

# SoulSpace

SERIES: EASTER JOURNEY

Season colour: WHITE

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

An example of this trust was found on the wall of one of those horrendous concentration camps at the end of World War 2. On it a prisoner had carved these incredible words:

I believe in the sun, even though it doesn't shine,  
I believe in love, even when it isn't shown,  
I believe in God, even when he doesn't speak.

Can you imagine the person who etched those words! You can see the skeletal hand gripping the bit of stone that cut into the wall, eyes squinting through the darkness as each letter was carved. What hand could have cut such a conviction? What eyes could have seen good in such horror? There is only one answer: Eyes that were fixed on God, eyes that refused to be dimmed by even the darkest human tragedy.

## GOD IN THE STORM?

Many good people think that if God was with them, and if he really loved them, then no storm would ever hit them. Life would be all plain sailing. But, as someone said, "Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are good is like expecting the bull not to charge you because you are a vegetarian."

So, when a storm does break over them, they experience a deep crisis of faith, thinking that God has abandoned them. Jesus had his disciples round him at the last supper when he started to talk about his own death. He saw the effect it was having on the group. In their eyes he saw their fear and despair and he knew they would be severely tested by his death. So he tried to prepare them: "Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God still, and trust in me," he told them.

## WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME?

He would soon have to act on his own words. In the garden the full horror of what lay ahead gripped his soul: Please, Father, why does this have to happen. Take it away. Put an end to this obscenity NOW. And then his faith and trust surfaced once more, "Not my will but thine be done!" It was the same on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" And once more his trust surfaced and he prayed, "Into your hands I surrender, I entrust my life." And his inglorious death was a glorious victory for the world.

We may be struggling with our own personal storm. Jesus sees the fear and the panic in us and he says to us what he said to the apostles the night before his Calvary: "Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God still, and trust in me." God is as close to us in our crises as he was to the apostles in theirs. If you no longer feel close to God, then you must ask "who moved?" Christ's words are eternally valid: "Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God still, and trust in me." ■



## Today's readings

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

"I don't understand it, but I love it!" This remark probably finds an echo in the heart of many people who read the Gospel of John. It is not a narrative like that of Mark which someone can read at one sitting. It has been described as a Gospel of prayer, in the sense that it requires a more contemplative approach, where we take our time over the various sections and ponder what they might mean: we should ask ourselves what they mean for us personally, because when the gospel writer presents Jesus as speaking to one or other of his disciples, he

really has ourselves in mind. Thomas and Philip are speaking for us, articulating the questions we maybe are wondering about. The purpose of any drama is to draw us into the action: we might try imagining ourselves as being part of the gospel drama, because the evangelist wants us to be involved, and not merely spectators.

As we are coming to the end of the Easter season, we are invited to start thinking about the departure of Jesus which will allow him to be present with us in a different way.



# TRUSTING IN THE DARK

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled; Trust in God still, and trust in me." It's easy to trust in God when things are going well - all the family are well - there's no sickness, all are in good employment, the financial situation is good, the mortgage is under control, the children present no problems. But when trouble comes we discover the real quality of our trust: a child maimed or killed by a drunken driver, business collapses, mortgage payments become impossible, a loved one dies, and so on. It is then, as I said, that we discover the quality of our trust in God.

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

14<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Jesus is our way our truth and our life. We go to the Father through him.

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

"In family life, we need to cultivate that strength of love which can help us fight every evil threatening it". (Amoris Laetitia, Par 119)

### SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



The children of St. John's will celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion today, Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon.

*We join with our parishioners in wishing all our First Communicants and their families and their schools every blessing as they prepare for and receive this sacred Sacrament.*

Next Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, the pupils of the Gaelscoil will make their First Holy Communion.

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

### 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)

**SAFETALK** is a half day training programme that prepares participants to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources. This training is suitable for everyone over 18 who wants to help prevent suicide and is prepared to become suicide alert. *Note:* safetalk is not recommended for any participant that has been personally bereaved or affected by a suicide in the previous twelve months.

No charge for training to be held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2pm - 5pm. Advance booking essential. Contact Belinda Taylor on 071 9135061 or [Belinda.Taylor@hse.ie](mailto:Belinda.Taylor@hse.ie) for bookings or more information.

**3KM FAMILY FUN WALK** in aid of *St Joseph's Special School*, Ballytivnan taking place at 7pm on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May. Walk starting at and finishing at school. Come and join us on the walk and return to school for refreshments afterwards. All walk entrants entered into raffle.

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 21<sup>st</sup> MAY, Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18; Gospel: Jn. 14:15-21.

**BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> May at 9.00 PM**  
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €1,350.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

### SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> May

PARISH ENV: €2,293 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,775

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

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

### 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FATIMA

To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Apparition in Fatima there will be **DEVOTIONS AT TOBERNALT HOLY WELL**, Co. Sligo, today, Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. This includes the Rosary, blessing and enrolment by Fr. Jim Murray in the brown Scapular which is a very important aspect of the message of Fatima. A beautiful statue of our Lady will be present.

**FATIMA PILGRIMAGE 9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017.** Fully inclusive package staying at Hotel Cinqcentenario. Price €799. Spiritual Director Fr. Pat Lombard. We will be there for the 13<sup>th</sup> and also the 15<sup>th</sup>, Feast of the Assumption. For more information please contact **Angela 086 3342289**.

**CONFIRMATION** The pupils of 6th class of St John's N.S school, Temple Street, will be confirmed on Saturday 20th May at 12 noon. As we keep these young people in our prayers this week we wish them every blessing as they receive the fullness of this Sacrament.

**STATION MASS** For the **Cummeen** and **Strandhill Road** Station area in the home of Brendan & Rose Balfe at 8pm on Tuesday, 16th May.

If you wish to host a Station Mass in your home for your area please contact your area priest or The Presbytery on 071-9162670

### SLIGO EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CAPITAL 2017

This is a great honor for our town to mark the occasion, we are asking all volunteers in the church community to write their name and group, eg. Eucharistic Minister, Legion of Mary, Volunteer, on a sticky note and post it on the board at the main door of the Cathedral.

### 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)

**ANAM CARA**, the national organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a *Bereavement Information Evening* on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the Family Centre, Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. This is a free event open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for event, please RSVP to [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) before Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May or call the Information Line on 085 2888888.

**THE WATERS AND COMMUNITIES OFFICE** are hosting a public meeting in The Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30pm to 8.30pm to discuss the natural waters within your local area. For more information contact Karen Kennedy, Community Waters officer for Sligo on 085 8085495 or email: [kkennedy@lawco.ie](mailto:kkennedy@lawco.ie)

### CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS** THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Confessions 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY** Next meeting will take place tomorrow, Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, immediately after the 10.30am Mass in the Upper Room of the Cathedral Sacristy. New members welcome.

**FR. FLANAGAN PRAYER GROUP** - Next Meeting is Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00 p.m. in St. Mary's Presbytery. All are most welcome.

**SOCIAL DANCING IN GILLOOLY HALL** Every Thursday 8pm-9pm. Learn to jive and foxtrot followed by a live band, 9pm-11pm. To book contact Michael on 086 3083976.

**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.

**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 SUMMER FESTIVAL** The annual 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)

**SLIGO SOCIAL SERVICES** are in need of good quality clothes, household items and bric-a-brac to sell in their Thrift Shops to raise funds for their work in our local community. If you are having a clear out then Sligo Social Services would be delighted to receive your items, they can be dropped at the Sligo Social Services yard on The Lungy. They particularly need household linens (not pillows and duvets), men's shoes and clothes for older children. Unfortunately they cannot accept electrical items, toys, pillows or duvets.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

### The following are the activities of the FLOWERS OF MAY DEVOTION

*to be held at St. Bernadette Chapel, Rockwood Parade, Sligo.*

20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - Saturday 3:30 pm, Rosary, Marian Prayers for the Month of May

#### Offering of Flowers

27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - Saturday 5:00 pm - Culmination Holy Mass with Offering of Flowers and Crowning of the BVM - Santacruzán - (From Cathedral to Gillooly Hall)

#### NOTE: TO ALL FILIPINO PEOPLE IN SLIGO

- The Flowers of May Devotion is FOR ALL Filipinos - ADULT AND CHILDREN, MEN AND WOMEN - Parents are highly requested to accompany their children for the said activity.

- Kindly bring flowers for the offering... - we need children as ANGELS (dressed in white with wings)

## Anniversary & remembrances



DAY	8.00am	10.30am
MON 15 <sup>th</sup>	HENRY LYNCH	—
TUES 16 <sup>th</sup>	MICHAEL & SARAH BRADY	PACKIE KEEGAN
WED 17 <sup>th</sup>	MICHAEL & SARAH BRADY	HENRY & MAY COLLINS
THURS 18 <sup>th</sup>	—	Deceased members of the McMANUS FAMILY
SAT 20 <sup>th</sup>	—	<b>Month's Mind</b> KATHLEEN HANNON ✠