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**BULLETIN C 27 – 29TH MAY 2022
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

My dear brothers and sisters,

I must confess that I had thought that a pilgrimage to Knock at the time when I was busy with the arrangements for my anniversary mass was the last thing I needed. Yet as I was committed to be the spiritual leader I felt obliged to be there. Well how amazing God is, for the pilgrimage afforded me a great deal of time to think and to pray. To allow the peace of God in that place to refresh me and revitalise my priestly ministry. Knock is a very special place and as Daniel O'Donnell sings in *Golden Rose* I can very much concur "Lady of Knock, my Queen of Peace".

Whilst I was away Maddie Kelly has died, for eight long years she struggled with cancer and is a wonderful example of courage in adversity and strength in times weakness. Funeral plans are yet to be finalised, I will of course keep you informed. Also Dolores Day had taken a turn for the worse and I gave her the last rites as soon as I returned. Please keep Maddie and Dolores and their families in your especial prayers at this time.

I also had good news while I was away, Bishop Alan as well as Mgr Keith Newton will be with us on Thursday evening, Abbot Hugh is preaching and the organist and singers from Warwick Street will further enhance our worship.

God bless you all,
Fr. John

TIMES OF MASSES THIS WEEK

Sun	29	7th of Easter	1000 Sung Mass & Baptism of Dwayne, David and Debra 1200 Mass 1800 Mass	People of the Parish Peace in Ukraine
Tue	31	Visitation BVM	1900 Mass	Maddie Kelly (RIP)
Wed	1	St. Justin	1000 Mass 1020 Adoration	Sadie Bell (RIP)
		10.30		
Thu	2	40 th Anniversary	1900 Sung Mass	In thanksgiving
Fri	3	St. Charles Lwanga	1000 Mass	Faith Brewer (RIP)
Sun	5	Pentecost Sunday	1000 Mass 1200 Mass 1800 Mass	People of the Parish Bridle & Lindley families (RIP) Jimmy Maloney (RIP)

TIMES OF RECONCILIATION THIS WEEK

Fr John will be available this week to hear confession on Tuesday at 6.30pm and Wednesday at 10.30am, or by appointment.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

“Paradise”, by the English singer and songwriter George Ezra, was a huge hit in the United Kingdom in 2018. As a heatwave took hold of the UK that summer, the incredibly upbeat, catchy tune never seemed to be off the airwaves. The song, which playfully revels in the joy of falling in love, was part of the backdrop to two months of prolonged dry and glorious weather. The song, sung in Ezra’s deep and sonorous tone, starts with the line, “My love, my lover, lover, lover, I’m in paradise whenever I’m with you,” and proceeds towards its chorus: “If it feels like paradise running through your veins, you know it’s love heading your way.” The lyrics speak of the booming heart of the lover, beating and thumping, and the feeling of being truly alive when love comes knocking.

Jesus’ heart and the heart of the Father are united. With the Holy Spirit, they are a true communion of love. Beating as one, the heart of God is desirous of drawing all people to it. Jesus expresses that desire in this beautiful, overflowing song of love from John’s Gospel. We hear the words of Jesus and behind these words there seems to be a deep yearning. Jesus yearns, thirsts even, for a true connection with all those who will hear the word preached. Jesus wants the world to believe and for there to be unity: a united heart of all people with the burning heart of God. He reminds the Father that all those who have come into contact with him have had the glory of God showered upon them. The Holy Trinity have shared their divine life with humanity. Now Jesus wants that glory to be constantly in the view of all those who believe and are one in heart and mind.

Jesus, speaking truly as God on earth, wants the love that he knows as the Son of God the Father to be in those who follow him. In fact he wants to be in them, which is the same thing. True paradise is the reality of God’s love: Father, Son and Spirit dwelling in all hearts, with all having a deep awareness of this truth.

As a Church, it is important to be reflecting constantly upon this mystery of love. Are we able to think this over and take greater ownership of this truth? If we are, then there will surely have to be some practical implications. Jesus says elsewhere in the Gospel that people will know those who believe in him by the fruit that they bear. If unity is the deep desire at the heart of God, then we need to be aware that this will not just come about as if by the waving of a magic wand. Unity among Christians will come about when, having pondered this mystery of love, we make some concrete effort to join forces with, pray with and witness alongside our brothers and sisters from other churches. Unity with the world will come about when we simply allow the truth to keep us faithful, unashamed and always aware that we are co-workers with God according to the gifts and talents that God has blessed us with. It will take courage, but surely this is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

We are now in the novena, the nine days between Jesus’ ascension and Pentecost. These are the days of preparing to celebrate afresh the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In this time, our cry can be, “Come, Holy Spirit”, and we can remember that the Spirit constantly wishes to be poured out upon us. The Holy Spirit is the love of the Father and the Son, which is poured into our hearts. Jesus’ prayer that he might be in us is made real as he dwells within us with the Spirit and the Father. Pondering this mind-blowing truth will help us to realise that we are caught up in a constant love song. The joy of the feeling of falling in love is always present; the security of a well-established love is tangible. The possibilities are limitless when we abandon ourselves to the God who thirsts for us and gives us constant living water. So perhaps, therefore, the last word belongs to George Ezra, “Paradise, roll on, roll on. Meet me there, hold on, hold on.”

NOVENNA PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.**

**Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**