

## St John and Love

Did you know that the word “love” is mentioned 57 times in the Gospel of St John? That is more times than in the other three Gospels combined! Last week Jesus spoke about the unity of the vine and the vine branches to produce fruit – one of those fruits being love. Today, he speaks explicitly about love itself. This is the life-giving source of that union. The love that the Son receives from the Father is shared with his disciples and with us, who are encouraged to live in that love. *“Love one another, as I have loved you.”*

Jesus tells us to love one another as He loved us. *“No greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.”* That is what we call “a big ask.” Is Jesus telling us to “give up everything” like He did? Jesus’ love for us was so deep that He was willing to die for us! This was some gift – it is now a challenge for us. How do I begin to love those who have hurt me? Those who inflicted hardship, pain or left me with feelings of rejection or somehow feeling less a person? The question is: am I willing to “die” to myself? Or to what extent are we willing to die for one another? Am I able to see Jesus present in those around me?

When Jesus asks us to “die” for one another He does not literally mean we are to “die” in a physical sense. Yet, when we give fully and freely of ourselves to the people in our lives, in a sense, we are dying to ourselves. We are putting others first, rather than ourselves. This is true humility. True love is always focused upon the other. We freely give of our time, attention, care and love. Is there a better gift we can give to the people we love and cherish? What better gift can we give to our world? Think of how much parents sacrifice for their children. Or how soldiers often lay down their lives for their country, for an ideal or for their comrades.

Let us take a moment and ask ourselves: who are the people who “die” for me? What are the gifts I receive from them: love, attention, care, a phone call, interest or help when I need it? Could there be any better gifts to receive? Yet, so often, so many of us take these seemingly “small” gifts for granted. Each day why not take a few minutes to think and consciously remember the “gifts” you received each day. Then remember the people who gifted you. Give thanks to God (- and perhaps to them -) for their presence in your life!

**6th SUNDAY OF EASTER 2021**  
**PRIEST ON DUTY: FR.MARK BENNETT C.C. 071-9620118**

### **MASS FOR SUNDAY 9th MAY**

**ST.MARY’S Sunday 10am** :James Cummins (1st Anniv)  
Francis Shanley (2nd Anniv)  
Joe Flynn (4th Anniv)  
Patrick Mc Garry (7th Anniv)

### **MASSES FROM MONDAY 10th MAY TO SATURDAY 15th MAY**

**Monday 8pm:** Edward ,Mary & John Stokes (Anniv)

**Tuesday 10am:** Private Intention

**Wednesday 10am:** Private Intention

**Thursday 10am:** John & Bridget Reilly (Anniv)

**Friday 8pm:**

**Saturday 10am:**

**LEITRIM Tuesday 8pm:**

**GOWEL Friday 7pm:** Francis Gilmartin (Anniv)

### **MASSES FOR SATURDAY 15th & SUNDAY 16th MAY**

**St.Mary’s 9am:**Pauline Flynn (Anniv)

**1030am:**

**12noon:**Padraig & Gabrielle McCrann & deceased members  
of the McCrann family

**St.Mary’s 10am RETURN TO CELEBRATION:** We are delighted to announce that we can return to the celebration of Mass with our parishioners from Monday 10th May. In accordance with government guidelines, up to 50 people will be allowed to attend mass in our church. This will only apply to St. Mary’s Church as social distancing has still to be observed. Masses in St. Mary’s will resume at 8pm on Monday 10th May and daily mass will be celebrated each day at the usual times. We will resume weekend masses on Saturday 15th May at 8pm and on Sunday 16th at 9am; 10.30am and 12 noon. Weekday masses in Leitrim and Gowel will resume as follows: on Tuesday 11th May in Leitrim at 8pm and Friday 14th May in Gowel at 7pm.