Dear God, in 1879 the Apparition at Knock occurred. By Fr. Brian Grogan S.J.

We are now taking booking up to and including August as soon as possible. Could this be a timely warning to us to seriously consider replacement?

The American poet Joyce Kilmer wrote the following lines in his poem "TREES":

A PRAYER IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

I think that I shall never

A poem lovely as a tree...

A tree that looks at God all day

And lets its leafy arms to pray....

A PRAYER IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

The trees have been described as THE LUNGYS OF THE EARTH, in that, in the process of producing food for the tree's growth and fruit for reproduction, they absorb Carbon Dioxide, which is poisonous to us, and release Oxygen, which is vital for our survival. Sadly, they can also be a danger to life and property. Large-leafed trees constitute a serious threat in stormy times. Such storms are becoming a regular feature of our weather and are forecast to increase in frequency and in intensity into the future. Which brings me to the trees in the Church proper, more particularly to the five mature trees at the Sacristy side of the building. These are a major cause of concern. They sit on a steep bank with many trees and shrubs above the ground. These winds blowing through fully loaded branches must put major strain on the grip the roots have in the ground. The Parish thought that one or two should fall and cause serious injury to life and dam- age to property. Their proximity to the building means that a fall would cause serious damage to what is the most beautiful Church in the Diocese. Restoration would be well-nigh impossible and the cost certainly beyond our means. I am suggesting that we give serious and immediate attention to these trees. Is it time to remove them and replace them with a species more suitable to that location?

The New Ross Drama Festival

The New Ross Drama Festival continues this week with some excellent plays performing on stage in St Michael's Theatre. Monday 16th sees Wexford Drama Group perform "Closer" by Patrick Marber. Jim Nolan's "The Salvage Shop" and "Dreamland" perform on Wednesday and Thursday with the classic "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" ending our Festival on Friday 20th. Box Office at St Michael's Theatre. Tel 051 421255 Nightly Tickets €10 with Students Half Price.

A PRAYER IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

The New Ross and District Pipe Band

The New Ross and District Pipe Band are once again returning to St. Michael's Theatre with their very popular "Celtic Weave" show on Saturday 28th March. The Celtic Weave show brings together the sound of the bagpipe and percussion with a mix of modern instruments including acoustic and electric guitar, bass, saxophone, flute, mandolin, banjo as well as singers and dancers on traditional Irish musical instruments. This year's show will feature a number of guest artistes including Keith Flanagan, Keir Campbell, the Cuan's Ceili Band, Paul Corneley, Des O'Callaghan, Seamus Power, Adrian Dillon and Arthur O'Sullivan.