

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August is the Feast of the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holyday of obligation.

St Joseph's Church	St Michael's Church	
Mon – Fri 10.00 am		
Tuesday 10 am & 7.30 pm	Tuesday 11 am	
Saturday Vigil 6 pm		
Sunday 9.00, 10.30; 12.00	Sunday 10.00 am	

St Joseph's Church Adoration Mon night 8.30 pm – 9.30 pm. Fri 10am – 10 pm St Michael's Church Thursday 10 am – Noon

Fr John Newman Tel.087-2485684. Fr Anthony Buckley Tel.087-2744617. Parish website:www.glanmireparish.ie/ Email:office@glanmireparish.ie www.facebook.com/Glanmire CatholicParish/

Parish office open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10 am to 1 pm. Tel: (021) 4820654 email:office @glanmireparish.ie

## "Courage! Do not be afraid".

As we look at the disciples in the boat, tossed by waves and overcome by a strong wind against them, it's not hard to see the figure of today's Church, threatened from without by every type of opposing force and tempted from within by fear and mediocrity. How can we read this Gospel story from the perspective of the crisis which seems to be shipwrecking the Church today? Notice how Jesus came towards them, walking on the sea. The disciples aren't able to recognize him in the midst of the storm and the dark night. Fear has them terror-stricken. The only reality is the storm. This is our main problem too. We are living the crisis of the Church, spreading discouragement and lack of faith from one to another. We can't see that Jesus is coming close to us precisely <u>in</u> our present crisis. We feel ourselves more alone and defenseless than ever.

Jesus says three things to them: "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid". Only he

can speak to them that way. But their ears only hear the pounding of the waves and the power of the wind. This too is our mistake. If we don't listen to Jesus' invitation to place our unconditional trust in him, to whom else can we go?

Peter feels an inner impulse to jump from the boat and start "walking towards Jesus across the water". That's how we need to learn to walk towards Jesus today in the midst of the crisis: supporting ourselves, not in power, prestige and securities of the past, but in the desire to meet up with Jesus in the midst of the darkness and uncertainties of our times. It's not easy of course. We too can falter and sink like Peter. But like him, we too can experience that Jesus reaches out and saves us while telling us: "Why do you doubt?"

The crisis in our Church isn't the end of Christian faith. It is the purification that we need in order to free ourselves of mundane interests, deceitful triumphalism and deformations that have separated us from Jesus over the centuries. He is acting in this crisis. He is leading us towards a more Spiritfilled Church. Let us reawaken our trust in Jesus. Do not be afraid.

Rosary at the Grotto on Tuesday evening at 8 pm.

Deaths: Sincere sympathy to the families, relatives and friends of Paddy O'Leary, Rathcooney who died on August 4th and Debbie O'Brien, Glanmire Village who died on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Stations
Coole/Templemichael at the home of John & Angela Fitzgerald on Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>
August at 8 pm.
If you would like to host a station mass in your home for your area please contact
the office.

Fatima Devotions: St Joseph's Church, Little Island Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> August. Mass 7 pm, Rosary & Adoration 8 to 9 pm.

Annual Mass walk Sunday August 20<sup>th</sup> in memory of Joe Holland. Assemble at John Kelleher's gate Butlerstown, at 8.30 am. Mass at St Mary's Church, Knockraha at 10 am.

Online Theology Course: Join our supportive student community and study theology by distance learning this Autumn. Application deadline September 26<sup>th</sup>. Tel: (01) 4048124. Email:enquiries@prioryinstitute.com. www.prioryinstitute.com