

Mass Intentions this Week

We pray for all those who died recently **Mary Fahy**, Ocean Towers funeral Monday @ 12pm; **James Lonergan**, Mervue and ex Salthill funeral Tuesday @11am; **Michael Sheil**, New York and ex Ard na Mara and for all with Anniversaries, Birthday Remembrances etc. at this time of the year and all who have gone to God. Including -

Sat	31st	5.30pm	Dr Seán Barney Concannon (A) Patricia Hosty (15th A) John Lyden (21st.A)	G.J.
Sun	1st	9.30am	Ann Gill (A)	C.S.
		11 am	Dr Michael O'Connor (5th A) Frank Smyth (20th A)	T.P.
		12.30	Michael P O'Donoghue (A) Special Intention	C.S.
Mon	2nd	10 am	Decd members of the Buckley family	C.S.
Tues	3rd	10am	Private Intention	C.S.
Wed	4th	10 am	Damien & Kathleen Gearty (A) George O'Gara (A)	MSC
Thurs	5th	10 am	Private Intention	C.S.
Fri	6th	10am	Eddie Garavan R.I.P.	C.S.
Sat	7th	10am	Private Intention	G.J.

Mass Intentions Next Weekend include:-

Sat	7th	5.30pm	Frank Mullan (4th A) Eugene Butler (8th A)
Sun	8th	9:30am	Private Intention
		11 am	Major General Dermot Byrne (12th A) & Phyllis Byrne.
		12.30pm	Pat & Ethna Mc Padden (A) Michael Sheil R.I.P. John & Winnie Walsh (A)



Salthill Parish is committed to the protection of all children and young people in our Church. See notice boards for contact persons.

PARISH NEWS

1st August 2021



"CHRIST THE KING PARISH — A FAMILY OF FAMILIES"

Parish Notices.

All our Ceremonies are on-line "salthillparish.ie - live web cam". We hope you will join us on the airways in prayer for some of them.

Weekday Mass: 10 am

Saturday: Vigil mass at 5.30pm

Sunday: Mass at 9:30 and 11a.m & 12.30pm

**Booking Necessary
for Weekend Masses**

Church Open daily for private prayer

Parish Office Open : 9:30am to 1p.m. 2p.m-4pm. Monday to Friday (Lunch 1-2);

Parishioners are asked to continue to "Register" for seats at the 9:30a.m and the 11am Mass on Sundays. People are asked to wear masks while in church and observe Social Distancing both in the Church and outside afterwards



John Gerard Acton, from Moycullen will be ordained priest for the Galway Diocese this Sunday August 1st. He is youngest of four siblings. He tells us that Faith was something that was always very important at home and his sense of calling to the priesthood was by no means sudden – it was something that gradually increased over many years. He attended both Scoil Bhaile Nua in Moycullen and Coláiste Chroí Mhuire in Spiddal. He went on to study for four very happy years in GMIT and obtained a BA in business and communications. He spent a number of years working part time in Debenhams department store before taking up a position in Park House Hotel on Forster Street (with Kitty Carr) shortly after graduation. He began his initial formation in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, in August 2015. His six years there provided him with the opportunity to take a small step back and to discern what God really wanted him to do with his life. John spent best part of his "Pastoral Training Year" with us here in Salthill in 2019. We wish him every Blessing and Happiness as a priest in the Galway Diocese. He might one day be Parish Priest of Salthill God Bless Him.

The livestreaming link will be available at www.galwaydiocese.ie/ordination.

SCATTERED THOUGHTS !



Dear Fellow Traveller,

Does God Exist ? What is Life all about ?

“There’s a legend about St. Christopher that’s relevant here: Christopher was a man gifted in every way, except faith. He was physically strong, powerful, goodhearted, mellow, and well liked. He was also generous, using his physical strength to help others, but he found it hard to believe in God, even though he wanted to. For him, the “physical” was what was real and everything else seemed unreal. And so, as the legend goes, he lived his life in a certain honest agnosticism, unable to really believe in anything beyond what he could physically see, feel, and touch. That said he saw his purpose as helping others and he lived accordingly. One night, as the legend goes, during a storm, the ferryboat capsized and Christopher dived into the dark waters to rescue a young child. Carrying that child to the shore, he looked into its face and saw there the face of Christ. After that, he believed for he had seen the face of Christ.



