

5<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
Year B

# The Harbour

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Parish Newsletter for Passage West, Monkstown, Shanbally and Ringaskiddy



**Mass Times this week**  
6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021

**PASSAGE WEST**  
Mon to Thurs: 10.00 a.m.  
Fri: NO MASS  
Saturday: 7.30 p.m.  
Sunday: 11.00 a.m.

**MONKSTOWN**  
Mon: 9.00 a.m.  
Wed: NO MASS  
Fri: 9.00 a.m.  
Saturday: 6.00 p.m.  
Sunday: 11.30 a.m.

**SHANBALLY**  
Friday: 7.00 p.m.  
Sunday: 10.00 a.m.

**RINGASKIDDY**  
Tues: 9.00 a.m.  
Thurs: NO MASS  
Sunday: 9.00 a.m.

**PARISH  
OFFICE**

Come in we're open!

**TUESDAYS**  
10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

**THURSDAYS**  
5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

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harbourparish@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY  
Cathy Concannon

## Remembering our friend, Fr Con

Thursday, for the past number of years has been the day on which we meet to collate the various items for the Parish Newsletter. This Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, our first week back after the summer break, is very different. We are missing our weekly visitor – our friend, Fr Con. Ahead of arriving the phone call would announce, “I’m on my way down”. Yes, Fr Con would arrive, immediately filling the office with his big smile and big personality. Sometimes he would bring a friend with him, it could be a local or a friend from afar. The list of anniversaries from Passage West would be put on the table. “Is the kettle on?”. It had to be tea – no coffee for Con and he liked lots of milk in his tea! Sitting at the table with his tea and scones, Con liked nothing better than stirring up discussions on topics wide and varied. He also enjoyed recounting stories old and new. He would show us his more humorous “WhatsApps” clips and, when the laughter would subside, he would check his diary whilst taking endless phonecalls – yes, duty always called! Con’s zest for fun and laughter was obvious to all, but equally the true measure of the man could be seen when, in his more serious and reflective moments, he showed depths of sensitivity, care, concern and deep compassion for people, especially for anyone with a particular need.

Con was a giver, strawberries or chocolates were frequently placed on the table. His car boot was an “Alladin’s Cave” of hidden goodies. Con enjoyed his weekly visits to us. We got to know the many human sides of this wonderful man. Yes, he was often funny, witty and entertaining but he was also secure enough in himself to show that he could be sad or anxious or deeply concerned about a particular issue. We think that Con took both joy and solace from his weekly visits with us, his parting words often being – “I really enjoy coming down here on Thursdays”. That made us feel good but isn’t that true of the way most people felt having met Con?

Con was a living example that goodness matters more than wealth or worldly success. His example helped to bring out the best in all of us. There is a vacuum here in the office today and in our hearts that cannot be filled. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis – Slán go fóill, Con, a chara.*

Mary & Cathy - Newsletter Team.

## Easing of Restrictions for Religious Ceremonies

On Tuesday the government announced an easing of public health restrictions governing religious services. From this Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, until the projected lifting of all restrictions on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the limit of 50 people in our Churches will be lifted and Churches will be allowed to accommodate people up to fifty percent of the church’s capacity, subject to the following protocols which remain in place:

- Sanitising of hands upon entry and exit.
- Social distancing requirement still applies between household groups.
- Churches to be ventilated between ceremonies.

We hope that this will allow more parishioners who wish to join us for Mass to do so safely over the coming weeks as we transition towards the lifting of all restrictions. We are grateful to our stewards and sanitising volunteers for their continued generous service as we work together to help everyone feel safe as we gather in prayer. We will continue to make every effort to welcome all those who wish to join us for any of our Masses whilst respecting the guidelines to ensure the wellbeing of all.

We respectfully request that anyone with symptoms refrain from attending our services in order to protect others. We look forward to you joining us in prayer over the coming weeks.

