

Parish of Abbeyside, Ballinroad and Garranbane Notices

Saturday & Sunday 17th & 18th February, 2018

First Sunday of Lent

Collection for World Meeting of Families

Bishop Cullinan has asked that a collection be taken up to support the **World Meeting of Families** and the expected visit of Pope Francis next August. There will be a second **collection after Holy Communion at all Masses next Saturday and Sunday 24th and 25th February**. It is the White & Orange striped envelope in your box of envelopes. **We thank you in advance for your generosity.**

We will have speakers from the 'Pro-life Campaign' speaking at all masses in the parish next **Sunday, February 25th**. This has been approved by Bishop Cullinan.

Trocaire Boxes have been distributed to the homes of the parish. Extra Boxes are available at the back of the church.

Thinking about the priesthood? An upcoming (overnight) event will take place next Saturday evening from 6pm and Sunday at Pallottine House, Thurles at 6p.m. Please see church notice board for details.

Listening Process

A meeting will be held in the Park Hotel on Thursday 15th March to listen to people's views as part of a process of forming a new Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The meeting will begin at 7pm and will end at 9.30pm. All are welcome.

The Children's Liturgy Group will practice on Thursday night next from 6.45p.m. to 8 p.m. in Abbeyside Church. Children from 1st Class upwards are very welcome to join us.

Mass in Abbeyside: Monday – Friday at 10 a.m.

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from 10 a.m. Mass

World Meeting of Families 2018

As we begin 2018 we await in hope for the confirmation of Pope Francis's visit to Ireland. Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next WMOF from 22-26 August, 2018. Pope Francis's document, *The Joy of Love*, is the foundation/backdrop to this occasion.

Many national events are being organized in the lead-up to this occasion. Those interested can be updated by looking at the website (www.worldmeetingoffamilies2018.com). A range of online resources will appear during the next few months. Adults and children can avail of these from the comfort of their own homes. Everyone belongs to a family. Families today come in all shapes and sizes. No family is perfect. It gives us our identity. Pope Francis had everyone in mind when he wrote the *Joys of Love*. This is an all inclusive occasion for families.

In our Parish of Abbeyside some local events will take place. More information to follow.

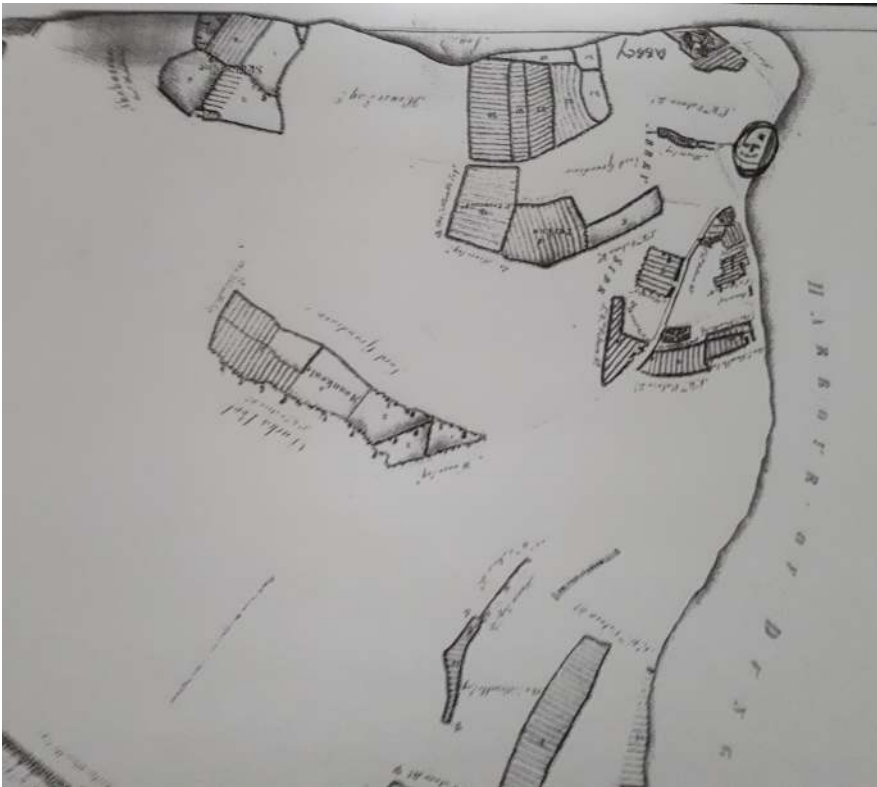
One of these events beginning soon is 'Parish Conversations' consisting of six sessions for a group led by Facilitators. The *Joy of Love* – by Pope Francis will be the basis for these conversations. We will be exploring our own experience of family life - its ups and downs etc. – and also we will look at videos of other families' experiences. All are invited to take part in this group – and thus participate in the preparation for WMOF.

Through the schools pupils will become aware of opportunities for them to take part in special celebrations e.g. First Communion and Confirmation.

If we only see the World Meeting of Families as being about what happens in Dublin in August then we are missing something vital. The whole process of preparation has the potential to transform us individually as families and as Church.

Historical Help Please

John Martin asks our help. He is researching the history of Abbeyside parish church for the Dungarvan Historic Town Atlas which is due to be published next year. "I attach an extract from a survey of the duke of Devonshire's lands in Abbeyside in 1775 by Bernard Scalé. The word 'chapel' (circled) is shown at Strandside South, not far from the former Abbey. Do you know of any old parish records which might indicate that this was a Catholic chapel, in use prior to the building of the parish church beside the Abbey in 1828? Any help which you or your parishioners might be able to give would be much appreciated." It appears the chapel marked on the survey is where Tom and Monica Walsh live.



Towards Peace

Towards Peace is a spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to nine sessions are offered and there is no cost. For more information, please visit www.towardspeace.ie, phone 01 505 3028 or email towardspeace@iecon.ie.

Our Environment

A conference on local responses to Laudato Si will be held on Saturday, March 3rd in St. Paul's Parish Centre, Lisduggan beginning at 9.30am. It is being organised by the diocese of Waterford and Lismore and the Waterford PPN (Public Participation Network). The aim of the conference is to explore how parishes and local voluntary groups can respond to the challenges to our environment outlined by Pope Francis in his encyclical. The two major themes of the conference are climate change and threat to our biodiversity.

Also the concept of the green flag award for parishes will be introduced.

The key note speaker will be Fr Sean McDonagh, Eco-Theologian.

Christmas Newsletter Wordsearch Winner

Ronan Martello of 3 Ballyrandle Drive, Ballinroad.

The answer was Readers