For all its piety, this legend contains a profound lesson. It changes the perspective on the question of how one tries to “prove” God’s existence. Our attempt to prove God’s existence has to be practical, existential, rather than mainly intellectual. How do we move from believing only in the physical, from believing only in the reality of what we can see, feel, touch, taste, and smell, to believing in the existence of deeper, spiritual realities ?

There’s a lesson in the Christopher story: Live as honestly and respectfully as you can and use your gifts to help others. God will appear. Moreover, faith is not so much a question of feeling as of service.

We all know about the scepticism of the Apostle Thomas who refused to believe in the Resurrection - . Remember his protest: “Unless I can (physically) place my finger in the wounds of his hands and stick my finger into the wound of his side, I will not believe.” Note that Jesus offers no resistance or rebuke in the face of Thomas’ scepticism. Instead, he takes Thomas at his word: “Come and (physically) place your finger in the wounds of my hand and the wound in my side; see for yourself that I am real and not a ghost.”

That’s the open challenge for us: “Come and see for yourselves that God is real and not a ghost!” That challenge, however, is not so much an intellectual one as a moral one, a challenge to be honest and generous.

Scepticism and agnosticism, even atheism, are not a problem as long as one is honest, non-lying, and generous in giving his or her life away in service. If these conditions are met, God, the author and source of all reality, eventually becomes sufficiently real, even to those who need physical proof.

The stories of Christopher and Thomas teach us this and assure us that God is neither angered nor threatened by an honest agnosticism. Faith is never certainty. Neither is it a sure “feeling” that God exists. On the contrary, unbelief is not to be confused with the absence of the felt assurance that God exists. For everyone, there will be dark nights of the soul, silences of God, cold lonely seasons, times when God’s reality cannot be consciously grasped or recognized. The history of faith, as witnessed by the life of Jesus and the lives of the saints, shows us that God sometimes goes missing and, at those times, the reality of the physical world can so overpower us that nothing seems real except what we can see and feel right now, not least our own pain.

Whenever this happens, like Christopher and the Apostle Thomas, we need to become honest agnostics who use our goodness and God-given talents to help carry others across the burdensome rivers of life. God does not ask us to have a faith that is certain, but a service that is generous and sustained. We have the assurance that should we faithfully help carry others, we will one day find ourselves before the reality of God who will gently say to us: “See for yourself, that I am real, and not a ghost.”

Can we prove that God exists? In theory, no; in life, yes. To para-phrase the well known prayer on how to live Life - -

“To give and not count the cost
To fight and not heed the wounds,
to toil and not seek for rest,
save that of knowing
that I am doing what is Right”

Have a good week
G.J.

MASS TIMES

ON-LINE ONLY

WEEKENDS

Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9:30am, 11am,
9Booking Necessary).

WEEKDAYS:

Mon —Sat.: 10am.

The Parish Office:

Hours: Mon-Fri: 9:30—1pm
2pm —4.30pm

Yvonne Thornton [Mon-Wed]

Rhona Bolger [Thurs-Fri]

Phone: (091) 523413

E-mail:

Salthill@parishes.galwaydiocese.ie

Parish Co-Ordinator:

Frank Keane.

Parish Sister: Sr Breege Ruane

Music Director: Jackie Lillis.

Priests of the Parish:

Fr. Gerry Jennings 523 413

Fr Charlie Sweeney MSC

523413

Readers

5.30pm Hosty Family

9.30am Gabrielle Costello

11am Mc Anena Family

12.30pm Parish Reader

Flowers

Vera Tyrell
Margaret Quigley
Pauline O’Gorman

Linens

Maura Connolly
Noírín Barrett