

As a parishioner I attended the Festival of Families event in Croke Park as part of the World Meeting of Families. Families young & old, children and babies from all over the world such as Mexico, Brazil, Spain, India Africa and Ireland attended. The atmosphere in the stadium was electric with the colourful mix of nationalities in traditional



costumes. When Pope Francis arrived he drove through the crowd waving and smiling at everyone to the sound of Patrick Bergin singing Leonard Cohen's Anthem. It was a magical, moving and joyful occasion with everybody clapping and cheering and enjoying the moment.

Families from Ireland, Iraq, India and Africa spoke of the atrocities and challenges they faced in the world today. It was moving to see the Pope meet these families and speak of the importance of families in the Catholic Church. The night concluded with a powerful performance by Andre Bocelli singing Ave Maria and Nessun Dorma. As a parishioner I felt privileged and thankful to have attended such an uplifting, joyous occasion in the presence of his holiness Pope Francis. - **Moira**

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As a parishioner I attended both ceremonies in Croke Park and the Phoenix Park for the World Meeting of Families. The celebration concert for Pope Francis was a joyous happy occasion and I found it very encouraging and enlightening to see all the young families from around the world celebrating their faith. The Phoenix Park Mass was a more solemn & reverent occasion. The event was very uplifting and spiritual and I felt very thankful and happy to have been there. After the event it made me realise that the Catholic faith has not gone away and there are many people still within the church celebrating God and his greatness. - **Marie**

## Parish of Abbesside, Ballinroad and Garranbane Notices

### Saturday & Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September

**Relics of St Therése of Lisieux and of her parents** will be in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford from 11a.m. - 5.30p.m on **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.** Evening prayer will be celebrated at 4.00p.m.

### School New Year

Our best wishes to the children, school teachers and staff as they begin a new school year.

**Pongo** will resume in Ballinroad Hall on Tuesday next 4<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm. **All new members are welcome.**

**Friday Next September 7<sup>th</sup>** is the **first Friday**. If you would like **Holy Communion** to be brought to a **housebound relative, friend or neighbour** please contact the **Parish Office**.

Mass in Abbesside Monday – Friday at 10 a.m

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from 10.00 a.m. Mass 'til 5p.m. on Tuesday in Abbesside Church.

### Grandparents Pilgrimage, Knock Shrine 2018.

The 2018 pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 9th of September at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock. This annual pilgrimage is a special day for grandparents and families, and a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the great contribution that grandparents make to Church, to family, and to society in teaching and passing on the faith.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at 2.30pm will be followed by The Pilgrimage Mass follows at 3.00pm with Chief Celebrant Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Papal Nuncio.

If we can be of further assistance to you in any way please contact Connie at [catholicgrandparents@gmail.com](mailto:catholicgrandparents@gmail.com) – phone number 085 8704722.



## Reflections on The Papal Visit

For those of us who travelled to Croke and/or Phoenix Park to pray and celebrate with Pope Francis, we returned overjoyed and uplifted. I invited those who wished to contribute their reactions/insights/experience. We hope to publish these over the next while. I also invite you who watched on TV to submit your thoughts to [abgparishoffice@eircom.net](mailto:abgparishoffice@eircom.net) **Fr. Ned**

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**“Let’s go to The Phoenix Park”**... these were the words of Fr Ned Hassett in mid- January to us in the Parish Office!

By Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> our 1st coach was arranged, and then notices and posters were sent to the parish churches. Lists were drawn up and diary notes were made -revised and re-revised, checked and ticked countless times. Never has there been such use made of the ‘yellow sticky’!!

All through the months of April, May and June, emails were flying to and from the World Meeting of Families office in Dublin; booking tickets, getting information, registering our **coaches** – yes, by now it was evident from enquiries and demand – that not only would we fill one coach but we needed a **2<sup>nd</sup>!!**



As we moved into early August, news was filtering through ‘the media’ regarding traffic restrictions, long walks, banned items etc. Were our pilgrims daunted in any way, shape or form? We were going and nothing was going to stop us!!

Even though the weather on Sunday morning was miserable to say the least, our ‘little army’ soldiered on to attend this historical event – unbowed and undaunted - full of hope and anticipation of being part of something special. And it was. So, thank you Fr Hassett for the bright idea in January!- **The girls (!!!) @ The Parish Office.**

At the World Meeting of Families closing Mass, I met 3 of my 1<sup>st</sup> cousins, one I hadn’t seen in 6 years, so for me it was apt to say it was a meeting of my family. I also met a beautiful lady, Eileen from Cork and she joined my friend and I for the day. By the time we left we were friends for life. --

**Josephine Morrissey.**

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**WOW...over 2,500,000 KM walked by Irish Pilgrims to Sunday Mass – World Record?**



Congratulations to everyone who walked the arduous route to and from the Papal Mass.

The torrents of rain early in the morning didn’t stop you...  
The long bus and car journeys didn’t stop you.....

The transport hubs positioned miles from the Phoenix Park didn’t stop you...

The media news of possible outbreaks of communal diseases didn’t stop you....

The child abuse reports didn’t stop you, for you know the Church needs forgiveness...

The relentless negative comments didn’t stop you....

The counter protests didn’t stop you....

The Nope the Pope Christian-ophobic group didn’t stop you....

The pains in your body didn’t stop you....

The walking sticks, baby buggies, wheelchairs, stools, umbrellas, wet-gear didn’t stop you.

The late night home didn’t stop you....

Nothing stopped you from Praising God and giving Thanks

God bless you all. People of God - **Tom Doherty.**

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So proud to be Catholic and Irish on this wonderful day. Pope Francis is without doubt a humble and gentle man. The Phoenix Park was magical with everyone so happy and positive. It was lovely to be with so many like-minded people. It was also a delight to see the many young people in attendance. There is great hope for the future.– **Eileen**