Easter season.

**W**hen someone goes away, that's the end of him. He's gone. If someone goes away on a plane to Canada or Australia, you know you are not going to meet him walking down your street that afternoon. But if someone disappeared before your eyes, that would be a different matter. Far from thinking he was gone away, you'd be looking around, sure he was there somewhere and expecting him to become visible anytime. Departure causes absence. But disappearance inaugurates a hidden presence.

And that's what happened at the Ascension. Christ did not go away; he disappeared, became invisible. The Ascension brought closure to Christ's earthly, bodily existence. But 'absent' and 'present' are not mutually exclusive. There are all sorts of ways in which an 'absent' person can be 'present' to us - by a photograph, by a letter, by a gift. Your presence in Church today proclaims your belief that the 'absent' Jesus is truly 'present' in a totally new way, in the Blessed Sacrament.

## REAL PRESENCE

**I**n the body Jesus could not be everywhere. He was present only to those in immediate contact with him and only for as long as that contact lasted. In the body he was confined like the rest of us to the limitations of place and time, he could not reach the minds and hearts and consciences of people elsewhere. But in the Spirit there are no limitations. In the Spirit Jesus is with us everywhere we go. He is with everyone who welcomes him and everyone who needs him. He may be invisible but his presence is real. The ascension inaugurates the fulfilment of his promise to make his abode in us, to be with us always to the end of time. Jesus is now closer to each one of us than he was even to the Apostles during his public life.

So, we're not going to find him ever if we just keep staring up into heaven. You remember the old cliché: a lot of Christians are so heavenly as to be of no earthly use. If we don't find Christ on earth we won't find him in heaven. He's not 'up there, somewhere' presiding over an assembly of canonised pensioners who have nothing to do except to polish their halos all day. The Ascension tells us that Christ is all over the place here on earth - in each one of you who have come here to worship this morning; he's in the widowed pensioner who's feeling lonely and afraid and missing the love of his/her life; he's in the homeless and shares their plight for, at one time, the Son of Man had nowhere to lay his head; he is being crucified once more with those who suffer for their faith in over fifty countries. [In his daily Mass Pope Francis often speaks about those forgotten and persecuted Christians.]

So, let's not wait until Judgement day to discover that Jesus is not seated comfortably in heaven behind clouds of incense. This Ascension Day reminds us that he is here on earth in the very least of his sisters and brothers, invisible but really present. Lord, that we may see! ■

notes ends



Today's readings

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Acts 1:1-11  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

Although we call today's feast The Ascension, there is no heavenward departure of Jesus. Rather, we have the sending of the disciples on mission along with Jesus' continued presence. The ascension as an event is only recorded by Luke in Acts, and its purpose there is really to emphasise the glorified state of the risen Christ: the Jesus who was laid in the tomb is now risen to a new kind of existence with God. Even there, the ascension is linked to the coming of the Spirit. We can

be led into thinking that Jesus has left us to return at some future date, but that would be to ignore the emphasis on his being Emmanuel, God-with-us, a teaching that applies not only to the meaning of his birth, but also to the true significance of his resurrection.



## THE INVISIBLE MAN

**I**f you are as old as I am you may remember the film: *The Invisible Man*? You couldn't see him, yet somehow you were more conscious of his presence than if he were visible. He couldn't be pinned down like someone you could see and touch. But you were sure he was there, knowing everything, interested in everything and waiting for his moment to act.

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**The Ascension of the Lord**  
28<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
**World Communications Day**

Jesus ascended to heaven so that his influence and power might be felt not just in one place but in all the world. Today he is present everywhere, through his church, bringing all people to God.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**  
**FOR THE 51<sup>st</sup> WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY**  
"Fear not, for I am with you" (Is 43:5)

**Theme: Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time**

**SECOND NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE**  
**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018**

Pope Francis has personally chosen Ireland to be the host country for the World Meeting of Families from 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Planning for this great national and international celebration of faith is well underway. Hosting this important event requires an enormous amount of planning and funding. In this regard a second collection will be held in our diocese this weekend, 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> May. Please use special envelope from your offertory collection box. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated.

[www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

We congratulate St. John's pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation recently.

The 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils of Scoil Ursula will be confirmed today, Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon and the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils of the Gaelscoil will be confirmed on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June at 11.30am.

*As we keep these young people in our prayers this week we wish them every blessing as they receive the fullness of this Sacrament.*

*We also pray every blessing on their families and teachers.*

*We apologise for any inconvenience as a result of the increased number of cars in the Cathedral Carpark during the ceremonies.*

**FIRST FRIDAY** Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, is the First Friday.

Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm. Confessions will take place before the 8.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. Masses.

**SAINT PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP** starts at 6.30pm, immediately before First Friday evening Mass (Mass follows at 7.00pm).

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** Spirit of God, fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation. Amen.

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 4<sup>th</sup> June, PENTECOST SUNDAY** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts: 2:1-11; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1. Cor 12:3-7. 12-13; Gospel: Jn. 20:19-23.

**BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> May at 9.00 PM**  
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €1,450.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**  
SUNDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> May

**PARISH ENV: €1,733 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,645**

THANK YOU for your contribution.

**ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261**

✉ email us: [info@sligocathedral.ie](mailto:info@sligocathedral.ie) We welcome your comments.

**SUNDAY NEXT - PENTECOST OFFERING**  
**FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY**

This collection is one of four each year to raise funds to pay the agreed salaries for the four priests of the parish. Thank you for your continued support.



