

What is Prayer?



In today's Gospel, Luke presents the core of Jesus' teaching on prayer: Jesus teaching a prayer to his disciples, a parable on the persistent neighbour, and assurances that God hears our prayers.

The disciples notice Jesus praying "in a certain place" and ask him to teach them to pray just as John the Baptist had taught his disciples. Jesus teaches them a simple version of the most famous Christian prayer, the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer.

Having taught his disciples a simple, daily prayer, Jesus goes on to reassure them that God answers prayers. He tells a parable about a persistent neighbour who asks a friend for bread at midnight. The friend is already in bed and has no desire to disturb his family by opening the door. But because the neighbour is persistent, the sleeping man gets up and gives him all that he needs. If a neighbour is willing to help us if we are persistent enough, how could God not respond to our requests?

This teaching concludes with the reminder that if we seek, we will get a response. If a human father, with all his faults, knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more will our heavenly Father give us? Instead of good gifts, however, Luke substitutes the word *Holy Spirit*. This foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is central to Luke's theology and who will play an important role in the growth of the early Church after Pentecost.

The parable and the concluding teaching should not lead us to think of prayer as a series of requests presented to God. Rather, prayer consists in recognizing God's holiness and his rule over all things.

From Loyola Press

Anniversary Masses and Intentions

- † Sat. 27th @ 10am: Bridget Keenan – Month's Mind, Tommy Keenan.
- † Sat. 27th @ 6pm: Jim Hyland, Christie Casey, James & May O'Connor, Deceased members of O'Connor family, Benjamin Farrell, Joe Dowling, Jack Clinton, John Fitzsimons, Larry Hughes.
- † Sun. 28th @ 9.30am: Peggy McGirl, May, Francis, Stevie & Billy Ryan, William Baker, May & Jim Burke, Patrick & Margaret Lynch.
- † Sun. 28th @ 11am: Breda Kennedy, Bernadette Plunkett, Tom McManus, Mary & Billy Prendergast.
- † Tues. 30th @ 10am: Pat Jenkinson, Mary Cusack.
- † Wed. 31st @ 10am: Esther Kelly.
- † Sat. 3rd @ 6pm: Collie Doyle, Bob Loughlin, Jim Martin, Alice & Patrick Harford, Florence & Patrick Coleman.
- † Sun. 4th @ 9.30am: Kathleen Everard, William Foran, Ethel Jordan.
- † Sun. 4th @ 11am: Mary Martin, Edyta Keeling, John & James Carroll, William (Willy) Murphy, Maureen & David Fleming.

Feast Days

- 29th July: St. Martha
- 31st July: St. Ignatius of Loyola

Parish Notices

Friday 2nd August is the First Friday and Mass will be at the usual time of 10am.
Monday 5th August is a Bank Holiday and Mass will be at 11am.
Wednesday 7th – Monthly Padre Pio Mass at 7pm.

The Irish Catholic is published weekly and is on sale in the Parish Office at €2.

Knock – 140 Years 1879-2019

The National Novena in honour of Our Lady of Knock will take place from 14th to 22nd August (inclusive). Workshops daily at 12 noon. Feast of Our Lady of Knock will be on 21st August.

St. Vincent De Paul – Clothing Collection

The Society's Annual Clothing Collection will take place next weekend, 3rd and 4th August. Bags are available in the church porches this weekend. We would ask that bags are not returned before Saturday 3rd August – we would greatly appreciate your understanding of this request. Members of the SVP will collect bags before and after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 3rd and the 9.30am and 11am Masses on Sunday 4th. Please see notice boards in the church porches for further reference. Thank you on behalf of St. Vincent De Paul.

