

WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK'S ESKER/DODSBORO/ADAMSTOWN
NEWSLETTER

17TH MAY 2020



Welcome To
St Patrick's Esker/Doddsboro/ Adamstown
May 17, 2020

We remember in today's Mass: Ray Whelan, Marian Tracy,
Maura Mulligan, Hannah & William Brennan
whose anniversaries occur.



Readings – Sun 17th May

The first reading - The people in a certain Samaritan town welcomed the Good News; yet then we hear that Samaria as a whole had accepted the word of God. The implication is clear: once the word of God is planted in one place, it is a leaven that reaches out to all its surroundings!

The second reading - The task of apologetics finds its clearest biblical mandate in the words of St Peter: 'Always have your answer ready for people who ask you...' But it's not just a matter of winning arguments, and we win hearts when we answer 'with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience.'

The Gospel - John 14:15-21 - Indirectly, this Gospel reading gives us a definition of the Holy Spirit: He is the one without whom we would be orphans!.

Biblical Reflection ~ Fr. John will be broadcasting a five minute biblical reflection Mon-Fri at 10am on the parish web site – www.st.patrickslucan.ie

David Gaffney SJ: a gentle and dedicated Jesuit -

Irish Jesuit David Gaffney, a native of Thomastown, Kilkenny, passed away in St Vincent's Hospital on 6th May. He was 79. He assisted in our parish during the holiday periods, First Confessions, Advent and Holy Week ceremonies. David was well known in Finnstown housing estate where he engaged in frequent house visitation. Due to current government guidelines regarding public gatherings, the funeral was private. A memorial Mass to celebrate David's life will take place at a later date.

The condolences posted on the RIP.ie website display the high regard and warm affection which people had for him wherever he lived and worked. The same adjectives are used repeatedly: kind, wise, gentle, pleasant, peaceful, caring.

"We joined the Jesuits on the same day, September 6, 1958," writes Barney McGuckian SJ; "He always edified me with his gentleness but also his tenacity in following the highest ideals of a Jesuit vocation. Gifted intellectually, he placed his God-given talents at the service of ordinary people, both as a writer and as a "hands-on" visitor to their homes."

In the decades after he joined the Jesuits, David gained a great deal of intellectual and pastoral experience in many parts of the world. After an Arts degree in UCD, he went to Germany to study philosophy, returned to Ireland to study theology, then did further Jesuit formation in Canada before working for three years in a parish in Lusaka, Zambia. He then worked in the United States in marriage counselling for four years before his definitive return to Ireland in 1982.

In the years since then he worked in marriage and family apostolates and as an editor of various publications. He was a regular columnist at the Kilkenny People and later with The Avondhu for a number of years, writing reflective opinion pieces regularly.

Regarding this work, Conall O'Quinn, former Jesuit and rector of Milltown Park, notes that in his articles David wanted to promote truly human values and "worked ceaselessly to 'vamp up' in his own mind his writing so that it would be more eye-catching, even if that aspiration was contrary to his retiring personality..."

In all of David's activities he worked with great grace and devotion.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

ALONE - Corona Virus Helpline for Older
People - If you have concerns or queries about Covid-19 call ALONE's
dedicated support line 0818 222 024 everyday 8am-8pm.