

# Pallottine Voices

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Pallottine Fathers Thurles Co Tipperary Ireland E41A271 Tel. (0504) 23678/21202 Web: pallottines.ie Email: palmissions@gmail.com

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## Our Lady Queen of Apostles Knock 2023

**Fr Liam McClarey SAC**

The annual Pallottine pilgrimage to Knock took place on the Feast of our Lady Queen of Apostles, the day before Pentecost. As always, our Mass was celebrated in the parish Church, presided over this year by Jaimie Twohig and with John Regan as the homilist.



In the Knock Basilica

The pilgrims from our two Dublin parishes travelled by bus and were joined by members from Thurles, and family members of Pallottines currently appointed outside of Ireland. We were blessed with good weather, which facilitated our outdoor Stations of the Cross.

One member from Shankill parish, Mary Moroney, made her Act of Apostolic Commitment and it is always heartening to see others claim St Vincent Pallotti as ‘their’ Founder. Mary commented after the Mass how ‘happy’ she was to have taken this step.

Pat Maguire has now completed his time as UAC President in Ireland and that is something that confronts the National Coordination Council in Ireland, as his successor is to be nominated.

Some often question what separates ‘our’ pilgrimage from other pilgrimages also undertaken to Knock. It is a good question that makes us look at ourselves. I think the answer may be in the ‘symbols’ that are presented after the entrance hymn of the Mass. These are specifically Pallottine – the image of Mary Queen of Apostles in the Cenacle, the Statutes of the Union and our Pallottine community prayer book. Our prayers said in the buses and in Knock,

individually and collectively, along with the celebration of Mass keep us importantly in communion with the universal Church. But it is good to note the uniqueness of our Charism, which is a gift for the universal Church.

The Society of the Missionaries of Africa {SMA} and the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles {OLA} were in the Basilica for their annual pilgrimage.

Members of both enquired about our Pallottine members living and deceased. It is a reminder of our interconnectedness in the work of the Lord and how our members are remembered in so many different places.




Mary Moroney

### Homily by **Fr John Regan SAC**

We are here today, to celebrate the feast of Mary Queen of Apostles. Devotion to Mary was very important for Vincent Pallotti. We know of that deep personal love that Pallotti had for his most beloved mother Mary. It was that personal love and the role of Mary in the Apostolate that prompted him to give Mary as patroness, intercessor, model and teacher to the members of the society of the Catholic Apostolate.

In the picture of Our Lady Queen of Apostles brought up by Jacinta at the beginning of Mass, we see the Apostles gathered around Our Lady. She is in the centre immersed in prayer and Saint Vincent Pallotti reminds us “Wherever I shall be, I intend to imagine myself to be together with all creatures in the cenacle in Jerusalem where the apostles received the Holy Spirit”.

So today we celebrate our Lady Queen of Apostles. Tomorrow we celebrate Pentecost and really the two are inseparable – Mary and the Holy Spirit who brought Jesus the saviour into the world. When we contemplate this great mystery, the two work powerfully together. It was a combination of our Lady and the Holy Spirit that formed Jesus in the womb.

That’s why it’s important that we pray to Mary and 

## Fr. Brendan Walsh SAC Silver Jubilee of Ordination

### Fr Rory Hanly SAC

Brendan and I joined the Pallottines the same year – 1991 – along with Emmet O’Hara and 6 others. I’m not sure if the Pallottines knew what hit them, although certainly we cannot have been the first group of students to cause some consternation!

One of my first memories of Brendan was his cartoonist’s sense of humour: “I will praise the Lord on the ten-stringed lute”, he said during one evening prayer, “with a wah- wah pedal” (for a funkier sound), giving it his own inimitable contemporary twist! Times of angst during our



✚ the Holy Spirit together in this most simple but powerful prayer: “Come holy spirit, come by means of the powerful intercession of the immaculate heart of Mary your well-beloved spouse”. So, we can understand why this image of our Lady Queen of Apostles – all gathered in the upper room praying together – played such an important role in Vincent’s life.

As a young boy, he struggled with his studies but on the advice of his mother Vincent prayed for nine days to the Holy Spirit which helped him greatly. He became one of the best students in his class and after his ordination in 1818 he obtained two doctorates – one in philosophy and one in theology. Doesn’t it show us all the power of praying to the Holy Spirit? Life takes on a new meaning.