Pathways – Exploring Faith and Ministry

This is a two-year, one night per week, course for adults of all ages who wish to explore their faith. It runs from September to May each year and applications are now open for the next intake of participants for Pathways. The programme commences in Holy Cross College on 26th September from 7pm to 9.30pm. Places are limited so early application is advised. More information from www.evangelisation.ie or contact Eileen Houlahan on 01 8087594 or email pathways@dublindiocese.ie

Parish Office

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 to 12.30. Please note the office is closed on Tuesdays.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

12th -19th September with Marian Tours.
Spiritual Director: Fr. Locks Flanagan
For further details ring Garry on 0872517345

Monaghan Charismatic Prayer Group

Annual Pilgrimage/healing weekend at Knock Shrine – Theme: “This is my son my chosen one Listen to him” Luke 9:35.
Speakers: Fr Peter Okpetu, Brendan Walsh, Josephine Greenan. Details from www.mcpq.net or contact Peter 087 2251124, AnneMarie 086 72517720, Josephine 087 9318514.
Starting 6.30pm Friday August 30th to 12.00 noon Sunday Sept 1st 2019. All welcome.

Skerries Mills Fingal Vintage Harvest Festival

The Fingal Vintage Harvest Festival takes place at Skerries Mills next **Sunday 11th August 2019, 12 noon to 5.30 p.m.** Vintage farm machinery will be on show. A great day out for all the family so why not come along and join us to *make hay while the sun shines!*



Skerries Town Twinning 25th Anniversary

Next month marks the 25th anniversary of the official twinning of Skerries with the Canton of Guichen (Brittany). Over the years hundreds of Skerries people have enjoyed the many benefits of twinning (students, sports people, families, children, musicians, dancers, singers, hikers & ramblers – to name some of the groups). Skerries is hosting a visit from a few of our Guichen friends from 13th to 16th August. They would like to meet anybody who has an interest in twinning. If you would like to meet our Breton friends and/or to find out about twinning please contact Brendan Friel on 087 6181244.



Skerries Ladies Bowls

Next meeting will be on Mon. 29th at 12 noon in the Clubhouse. Hard luck to the Div.1 Ladies who faced stiff opposition against Blackrock last Wednesday.

Skerries Hockey Club



Junior Summer Camp for girls and boys will take place from 19th to 23rd August at the All Weather Pitch.

Mini Camp for Under 7s: 10am to 1pm daily.

Full Camp for Over 7s: 10am to 3pm daily.

Application forms available from the Community Centre. Discounts for two or more children.

Skerries Harps GAA Club



Sun. 28th: Junior football v St Sylvester's, at home at 3pm.

Sun. 4th: Annual Bryan Cullen Under 16s football tournament. First game at

9.30am and Final for Oliver Moore Cup at 6pm - after the Dubs v Tyrone on TV.

Congrats to our Under 16 team on Div.1 playoff win v St Vincent's. They now meet Kilmacud-Crokes in the final on 20th Aug.

Golf Classic sponsored by C&Ts on Fri. 2nd Aug. at Skerries GC. Contact Fergal Lynch 0868984657.

Zingo: 2, 4, 5, 3, 7, 6, 1. Jackpot now €6,000. (Yes – SIX THOUSAND EURO). Draw and Spot Prizes on Sunday at 6.30pm. Entry only €2 or 3 for €5.

Next **Summer Camp** is on 6th to 9th Aug. Contact club GPO, Louise Byrne at 085 1465673.

Our final camp – Kelloggs Cul Camp2 – starts on 12th August.

Contact club PRO, Joanne 086 4058523 for information on all club events

30 Years Ago

- Newly baptised were Donal Canavan, Elaine Murphy, Andrea O'Connell, Amy Marie Tucker and Kirsten McMahon
- Crann Phadraig announced their monthly collection of newspapers, magazines, cardboard, etc. - all proceeds go to planting native trees around the town
- The Joe May Cups for swimming - 1000m - were won by Hugh Ryan and Camilla McMahon

Welcome

We welcome all visitors to Skerries and hope that you are enjoying all our little town has to offer. Don't forget your sunscreen during this spell of spectacular hot weather.



Lost

Or maybe escaped!

A toy Baby Bunny escaped from his buggy on Monday afternoon - South Strand/ Harbour/ Strand Street area. If you find him roaming please call 087 9956228. He is much missed. Thank you.