



NEWSLETTER 7TH MAY. 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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Streaming; <https://www.churchservices.tv/raharney>

www.parishofkillucan.ie Facebook: Killucan Parish

The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Saturday 6th, 6pm. Jim, Annie & Tom O'Callaghan.

Sunday 7th, 11.30am. Edward & Mary Gaffney.

Saturday 13th, 6pm. Kevin Heffernan.

Sunday 14th, 11.30am. Matt Mullen MM. Oliver & Emma Ayres. Dympna O'Rourke.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 7th, 10am. Vincent Smyth MM. John & Maureen Mulkearins & dec.d family. Tommy McKeogh & Nancy.

Sunday 14th, 10am. Jimmy, Catherine & James Egan. John Mulvaney & his son Paddy.

Weekday Masses; Thursday, Raharney 9am. Friday Rathwire 9am.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €435
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €505

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



**In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:**
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*
Take one Hour with the Lord

Cemetery Sunday; on June 18th at 3pm.

May Rosary; each Friday at the grotto in Raharney at 7pm.

Mullingar Choral Society will present their Summer concert on Sunday 7th May 2023 at 7.30pm in St. Paul's Church Mullingar. The centre piece of the concert is the Misa Criolla by Ariel Ramirez, an Argentinian Folk Mass and a musical celebration of Summer.

Accord Mullingar are currently recruiting Marriage Education Facilitators who will deliver a one day course to those preparing for marriage. This is an interesting and fulfilling role which may suit someone who has an interest in this area. Full training will be provided later this year, and no previous experience is necessary. If you are interested in the dynamics of relationships and marriage and think that you would enjoy this role, please contact the Accord Office on 044-9348707. Recruitment will take place in June 2022.

Mission to Proclaim. The risen Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life."

Jesus is the way, the path to eternal life with the Father: "no one comes to the Father but through me." To try another way is to ensure failure.

Jesus is the truth, the word of God. To seek the truth elsewhere is to "stumble and fall," to deal in falsehood and lie.

Jesus is the life, the God who has "filled all ages with the words of a new song." To live outside of Christ is to die.

Those who follow Jesus faithfully are a chosen race, "a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation." They are chosen to "proclaim the glorious works" of God. They are priestly mediators "offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God." They are consecrated to "the One who called you from darkness." Built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ, they are a powerful community, descending from that early church where "the word of God continued to spread and the number of disciples ... enormously increased." When Jesus, who had suffered the death of the cross for mankind, had risen, He appeared as the one constituted as Lord, Christ and eternal Priest, and He poured out on His disciples the Spirit promised by the Father. From this source the Church, equipped with the gifts of its Founder and faithfully guarding His precepts of charity, humility and self-sacrifice, receives the mission to proclaim and to spread among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God.

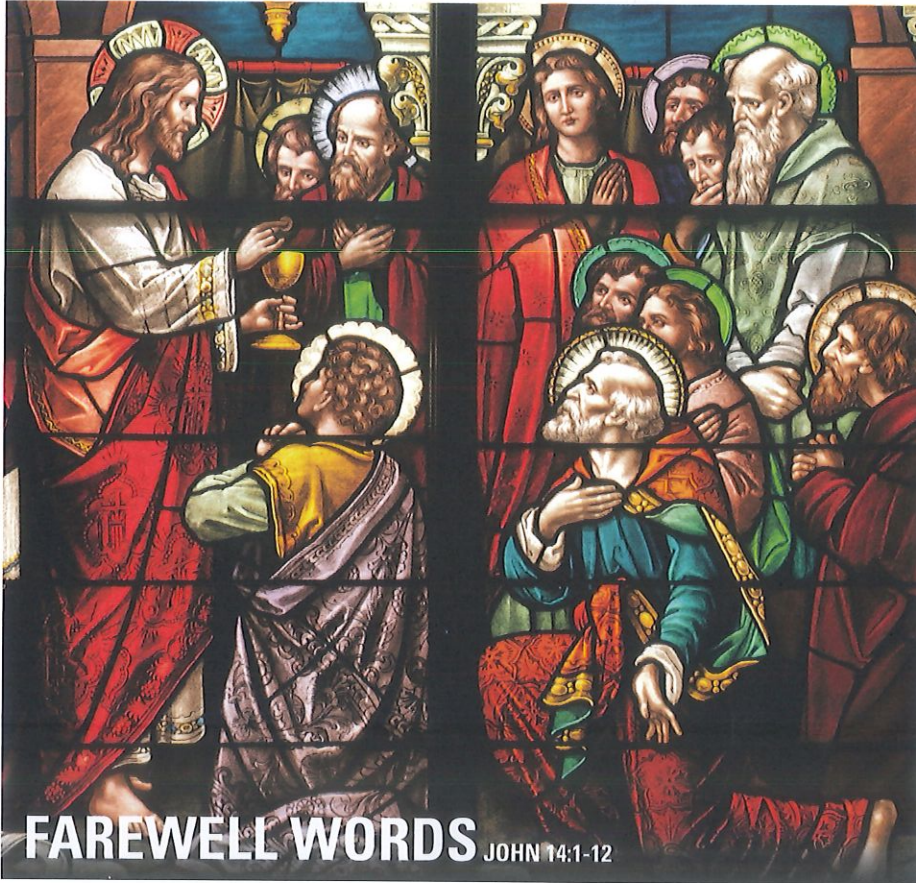
Vatican II, [*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*](#),