**BISHOP KEVIN** sends his best wishes and assurance of his prayers to all Students preparing to sit state examinations in the coming weeks. Two short prayers that students might like to pray at time of study and before an exam are available on our diocesan website [www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie)

**WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY**

**"A family marked by loving trust, come what may, helps its members to be themselves and spontaneously to reject deceit, falsehood, and lies." (Amoris Laetitia, Par 115)**

**MASS FOR ADORERS - WEDNESDAY, 31<sup>st</sup> MAY**

All adorers are invited to join in this Celebration of the Eucharist on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7.00pm in thanksgiving for God's care. All are most welcome to a cup of tea afterwards in St. Mary's Presbytery.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG**

Elphin Diocesan 3 day-pilgrimage to Lough Derg, Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> June. For more details, including bus provision, see [www.elphindiocese.ie/lough-derg](http://www.elphindiocese.ie/lough-derg) or contact Justin Harkin at 087 6171526 or [justin@elphindiocese.ie](mailto:justin@elphindiocese.ie)

**DIGITAL SKILLS PROGRAMME** Learn how to do basic tasks on the internet for free. This 10 hour free course will take place over 5 two-hourly sessions. Contact David/Paula at 071 9141155 for further information.

**ELPHIN DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

The Annual Celebration of Marriage will take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 3pm in St Patrick's Church, Castlerea, Co Roscommon celebrating 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> & 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries, followed by a reception at Cuisle, Donamon. For Details of registration please contact Parish Office Castlerea on 094 9621219 or Cuan Aire Family Life Centre on Mondays or Thursdays on 094 9620057 or [cuanairefamilycentre@eircom.net](mailto:cuanairefamilycentre@eircom.net)

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

The Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> August - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. . Booking forms are available direct from Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410810. For sick/ assisted pilgrims who wish to travel, please contact Fr. Ray Milton on 090 6661115.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK**

Bishop Kevin will lead the annual Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Upcoming **EVENTS** THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 31<sup>st</sup> May "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.

Mass for Adorers at 7.30pm

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June Confessions 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**HEART SUPPORT GROUP** meeting will be held in the Sligo Park Hotel on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm. Speaker: Breda Roberts, Community Occupational Therapist. Topic: Supports to maintain and improve Quality of life.

**URSULINE NETWORK** - Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May in the Convent (opposite Cathedral entrance) at 7.00pm. New members welcome.

**NORTH WEST STROKE GROUP** next meeting Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May, at 8pm at the Irish Wheelchair Association premises in Abbeyville, Sligo.

**HSE RETIRED ASSOCIATION GROUP** Monthly meeting takes place in St Michael's Family Life Centre on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June, at 3pm. New members welcome.

**P.T.A.A. SLIGO** - Meeting in St. Mary's Presbytery at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June immediately after the 7pm Mass.

**ALL IRELAND ROSARY RALLY** at Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Main Celebrant Bishop Brendan Kelly D.D and Homilist Fr Thady Doyle. 3<sup>rd</sup> June is also the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of servant of God Fr Patrick Peyton, the Rosary Priest.

**BLESSING FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS IN KNOCK** on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June in the Apparition Chapel from 11.45 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.

**FLEADH GIG RIG, STEPHEN ST CARPARK**, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 4-10pm. Opening & dedication of new "Bridge of Light" Footbridge at Rockwood Parade. Fun and Fundraising for NW Hospice. All welcome with Free entertainment featuring a feast of Sligo and guest musicians each evening in conjunction with Fleadh Cheoil Shligigh.

To Mark the County Fleadh being held in Sligo Town Mass will be celebrated at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June which is the evening Vigil for Pentecost.

**HOLY HILL HERMITAGE** will have a Visiting Sunday next Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. Everyone is welcome to Mass at noon and tea and tour afterward. The annual Family Day will take place on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June instead of the first Sunday in July.




**MASS FOR EXAM STUDENTS KNOCK** An Exam Mass for all Junior & Leaving Cert students will be held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in Knock Basilica. Students can also bring their pencil cases to have them blessed! For more information on this event, please contact Andrea Lynch at [knockyouthministry@yahoo.ie](mailto:knockyouthministry@yahoo.ie)

**VISITING CHOIR IN THE CATHEDRAL** for evening Mass at 7.00pm on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June. Choir is from Tennessee, USA. All most welcome.

**MICHAELA FOUNDATION** are currently recruiting enthusiastic individuals aged 17+ to volunteer at their Summer Camp for girls in Mercy College, Sligo Town from 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> July. Those interested in volunteering should visit [www.michaelafoundation.com](http://www.michaelafoundation.com)

**YOUTH 2000 ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL** will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. This is a donation only Catholic festival for young people aged 16-35. [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

**Anniversary & remembrances**

DAY	8.00am	10.30am
MON 29 <sup>th</sup>	—	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> MAGGIE GIBBONS 
TUES 30 <sup>th</sup>	—	DANIEL & KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM
WED 31 <sup>st</sup>	—	MARK & TESS CUSHMAN
THURS 1 <sup>st</sup>	—	YVONNE PARKISON
FRI 2 <sup>nd</sup>	FINOLA, PATRICK & MARTIN McHALE	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> ANN ELLIOTT 
SAT 3 <sup>rd</sup>	BEATRICE LAYDEN	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> MOIRA MOYLAN 

**Rest in peace** Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of: Anne Gurren, Celbridge, Kildare, sister of Monsignor Gerard Dolan. *May God grant her eternal rest and comfort and console her bereaved family and friends.*