



Church of St. John the Baptist, Knock

KNOCK

Parish Newsletter



St. Anne's Church, Shanvaghera

NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2021. SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Fr Richard Gibbons PP Parish tel: 094 9388100

Mass Intentions for the Week

KNOCK

Saturday 13 February:	7.30pm	Paddy McDonagh, Carramore Drive. 6th Anniv.
Monday 15 February:	12noon	Nora and Ann Kearns, Churchfield. Anniv.
Tuesday 16 February:	12noon	Michael Francis McDonagh.
Wed. 17 February:	12 noon	Margaret and John Waldron (nee Cunnane), Cloonahulty. Anniv.
Thursday 18 February:	12 noon	Anthony and Mae Kilkenny, Cloonternane. Anniv.
	7.30pm	Margaret Flatley, (nee Solan), Lecarrow. Anniv.
Friday 19 February:	7.30pm	Nancy Keeley, Derry, Knock.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is traditionally known as a day of fast (less food) and abstinence (from meat). It is a day of outward penance to focus our minds and hearts on an inward spiritual renewal.

Ashes will be available to collect in small sachets from the parish church for parishioners between 1pm and 6pm on Shrove Tuesday (16th Feb) and Ash Wednesday (17th Feb). The Ashes will have been blessed. We ask you then to join us for Mass online at 12 noon or 7:30pm on Ash Wednesday and use your ashes at that time. If you can't join us for the Mass use the prayer below in marking the foreheads of your family in your own household.

If you can't get out to collect the ashes in the church you can be imaginative and use some soil from your gardens or flower plants as a substitute, after all it is for the most part to the soil we return on our burial which is the point of the day (ashes) when you think about it. You can also use some cold ashes from your fire places if you have them. We would invite you to sprinkle them with holy water at the same time we will be doing so at the online Masses on Ash Wednesday and then mark your foreheads at that point in the Mass. Again if you can't join us for Mass then use the prayer below.

If you can't get any substitute for ashes, don't worry, the Lord understands! Your intention is recognised and simply mark you forehead with Holy Water with the prayer below or at the time we do so at our online Masses on Ash Wednesday.

Prayer: *O God, you ask us to turn back to you with all our hearts. We ask you now to hear our prayer as we begin this season of Lent. Pour out your blessing on us as we use this symbol of blessed ashes, so that, out of our smallness and sinfulness, we may come to be what you have called us to be; that we may live faithfully the vocation of our Baptism and come to celebrate with joy the Easter mystery.*
(source: Diocese of Clonfert and Diocese of Elphin)

Members of the household put ashes on one another, in turn, saying:

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Hello Everyone!

"I don't think my head is in the right space for lent this year father!!"

Thus spoke a parishioner with a wisdom that would shame Solomon himself! Words, however, I think we could all echo this year. Our heads are ... frazzled and discombobulated (I promise that is a word!!) We are fed up, worried, harassed and dejected enough with this pandemic not to mention the approach of Lent. "Have we not been on a year long Lent?" I hear you ask (apparently I can now read minds!!) A year of fasting from human contact; a hug, a kiss, a ... dare I even say it? shake hands, remember those? Fasting from Mass, sports, concerts, theatre, music festivals, college, school, work, holidays abroad, meals out, visiting family and friends and the myriad of other wonderful things we do as human beings to keep our minds, bodies and souls engaged and fed from the oasis of life. A year of praying that this will all be over soon, then well ... over in a year, then settling for sometime within our lifetime!! I jest, but it feels like that at times, doesn't it?

We pray, not because "well, what's the harm?" Or "we can lose nothing by it", but because we enter into that most essential aspect of our human nature – relationship. We speak to God through prayer and therefore build a relationship with Him. Relationship draws out from us the good of the other. I defy you build a relationship with anyone without trying to communicate with them in some way. So it is with us and God. Prayer is our way of communicating with God and Lent offers us the possibility, once again, of building a closer relationship with Him. It is thanks to God and our scientists that we have a vaccine to look forward to in improving things – prayer did help there, the words of Tennyson express this better than I: "*More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of: Wherefore, let thy voice, rise like a fountain for me night and day.*"

So, what of Lent this year? Yes, we have been through a tough year and it will be tough for another one to come, our heads might not be in the normal space to contemplate prayer, fasting and alms giving but...we would miss it if we didn't engage in some self reflection. I would encourage us to view Lent this year as an exercising of our souls in the same way as we exercise our bodies to keep us healthy and as we exercise our minds by reading, listening to music or contemplating art. It will help to get our heads into the right space of meeting the challenges of the year ahead.

Join us for some of our Lenten programmes see below.

Keep well and safe,

Fr Richard

February Vigils - 'Awaiting a New Dawn'

A series of online Vigils during February. Join us online each Friday evening during the month of February as we come together virtually for a period of extended prayer and reflection. Join us live online from 7pm for Rosary, the celebration of the Eucharist and a Holy Hour from Knock Parish Church. See www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live and our Facebook page.

Exploring the Word of God through Prayer - Scripture Reflections

A series of online scripture reflections at 8pm each Tuesday night at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live/

Every Tuesday night at 8pm Knock Shrine will show a series of online night prayer with reflections on scripture delivered by students from St Louis Community School Kiltimagh.

To watch, simply log on to www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live at 8pm each Tuesday evening.

'Living Christian Faith' - Lenten Conversations

Knock Shrine will host a new series of online discussions to engage you during Lent. Join Fr Eamonn Conway and guests online this Thursday evening at 8.30pm. The online discussions will run each week of Lent. Full programme details are available at www.knockshrine.ie/news To watch, simply log on to www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live

Trocaire Boxes available from the Parish Church.

Prayers for the deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Josie Cunnane,

Esker.

Prayers for the deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Phil McEveney.

Aunt of Maura McEveney, Burkes Shop/Bar