Then when we look at all the Apostolates that Vincent Pallotti initiated, Prisons, Hospitals, Schools, Orphanages, catechesis for young people and for farmers coming into Rome every month. The reason for the success of all those Projects was because he kept praying, going back into the cenacle, whenever he hit a crisis. What did he do? He went back into the cenacle and handed everything over to God.

The fuel for his work was prayer.

years of formation and study were often greatly tempered by resounding laughter and strong bonds of friendship and mutual support, with Brendan a major contributor.

Having joined the Pallottines after a number of years of work and travel, Brendan brought a varied experience of life to his calling. I think that it is fair to say that a profound experience of the power of the Spirit of God and of the gifts of the Spirit to bring healing and conversion at a crucial moment in his own life has marked both his vocation and his ministry.

In his different postings over the last 25 years, whether in parishes, with young people in campus ministry, in hospital chaplaincy or retreat work, a strong common thread running through everything was his desire to try to allow that same Spirit to work through him to offer something of that same healing and conversion and freedom to those with whom he ministered and to help them in their turn, in their own way and in their own calling, to become bearers of that same possibility of new life in Christ to others.

As you celebrate with gratitude 25 years of the gift of ordination to the priesthood, Brendan, may that desire come to ever deeper and fuller fruition in your own life and ministry, in the lives of those with whom you minister and indeed in all of our lives.

May we always remember that “we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us” (2 Cor 4:7). “Glory be to Him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen” (Eph 3:20-21).

And that is the secret for us all, to bring everything into prayer and asking God and his blessed Mother to bless our work. He spoke of Our Lady as, “Mother of Divine Love” and “Queen of Apostles”. It is said, “I shall not rest until, if possible, I have achieved an infinitely tender love for my much beloved and much loving mother, Mary.”

Our Gospel today describes for us the word of God that was given to John from the lips of the dying Jesus about his relationship with Mary “Woman, this is your Son and then to the disciple, “this is your Mother.” And John from that moment made a place for Mary in his home.

At this moment Jesus gave Mary to us as a mother for all humanity. We too have to invite her into our homes, our lives, and our hearts, as she draws us all ever so close to her Son Jesus. That also is the message here in Knock. The Lamb on the Altar is at the centre and Jesus needs to be at the centre of our lives. The Mass needs to be at the heart of our faith. That is what our Lady wants. She is always trying to bring us, her children, to her Son, and particularly in the Mass.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles pray for us.

Our Lady of Knock pray for us.



## No Place for Idleness

Pat Maguire

Larger parish units with fewer priests appears to be inevitable for the foreseeable future in the Dublin Archdiocese. St Anne's Parish, Shankill, has become part of a six-parish partnership and will evolve into a new pastoral area in the coming months and years. The new structure will provide a basis of stability in an era of fewer Masses and lower church attendance. The success of this strategy will require increased lay participation and co-responsibility.

During the Second Vatican Council the 'Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People' stated 'Let the lay faithful constantly foster a feeling for their own diocese, of which the parish is a kind of cell, and be always ready at their bishops' invitation to participate in diocesan projects'. Clearly, the current diocesan strategy named 'Hope' is such a project and it calls for a generous response from all of us. Together we can make this work.

The Pope, Saint John Paul II, in his Apostolic Exhortation 'Christifideles Laici' reminded us that the great call of Vatican Council 'summoned all of the faithful, men & women to labour in the Lord's Vineyard'. Saint Vincent Pallotti saw the same need for lay participation and acted by setting up the Union of the Catholic Apostolate. The vision of both men can be an inspiration for all of us during this period


of change. In Christifideles Laici the challenges to the church are presented with great clarity. The growth of science and technology has changed the way in which people see the world.

- People are living their lives with little awareness or thought for the mystery of God.
- Across the world there are numerous threats to human dignity with fundamental human rights being denied: the right to shelter/housing, to freedom of conscience and religion, to work, to education and to health care.
- The rights of children are often denied by abandonment, neglect, lack of access to education, and basic care.
- Worst of all, life itself is obliterated by abortion.

In addition, we now know that the right to bodily integrity was taken through the sexual abuse of minors. Consequently, child protection must now be front and centre of all parish activity. Although some of the challenges mentioned in Christifideles Laici are being met by various agencies both civil and religious, many are still part of the reality in which the Church finds itself in Ireland today. Also, the clear and looming threat of climate change requires urgent attention and action.

