



Third Sunday of Lent – 23 March 2025

## NOT EVERYONE GETS BURIED IN THEIR OWN CHURCH



Photo Barry Roche

Not everybody gets to be buried on their own land after a funeral at their own church, but then again Willie Kingston was not everybody. Friends and neighbours gathered at his west Cork home on Sunday to share their memories of Mr Kingston and wish him a fond farewell. Described variously as an environmentalist and ecologist before those terms gained currency, the 82-year-old farmed organically for decades, with his love of nature ensuring his 140-acre hillside farm outside

Innishannon became a fertiliser- and pesticide-free sanctuary for wildlife. "If you create the habitat, the wildlife will come," Mr Kingston told The West Cork People last year, echoing Kevin Costner in *Fields of Dreams*. He had the evidence all around him to prove his thesis, with his farm long a home to rabbits, foxes, hares, badgers, otters and hedgehogs and all sorts of birdlife. Among the most striking features of Mr Kingston's farm were the nine lakes he created, fed by a local spring. It was to one of those lakes that people made their way on Sunday to visit both a church and a cottage which he built on two man-made islands linked by a necklace of gangways. "Each morning I wake, I thank the creator for giving me life, for giving me sight to see the great beauty of all living things. There is also the great joy of meeting friends and having entertainment and craic," said Mr Kingston last year, referencing his great love for nature and good company. Friends and neighbours recalled nights of ceol agus craic in the cottage, where the warm hospitality shown by Mr Kingston and his wife, Patricia, who survives him, often stretched into the early hours as music and song and laughter echoed across the lake. There was a stillness on Sunday as mourners made their way from the cottage to the church on the nearby island to see Mr Kingston laying in repose. He was in an eco-friendly water hyacinth coffin he had chosen for his burial on his own farm after getting a licence from Cork County Council for the grave. Piper Dan Lane played *Mo Ghile Mear* as friends wheeled Mr. Kingston's coffin across the narrow gangway to shore. They then shouldered his remains to a hillside field he had chosen to be buried in, with the spot between a round tower and an underground sun chamber he built years ago. As the mourners followed the coffin to his final resting place, surrounded by a screen of blackthorn trees, one of the prairie dogs Mr Kingston had introduced to the farm many years ago emerged from one of the mounds pimpling the field before darting back underground, its curiosity satiated. As the evening sun cast shadow across the field, mourners raised a tumbler of whiskey and toasted Mr Kingston to the echoes of his friend Sheila O'Regan singing *The Parting Glass*.

*Courtesy: Barry Roche – Irish Times*

## POPE FRANCIS CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

Pope Francis's condition continued to improve and he no longer needs to use non-invasive mechanical ventilation to help him breathe at night, the Vatican said. The pontiff, 88, is also reducing his reliance on high-flow supplemental oxygen during the day, the Vatican said in a medical bulletin. Francis celebrated Mass on Ash Wednesday, which was the anniversary of his installation as pope 12 years ago. Francis has been at Rome's Gemelli hospital since February 14 for a complex lung infection that turned into pneumonia in both lungs. For two nights in a row, he has not needed to use the mechanical ventilation mask, and doctors said its use had been "suspended".



*Courtesy Maldon Standard*

## Mass & Eucharistic Service

In St. James's Parish there is 10am Mass on Mon, Tues & Weds. Every Friday at 10am there is a full Eucharistic Service. Sunday Mass at 10am.



## Remembered this Weekend

David Hogan 50th (Birth R)  
O'Sullivan Family  
Nigel Monaghan (8th A)  
Vera Roe (3rd A)  
Tony Roe (16th A)  
May Irving (100th Birth R)  
Eddie Chandler (15th A)



## Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

"The Dublin Diocese pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Saturday April 26th. If we can fill a bus from the Liberties parishes we could join in so let us know now if you are interested by giving your name to Fr. Colin (01-4426296) before 1st April."



## National Spring Clean 2025

April is national Spring Clean month and a great opportunity to organise and be part of a cleanup initiative to care for and enhance your street or wider area. In addition to the annual An Taisce monthly-long drive, Dublin City Council will be hosting its citywide Team Dublin Cleanup on Saturday 26th April. Registrations for the event open shortly... but you can also register with An Taisce and apply for a cleanup kit at: <https://nationalspringclean.org>



## Towards Peace

is a service offering spiritual support for anybody who has been abused, physically emotionally, sexually or spiritually, in a religious/church environment. The Towards Peace office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9am to 4pm and Wednesday 9am to 12noon. For further information phone 01 5053028 or 086 7710533 or visit [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie)

### 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

#### Penitential Rite

As we enter into the mystery of Gods' wisdom, let us be mindful of his great love for us.

You lead us to your light and life. Lord have mercy

You show us your truth and love. Christ have mercy

You ask us to follow your way. Lord have mercy

May our wise and ever merciful God, forgive us our sin and bring us finally to everlasting life. Amen

#### Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

#### 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

#### Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

#### Prayer of the Faithful

Lord God, through your love for us we discover the mystery of who you are. We bless you. Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, in taking on human living, we discover the mystery of who we are. We bless you. Lord hear us

Holy Spirit, by your wisdom and inspiration, we discover the mystery of who we can be. We bless you. Lord hear us

We call to mind all those who have died, and especially those who have died through violence, hunger and war. May the injustice of their deaths drive us to be more faithful to the ways of the Gospel. Lord hear us

Lord God, who says, "I am who am", teach us to live in the moment. Lord hear us

In silence we remember those in need of our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



#### Reflection

Somewhere, out at the edges, the night  
Is turning and the waves of darkness  
Begin to brighten the shore of dawn  
The heavy dark falls back to earth  
And the freed air goes wild with light,  
The heart fills with fresh, bright breath  
And thoughts stir to give birth to color.  
I arise today  
May I live this day  
Compassionate of heart,  
Clear in word,  
Gracious in awareness,  
Courageous in thought,  
Generous in love.

John O'Donohue