**A Word From Pope Francis**

Jesus alone opens up before us the doors of life, those doors that continually we shut with the wars spreading throughout the world. Today we want, first and foremost, to turn our eyes to the Holy City of Jerusalem, that witnessed the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, and to all the Christian communities of the Holy Land.

My thoughts go especially to the victims of the many conflicts worldwide, beginning with those in Israel and Palestine, and in Ukraine. May the risen Christ open a path of peace for the war-torn peoples of those regions.  In calling for respect for the principles of international law, I express my hope for a general exchange of all prisoners between Russia and Ukraine: all for the sake of all!

Brothers and sisters, let us not forget Syria, which for thirteen years has suffered from the effects of a long and devastating war. So many deaths and disappearances, so much poverty and destruction, call for a response on the part of everyone, and of the international community.

My thoughts turn today in a special way to Lebanon, which has for some time experienced institutional impasse and a deepening economic and social crisis, now aggravated by the hostilities on its border with Israel. May the Risen Lord console the beloved Lebanese people and sustain the entire country in its vocation to be a land of encounter, coexistence and pluralism.

May the risen Christ open a path of hope to all those who in other parts of the world are suffering from violence, conflict, food insecurity and the effects of climate change. May the Lord grant consolation to the victims of terrorism in all its forms

May the risen Lord assist the Haitian people.

May Christ grant consolation and strength to the Rohingya, beset by a grave humanitarian crisis, and open a path to reconciliation in Myanmar.

May the Lord open paths of peace on the African continent, especially for the suffering peoples in Sudan and in the entire region of the Sahel.

May the light of the resurrection illumine our minds and convert our hearts and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected and loved.

**POPE FRANCIS**

**Pope Francis**

# **This Is Your Easter, Thomas** By  [**Rebecca Ruiz**](https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/author/ruiz/)

Thomas, Isolated, Confused ,Afraid ,Doubting Sadness ,Emptiness ,Loneliness ,Pain, Devastation

Alone without community Alone what made sense then seems ridiculous now. Desolation. A dark night. He asks, *How then shall I live?* Out of the darkness, an optimistic note, a ray of light.

*There comes encounter.* A hand extended, A side plunged into. And with encounter, *An invitation.*

To let go of disappointment,anger,shame, fear, pain.

To be free of sadness,emptiness,loneliness guilt. And be reconciled.

An invitation to Mercy and to Trust.

To Thomas, He says, “Do not be afraid. I did not leave you! I still love you. Do not be afraid. You are not alone. I am with you.

Do not fear opening your heart again. I am here.You are safe. You are forgiven. You are loved.” In His hands, His side, An invitation to Hope. An invitation to Love. An invitation to Joy.

This is your Easter, Thomas.

A close up of a text

Description automatically generated

A painting of a group of people

Description automatically generated

# **Kilmacanogue**.

**Kilmacanogue History Society**

Our next Talk is tomorrow evening, Monday 8th April at 8pm in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall and our Speaker is well known- Kevin Myers on the subject of "Wicklow, Ireland and the Second World War"- expect a fascinating Talk!.

**Laudato Si- Pope Francis**

There is a growing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing, for what is happening to our planet… Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it. (#19)

**Parish Link**

If you would like to advertise an event in the parish link, it needs to have been sent to the office by 10 am on Thursday morning each week at the latest.

The earlier in the week the better, please.

**Please share activities from your communities so that all can support and celebrate with you.**

A tree with a heart shaped tree

Description automatically generated

A compass on a map

Description automatically generated

**This Week We Remember… 7th  April**

**St. Mary’s 11 am**:

Larry Rodgers (RD)

Owen and Violet McGuirk (A) and Reggie Mc Guirk (son) RIP

A close up of a flower

Description automatically generated

**PARISH LINK April 6th /7th**

**Welcome to our celebration of the Eucharist this weekend!**

**Next Week We Remember…14th April**

**St Patrick’s10am:** Neil Deasy (3rd A)

Joan Byrne and deceased members of the Howard family

**St. Mary’s 11 am**: Brigid Maguire (1st A)

Mary Maguire. (10th A)

**Reflection for the coming week**

Spring isn't just a change in the weather; it's a powerful symbol of renewal and growth. As the days stretch longer and nature bursts into life, we too have the chance to rejuvenate our spirits and foster new growth within ourselves. This is the perfect moment to shed the old, embrace the new, and sow seeds of kindness and wellbeing that can flourish throughout the year.

Imagine your life as a garden. Just as a gardener nurtures their plants with care and attention, you have the power to cultivate your own wellbeing and spread kindness like seeds on fertile ground. This exercise is your starting point, a guide to help you reflect on where you've been and where you're heading, to identify the kind of growth you want to see in your life, and to plan how to nurture it. You don't need any special tools or skills to begin—just a quiet place to sit, something to write with, and an open, curious mind. As you embark on this journey, remember, every great garden starts with just a few small seeds. In the same way, even the smallest acts of kindness towards yourself and others can grow into something beautiful and transformative.

So, let's embrace the promise of spring together. Let’s explore how we can each grow our gardens of kindness and wellbeing, making the world around us a little brighter, one small act at a time.

**A TIME FOR HEALING -APOLOGIES**

We are really sorry and disappointed to have tell you that, unfortunately the ***time for*** ***healing*** seminar which was to take place on the 20th of April, has been postponed until the end of September.

We **will** run it again, and it will be advertised well in advance.

Thank you all for taking

such an interest in it,

and we hope you

will be available to

attend in the Autumn .

Close-up of hands clapping

Description automatically generated

A group of flowers and grass

Description automatically generated

Ephesians 4:32**"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."**

**A Prayer for Healing *on World Health Day***

## **Renew My Mind, Body and Soul**

O' Holy One  
I come before you today in need of your healing hand.  
In you all things are possible.  
Hold my heart within yours, and renew my mind, body, and soul.

I am lost, but I come to you with grace.

You gave us life, and you also give us the gift of infinite joy. Give me the strength to move forward on the path you've laid out for me. Guide me towards better health, and give me the wisdom to identify those you've placed  
around me to help me get better.

- Author Unknown

**REMINDERS…….**

* There is no **Down time Thursday** this month as it falls on Holy Thursday, next one is the 25th of April.
* Baptism requests are now taking place online.
* We are looking for more people to join our new music group in St Mary’s. All are welcome.

A cartoon cat with a sad expression

Description automatically generated

A yellow emoji holding a sign

Description automatically generated