



PARISH BULLETIN

The Faith Communities of:
Ballymount, Kilmead, Crookstown & Moone.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 1st/2nd 2018



MASS INTENTIONS SUNDAY

CROOKSTOWN - Andy O'Connor Usk.
(A) Delia Byrne (A) Jimmy Ward
(M.M.) Paddy Doyle (M.M.)

KILMEAD - Anne & Willie Cannon (A)
MOONE - Peter Moore - Irishtown (A)

WEEKDAY

CROOKSTOWN: Wed & Fri 9.30am -
Donor's Intentions

OUR PARISH BULLETIN this week is given over, almost exclusively, to the reflections of parishioners who attended various events during the visit of Pope Frances. Thanks to everyone who took the time to reflect and to put those reflections down on paper, here they are. Hopefully they give some sense of the events of last weekend and encourage your own reflection.

On Sunday August 26th I attended the papal mass in the Phoenix Park, A truly memorable event that was very well organised meaning that people could navigate their way to and from the park to the bus parks with ease. Roadways through the sections meant that everyone in the crowd could see the pope as he passed through. The mass itself was beautiful and encompassed our own native Irish in prayers, readings, responses and song, making the mass very much Irish. It also hosted readings and prayers in a range of different languages to cater for the diversity of the crowd. A

wonderful, peaceful and uplifting atmosphere was present throughout as hundreds of thousands were unified in their participation in the mass. In all, it was an incredibly special and unforgettable day and a day I will tell my own children and grandchildren about in years to come. **Laura age 25**

I was inspired and encouraged to see so many young families, people with disabilities, older people all together, all happy to be in the presence of the Pope despite the troublesome times the Church is going through. My son, who is 18, his high-light was to be able get so close to the Pope. Another son who is 16 said he was happy to see so many people get up early, walk long distance to be near the Pope. My daughter of 24 said she felt happy to see so many other young people there as sometimes you feel as if you are the only one among your friends to still have a strong faith, while my husband thought it similar to the Sermon on the Mount. We all gathered, family and friends to listen to Pope Frances realising our faith will survive these testing times.
Eileen.

Our visit to Phoenix Park last Sunday to see Pope Francis was overwhelming and very memorable.

The rain pelted down at 5 am, that wasn't going to dampen our spirits, Pope Francis was saying Mass. The second largest event in the history of the state, nearly 40 years since the last privilege, we were looking forward. I will never forget the excitement on the faces of young and elderly as the leader of the Catholic Church

worldwide, Pope Francis, who is the epitome of Spirituality, approached in the Pope mobile, smiling as he if he knew all his flock personally. What a special Mass, special day and thoroughly enjoyable. **Colette**

On Saturday morning we arrived into a deserted Dublin. Would anyone turn out to greet the Pope? At 4pm, it was time to go to Croke Park.

Crowds, three to four deep, were to be seen all the way down Dame Street and O'Connell Street. On entering Sean McDermott St the path was closed off. After waiting for 10-15 mins, the Garda escort emerged and we got our first glimpse of the Pope.

The excitement was palpable.

In Croke Park, we were treated to a wonderful evening of music, song and dance. There were many stand out acts, too numerous to mention, but the atmosphere really erupted when the Pope mobile entered the stadium. Pope Francis, in his address to the crowd emphasised the importance of making time for family life. He told us that the words 'please, thank you, and I'm sorry' were very important and encouraged married couples to never let the sun go down on their anger.

The finale was the wonderful singing of the 'Ave Maria' by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Byrne. We felt privileged to have been there. **Maura**

Trying to track the Pope mobile above the heads of thousands while running through the corrals in an effort to get closer to Pope Francis was difficult but I was rewarded when he headed our way. The excitement was palpable. It was like the scene from Jericho when Bartimeus sought Jesus among the

crowds: he was rewarded with the gift of his sight. We were rewarded with a warm smile and a wave and we were happy. May this visit of Pope Francis renew our faith and our hope and may it heal the hurt in each of us. **Martina.**

The rain failed to dampen the spirits of 45,000 pilgrims who made their way to Knock Shrine in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The magnificent parish choir and musicians set the scene prior to the Pope's arrival. Cheering and applause erupted when the Pontiff arrived.