Addressing the apparent deafness or blindness to the presence of God, Archbishop Martin recently appealed for prayers for an increase in Faith, Hope and Love among the people of Ireland. His urgent appeal is both timely and necessary as we await the outcome of the Bishops' Congress, which will conclude later this year. It echoes the Pope's call in Christifideles Laici that 'since the work that awaits everyone in the vineyard of the Lord is so great, there is no place for idleness' (CFL 3).

The Apostolic Exhortation in Christifideles Laici is a very rich and powerful source and resource for local faith groups. It can provide guidance for fruitful action at a time that clearly requires urgent lay participation. Thank God for all the wonderful groups that are active in St Anne's Parish and beyond. We will need even

more participation by those not yet involved to nurture and develop existing faith communities in the parish of the future. In Christifideles Laici the Pope reminded us that the parish 

### Cemetery Sunday

Our Pallottine Cemetery Sunday will take place on Sunday 10th of September at the cemetery in Cabra, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.



Unfortunately, there is no Eircode for the cemetery but the neighbour who lives directly opposite our entrance gate offered their code (E41 K407) as a guide for you. Should it be raining, we are providing a marquee for shelter and for light refreshments after Mass. We hope you will be able to join us there.

Concelebrated Mass will be offered at 3.00 pm in the cemetery for the repose of the souls of our deceased Pallottines, relatives and friends. As you may be the only member of your family we have contacted, please extend this invitation to other members of the family to join us in praying for our dead. Looking forward to seeing you on this special occasion.

May the Lord bless you with good health and His Peace.



✎ is not principally a structure, a territory or a building but rather 'the family of God', a fellowship afire with a 'unifying spirit' the community of the faithful.

This community or communities will continue to need lay people to take:

- Initiatives in prayer and spirituality.
- Initiatives in the area of liturgy so that it continues to be a living expression of Christian Hope.
- Initiatives to address the great and urgent need for personal renewal in faith.
- Initiatives to provide care for those most in need of loving care in our community.

As Christifideles Laici states, the parish is the Church 'happening' in the neighbourhoods of humanity and its fundamental mission is to be a place in the world for the community of believers to **gather together**. In a world that can be quite cynical, disinterested, rocked by scandal and is often hostile to religion, it is not an easy environment in which to express our faith.

Yet, it is precisely in this environment that we are called to make visible God's presence in our world and we should not be afraid. Numerous times throughout the Bible we are told 'Be not afraid'. Indeed, Jesus himself has assured us not to be afraid because 'He will be with us even to the end of time'.

In order to discover what it is we should be doing, it is necessary to return time and again to what Jesus himself says. When it was put to Jesus 'What must I do in order to be saved' He said 'You must love God and love your Neighbour as you would love yourself'.

At the heart of the Christian message, each one is invited to form and enter into this great triangular relationship of love. It seems to me that the starting point is to appreciate fully what Jesus has said, which is love God, love all those we come in contact with and love ourselves.

Perhaps the one that will cause us the most difficulty is love of self. In the past, love of self was not always understood and appreciated either in our Church or in our Society and this has caused many problems. Love of self is not about selfishness, it is not about egotism or about being proud, but instead it is recognising that what God has created is very good. How often do we marvel at God's creation when we see the miracle of a newborn baby's fingernails, the majesty of the Alps or the magnificence of the Universe at night. How essential it is to appreciate fully what God has done in giving us the gift of life. If we are fully to enter into the great triangular relationship of love then we must remember and frequently recall that God has made us in His own image and likeness.

Jesus invites each one of us to use our freedom and our free will to form this relationship. God has made us radically free, each of us is free to forgive, to be compassionate, to liberate, to be generous, to heal, to be merciful, and free to give good example and above all free to love as Jesus did. In so far as we can do this in our ordinary lives' we are making visible God's presence among us and we are making real the Kingdom of God on earth. Even though as the Hymn goes 'Our love is only a shadow of his love for us', it is still a beautiful shadow and a shadow the world needs very much because all of us are sinners and all of us need forgiveness, all of us are in need of mercy, all of us need to be loved.

The task therefore that awaits all of us in the Lord's Vineyard is to live a faith that reaches into every part and every aspect of our own lives and which brings light to every corner of our world. Saint Vincent Pallotti said it was the infinite love and mercy of God that urges us on and if we reflect some of His infinite love and mercy in the place where we are planted it will light up every corner.

There is indeed no place for idleness.

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**Pallottine Fathers Missions**  
**Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland E41A271**

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