

Sunday 24th July 2022

Parish Newsletter

Reflection: Prayer is not so much about saying lots of words as about creating and maintaining a close friendship with our loving God. Prayer is as much about listening to God as it is talking to God! Prayer is a very dangerous thing to do! When we pray we are not trying to change God, it is about be open to God

changing us! Every time we pray the 'Our Father' we pray 'may your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.' This means that we are ready to build and promote God's kingdom, not our own. When we pray and precisely because we pray we are called to turn our eyes to our brothers and sister who are in need. Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was martyred in El Salvador said, 'The guarantee of one's prayer

is not saying lots of words. The guarantee of one's prayer is very easy to know: how do I treat the poor? – because that is where God is. What you do to them, you do to God. The way you look at them is the way you look at God.' As we pray this week, let us ask for the strength to be open to God touching our hearts, changing our lives and changing how we treat each other.





Garryowen Residents Association continues to enhance and maintain Our Lady's Shrine.

^{mts} Situated on South Claughaun Road in Garryowen in

St John's Parish. The 'Shrine' has been an integral part of our community for over forty years. A lot of the residents that committed so much time and effort to build this symbol of community spirit are sadly no longer with us. We'd like to think they are smiling down on their legacy from on high.



If you would like to leave a potted plant or flowers to remember a loved one please do.



Pope Francis established a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly which took place for the first time on Sunday 25th July 2021. In 2022, the celebration is today Sunday 24th July, the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of Jesus. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's celebration is: *"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15).*

The Catholic Grandparents Association has been at the forefront in campaigning for a greater recognition of Grandparents for their role and vocation in passing on their faith to the next generation. The announcement of a new Church-wide celebration for Grandparents and the elderly came in answer to our prayerful request to the Holy Father Pope Francis.

This new worldwide celebration in the Universal Church calendar is a momentous achievement for Grandparents and the Elderly and will hopefully reassure them that they are loved and that they are needed.

Their experience of life and faith can contribute, in fact, to building societies that are aware of their roots and capable of dreaming of a future based on greater solidarity. The invitation to listen to the wisdom of the years is also particularly significant in the context of the synodal journey that the Church has undertaken.

