



PARISH OF CASHEL NEWSLETTER
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 29TH APRIL 2015
FR. MERLYN KENNY-043 3325112



Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:

Sat 28th April	8.00pm	Danny Farrell, Elfect. (3rd Anniv)
Sun 29th April	10.30am	Michael Healy, Pollagh.
Mon 30th April	8.00pm	Mass for the people of the Parish.
Tues 1st May	8.00pm	Special Intention
Wed 2nd May	No Mass.	
Thurs 3rd May	9.30am	Special Intention.
Fri 4th May	8.00pm	Tom Killian, Forthill & London. (Months Mind)
Sat 5th May	8.00pm	Michael Fallon, Greenhall, (1st Anniv).
Sun 6th May	10.30am	The O'Shea Family, Clounce.

First Friday Calls will be make on Thursday & Friday this week.

Rosary continues on Saturday evening at 7.45pm.

Eucharistic Adoration continues on Wednesday 3pm-9pm and Friday 8.30pm-9pm

Eucharistic Roster:

8.00pm Sat 5th May	Teresa Costello & Bernadette Farrell.
10.30am Sun 6th May	Dermot Healy & Anne Kenny.

Readers' Roster:

8.00pm Sat 5th May	Gerard Brennan.
10.30am Sun 6th May	Dermot Healy.

World Meeting of Families: A second collection will be taken up this weekend in conjunction with the Pope's visit in August.

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Tom Skelly who died recently

Nature Walk The annual Tidy Towns Nature Walk takes place this year through a beautiful part of the parish on Monday the 7th of May at 2:30pm from The Hill. We invite all to come and enjoy themselves and they will be helping the Tidy Towns collect some funds to keep improving the village.

Irena Sendler, who died 12th May 2008, aged 98, is credited with having saved the lives of some 2,500 Jewish children in the Warsaw ghetto during the Second World War.

By 1942 the Nazis had herded some 500,000 Polish Jews into the ghetto - an area of about one square kilometre - to await transportation to the extermination camps. Starvation and disease, especially typhoid, were endemic.

Irena Sendler was a Polish Roman Catholic social worker in the city who already had links with Żegota, the code name for the Council for Aid to Jews, and in December 1942 Żegota put her in charge of its children's department.

Wearing nurses' uniforms, she was sent into the ghetto with food, clothes and medicine, including a vaccine against typhoid. It soon became clear, however, that the ultimate destination of many of the Jews was to be the Treblinka death camp, and Żegota decided to try to save as many children as possible.

Some children were transported in coffins, suitcases and sacks; others escaped through the sewer system beneath the city. There were two common routes used to smuggle the children out, through two buildings that straddled the border between the Ghetto and the rest of Warsaw. One building was an old courthouse, the other was a church. Children old enough to be taught some basic Catholic prayers - to trick the Nazi guards - would be sneaked into the church from the Jewish side. Once inside, they would remove their yellow stars and pretend to be Christian children. They would exit through the front door of the church. The Nazis used various tricks to try to catch Jews escaping this way. Irena and her helpers trained the children well—they were never caught coming out of the church with Jewish children.

Younger children could not be rescued through the buildings. Instead, Irena would place them in gunny sacks or toolboxes and carry them out of the ghetto, or she would hide them under potatoes in a cart. Once, she took a child out concealed in a coffin. On other occasions, she was able to legally take seriously ill children out of the ghetto in an ambulance. At other times, the ambulance was used to conceal healthy children. She had the assistance of the ambulance driver and of a dog. When the children would start to whimper, and she feared detection, she would tap her dog on his paw, and he would begin to bark. This set off a chain reaction among the Nazis' dogs, and chaos would erupt. At that point, the Nazis would let her pass. In later life Irena Sendler recalled the heartbreak of Jewish mothers having to part from their children: 'We witnessed terrible scenes. Father agreed, but mother didn't. We sometimes had to leave those unfortunate families without taking their children from them. I'd go back there the next day and often found that everyone had been taken to the Umschlagplatz railway siding for transport to the death camps.'

The children who were taken by Irena Sendler were given new identities and placed mainly with convents, but also with sympathetic families, orphanages and hospitals. Like the more celebrated Oskar Schindler, Irena Sendler kept a list of the names of all the children she saved, in the hope that she could one day reunite them with their families - twice as many as Schindler.

On the night of October 20 1943 Irena Sendler's house was raided by the Gestapo, and her immediate thought was to get rid of the list: 'I wanted to throw it out of the window but couldn't, the whole house was surrounded by soldiers. So I threw it to my colleague and went to open the door. There were 11 soldiers. In two hours they almost tore the whole house apart.'

The Nazis took Irena Sendler to the Pawiak prison, where she was tortured; although her legs and feet were broken, and her body left permanently scarred, she refused to betray her network of helpers or the children whom she had saved. Finally, she was sentenced to death. Irena found a picture of the Divine Mercy in the straw of her prison bed and said the prayer on it continually.

She escaped thanks to Żegota, one of whose members bribed a guard to set her free. She later gave the picture to Pope John Paul II. She immediately returned to her work using a new identity. Having retrieved her list of names, she buried it in a jar beneath an apple tree in a friend's garden.

In the end it provided a record of some 2,500 names, and after the war she attempted to keep her promise to reunite the children with their families. Most of the parents, however, had been gassed at Treblinka.

Irena Sendler was born Irena Krzyżanowska in Warsaw on February 15 1910 into a Polish Roman Catholic family—all *4ft 11 inches of her!* Her father was a physician who ran a hospital at the suburb of Otłok, and a large number of his patients were impoverished Jews.

Although he died of typhus in 1917, his example was of profound importance to Irena, who later said: 'I was taught that if you see a person drowning, you must jump into the water to save them, whether you can swim or not.'

In 2003 she was awarded Poland's highest honour, the Order of the White Eagle; and later, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize ... *Al Gore won it!*

A play about her wartime experiences, called *Life in a Jar*, was written in 2000 by a group of American schoolgirls. It was performed on more than 200 occasions in the United States, Poland and Canada. But for these children ... Irena was forgotten in the West.

Then she became the subject of a biography by Anna Mieszkowska, *Mother of the Children of the Holocaust: The Story of Irena Sendler*. In her latter years Irena Sendler was cared for in a Warsaw nursing home by Elżbieta Ficowska, who - in July 1942, at six months old - had been smuggled out of the ghetto by Irena in a carpenter's workbox.

In 2005 Irena Sendler reflected: 'We who were rescuing children are not some kind of heroes. That term irritates me greatly. The opposite is true - I continue to have qualms of conscience that I did so little. I could have done more. This regret will follow me to my death.'

Moral: "Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me, you can do nothing."