*Copies of a Memorial Booklet to honour Fr Con’s Month’s Mind are available in all our Churches this weekend. Please feel free to pick up a copy.*

## Month's Mind Remembrance

Fr Con Cronin  
Mark Wills

## Anniversary Remembrance

Brian Hayden  
Mossie Flynn  
Bernie Andrews  
Helen Hennessy  
Pat Twomey  
Tony Boyton  
Breda Johnson  
Tom Flynn  
Jim Mullane

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord  
May they rest in peace.*

## Shamrock's GAA News

Academy starting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
September 2021 at 6.30 p.m. on the  
pitch in Shanbally. All 5 years old and  
upwards are welcome. All age groups  
continue with matches and training.  
Club Lotto Jackpot €800. Tickets  
online or from committee members.  
For all other news and fixtures please  
visit [www.shamrocksgaa.com](http://www.shamrocksgaa.com)



## Prayer for A New School Year

As we start this new school year, we  
pray that the seeds sown throughout  
these coming months will blossom in  
times to come.

May it be a season for friendship, for  
fun, for learning and for growth.

May everyone in our schools feel  
valued and respected and may everyone  
be helped to discover and develop their  
unique talents and abilities.

With God's help, and our best efforts,  
may this school year truly be a time of  
new beginnings, new discoveries, new  
hope and new friendships.

This year may we rediscover the joy of  
simply being together once more.

We make our prayer through Christ, the  
source of our wisdom. Amen.

## Finding a fitting memorial for Con

Many people have asked what we might do to honour Con and ensure that his memory is enshrined here in our community? But how do you even begin to find a fitting tribute for a man like Con? He was not a man for monuments or plaques.... which he jokingly referred to as 'dust-collectors'! Con would want any memorial to him to be a living tribute, something practical that not only honoured him but also served all the things that were dear to his heart ..... hospitality, community, faith, friendship, caring for those who needed support, prayer and music.

One idea that has emerged, and which we discussed at our Parish Assembly meeting last week, was the idea of modernising St Elizabeth's Meeting Room behind the Church in Passage West. Before Covid19 it was often used as a gathering place for a 'cuppa' after Mass during the week, a place of hospitality where friendships were forged and community celebrated. Indeed it was there that we celebrated Con's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday after Mass one Saturday evening almost three years ago. Our Church choirs use it for rehearsals. Parish and prayer groups use it for meetings. Community groups and public agencies sometimes used it to provide outreach care services to our community.

Wouldn't it be lovely if we could bring this room up to modern standards, while respecting its rich history, and dedicate it to Fr Con's memory so that all those activities that were close to his heart could continue and be enriched. Some may say that it is an overly ambitious project, but Con was a big man with an even bigger heart and he always thought big! He was a firm believer in the goodness and generosity of people and was convinced that together we could achieve anything we set our minds to. As a first step we are seeking the kind assistance of an engineer or similar professional to assess the building and draw up a report on the scope and the nature of the works that would be required so that we have a better sense of what such a project would involve. If any engineer in our community, or connected to our community, is willing to offer their services, we would be very grateful. Please email [harbourparish@gmail.com](mailto:harbourparish@gmail.com) Working together let's do something that Con would be proud of!

## A Song for Con

Copies of Clodagh Quirke's 'Song for Con' are available in the Post Office and in the Craft Shop in Passage West. All donations received will go to support a community project run by the Kiltegan Fathers in Nigeria. Check out more videos of Clodagh's music on Youtube. What an incredible talent!

## First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies

New government guidelines mean that our Confirmation and Holy Communion ceremonies, which were deferred earlier this year, can now be scheduled again. This coming week I hope to liaise with our schools to fix new dates for all our ceremonies. As agreed previously, the ceremonies will be programmed in the following order:

- Confirmation ceremonies for those children who have moved on to secondary school.
- Other Confirmation Ceremonies deferred from earlier this year.
- Holy Communion Ceremonies deferred from May of this year.

Once we have agreed new dates for these ceremonies we will communicate the details to families and publish them on our parish website. Hopefully the easing of restrictions means that we will be able to accommodate slightly more family members than last year when, unfortunately, we were limited in many instances to just parents and sponsors. We look forward to celebrating these special moments of grace with all our children and their families and ask you to keep them in your prayers over the coming weeks.

*Fr Seán*

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THE HARBOUR NEWSLETTER

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SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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