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 7 May 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



REFLECT

In the second reading, St Peter provides a beautiful description of who we are as Christians. He tells us that we are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart. (It’s a description that has been incorporated into one of the prefaces of the Mass.)

These words sum up who we are and what we have become by virtue of our baptism. They bring home to us what a grace and privilege it is to be ‘chosen,’ ‘consecrated,’ ‘set apart’ by God. We are royalty; we are special.

These are immensely consoling and reassuring words because they tell us that’s how God sees us and values us. He has chosen us, consecrated us, set us apart. And because that’s how God sees us, it’s how we are called to see others and ourselves too.

These are also challenging words because they demand that we live like people who are chosen, priestly, set apart. Everything that we do must reflect the status that God has given us. ■

Today’s Gospel is taken from the last of the great discourses in John’s Gospel. It is known as the Farewell Discourse and is the final teaching Jesus delivers to his disciples at the Last Supper.

Jesus’ farewell message looks to the future. He offers words of comfort to those he is leaving behind. They are to trust in God as he did. They will be reunited in the Father’s house. In ancient times, when a group of travellers needed accommodation for the night, they often sent one of their number ahead to reserve a place in the inn. He comforts them by telling them that the accommodation in the Father’s house is more luxurious than that of a rough and ready inn. It has many rooms, so they shouldn’t worry about being refused entry. He will return when the place is prepared and take them with him.

Some of the disciples are puzzled. If they don’t know where Jesus is going, Thomas asks, how will they find the way? Jesus replies with one of the great ‘I AM’ sayings: “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one can come to the Father except through me.” Just as he is the gate that offers protection and freedom of movement for his flock to the pastures of eternal life, he is also the way to God. To have known Jesus is to know the Father.

This prompts another reply, this time from Philip. For Philip, it would be enough just to see the Father. Philip may be echoing a story about Moses. Even when God appeared to him on Mount Sinai, Moses never saw God’s face. The Jews believed that humans could not see God. The sight was so powerful they could not endure it, so God usually makes himself present through symbols like fire or a thick cloud. Moses begged to be allowed to see God’s face. As a special privilege, Moses was allowed to stand in a cleft of the rock and to see God’s back as he departed from the mountain (Ex 33:18-23).

Seen in this light, Philip’s request that they be allowed to see the Father is breathtaking. But Jesus’ reply would be even more breathtaking for a Jewish audience: to have seen Jesus is to have seen the Father. This can only be understood in the light of the opening hymn of John’s Gospel (Jn 1:1-18). Jesus is the word of God who has taken flesh and dwelt among us. He has allowed God’s glory to shine in the world through his presence among us. ■

PRAY

Today’s Gospel is very popular at funerals. Pray for your deceased loved ones, that they may be enjoying eternal life in the Father’s house.

SAY

“Lord, help me to follow your way, live your truth, and model my life on yours. Amen.”

LEARN

If we want to know what God is like, we need look no further than Jesus

Jesus shows us the way to salvation

God has made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood

DO

Look at yourself in the mirror. Try to see yourself as God sees you.