Stepping into the Pope mobile he travelled through the crowd looking happy and relaxed. A very poignant moment was when Pope Francis entered the Apparition Chapel and prayed in silence for 10 minutes. A total silence fell on the crowd giving each of us an opportunity to reflect and pray. In his address to the people the Holy Father spoke with humility and compassion before ending with the Angelus. As he departed, the choir, along with all those present sang the beautiful "Our Lady of Knock." Being "in this moment" for one hour with the Pope was a truly moving and emotional occasion. **Joan**

I woke up at 4.15am in a hostel on Aston Quay. Trying not to wake the others sleeping around me, I got a quick shower and changed into my volunteer uniform.

It was raining when I went out onto the street and that was only an indicator of what was to come for the rest of the day!

A shuttle bus brought myself and others to the Phoenix Park around 6am and we all gathered in a tent, soaked to the skin, not knowing how the day was going to go. Would people turn up? As the rain continued to bucket down, I along with 3 other volunteers was stationed in the blue zone, directly in line with the papal cross. I had stood in wet clothes for over three hours and the park still seemed empty.

The clouds cleared, the rain stopped, and people began slowly arriving. With the poor weather conditions and negative media coverage, I was unsure at how the mass would go.

Soon thousands of people were walking in all around me and I was giving directions and checking tickets.

There was a good atmosphere as people from all walks of life filtered into the park. An aerial view of the park was shown on the large screen, I saw that over 300,000 people had arrived to see the Pope.

I continued to help and give instructions as hundreds came to me with enquiries.

The Pope arrived and the crowds began sprinting (we weren't given instructions to stop them so I remained in-situ).

As the mass began I could sense that I was part of something historic in our country's history.

When the day ended, despite being soaked to the skin, I felt that enduring the harsh weather was all worth it as I contributed to a great event, which will be remembered well into the future.

Joseph-age 19.

I went to bed on Saturday night with thoughts running around my head about the early start on Sunday morning, the heavy rain that was forecast, the long and uncomfortable day ahead and I wondered was I really out of my mind going to the Papal mass in the Phoenix Park the next day. But wow, did I make the right choice in going. It was a wonderful day, everything was organised so well, so professional. The atmosphere was one of joy and excitement and people just wanted to be there to celebrate; and there were so many young people at the mass with their families, their friends or volunteering. Then the Pope was coming and you could feel the excitement, the screaming started because he was coming down the track just where we were standing, we were so close to him. I will always remember that feeling of joy as he passed by and his beautiful smile. It was a day when I was proud to be Irish, proud to be Catholic and filled with hope for the future. **Susan.**

My experience of the visit of Pope Francis was exactly as I hoped it would be. His genuine expression of sorrow and repentance and his willingness to listen to everyone, I hope will bring healing and a new dawn to all the people of Ireland. Although I couldn't get to the Phoenix Park, my next best thing was Crookstown Church where we gathered as the faith communities of

Moone & Narraghmore to join in the celebration of the Pope's Mass.

Marcella.

'Buying Justice – an exploration of ethical shopping' YCW and SMA invite young adults (18-35 years) to this event on Wednesday 5th Sept @7pm in St. Paul's Church, Arran Quay, Dublin 7. Speaker: Dr. Kevin Hargaden, Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice. This is part of 'Building a Just Society', an Autumn 2018 series of social justice events in St Paul's.

Monday 1st October: '*Climate Justice*' with speaker Elaine Nevin, Director ECO-Unesco.

Monday 5th November: '*Increasing Peace Around Us*'. Facilitator: Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). info@ycw.ie

Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

The Catholic Grandparents Association's National pilgrimage will take place on Sunday September 9th at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome, not just grandparents, to honour and thank grandparents for all that they have done for us through the ages. Principal Celebrant will be the Papal Nuncio and Dana will sing 'Our Lady of Knock'.

MAILING LIST:

If you would like to receive the Parish Bulletin by email each week please email Conor, the Parish Pastoral Worker with the subject line:

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to conor.mccann@dublindiocese.ie
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The parishes of Moone & Narraghmore now has a new Facebook page you can find us at: www.facebook.com/NarraghmoreMoone/. We are also on Twitter: @NarraghmoreM

Please like our page and let's stay in touch.