

First Sunday of Lent



22nd February 2015

MASS INTENTIONS

6:30pm John McGuirk (A)
9.00am Altar List of the Dead
11.00am Bridget Kelly (A)
12.30pm Mary Ryan (A)
5.30pm Valerie O'Donoghue (2nd A)

PRAY FOR

Margaret Morandeira (2nd A)
Gerard Keenan (A)
Anne Nugent (RD)

MASSES NEXT WEEK 10.00 AM

Mon: Anne Cummins (A)
Tues: Betty Daly (22nd A)
Wed: Eileen Shields (A)
Thurs: Birthday Remembrance
Fri: Annette Bedford (A)
Sat: Thomas Shaw (MM)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Times of Adoration are:
Mon: 10.30 am – 11.30 am
Wed: 6.00 pm – 11.00 pm
Fri: 10.30am – 5.45 pm
Sat: 10.30am – 11.30am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the last Sunday of the month from 4 - 5 pm.

BAPTISMS

There will be no Baptisms during Lent. The next dates for Baptisms in April are:

Saturday 18th April at 4:00pm - FULL
Sunday 19th April at 1:45pm

Parent/Guardian Meeting is **Thursday 26th March at 8:00pm.**

Please contact the Parish Office for details.

If you would like to be a part of the Baptism Ministry in St. Cronan's, please contact any of the Priests in the Parish, a member of the Baptism Team or the Parish Office.

FAMILY OFFERING

We thank all those parishioners who support the running of the parish through the Parish Family Offering fund. The January standing order figure is €3,475.00. The Weekly Outdoor collection for last week amounted to €821.18. The Family Offering Envelope Collection is the ONLY one which supports the daily running costs of the Parish and the upkeep of the Church. Thank you for your commitment to this collection.

HELP NEEDED

The Family Offering Envelopes are ready to be distributed to all areas of the Parish and any help in the distribution would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the Parish Office.

MYAM MINI-RETREAT

Myam mini-retreat for young adults – Lent 2015: Join us for 15 minutes, once a week, from 6:30-6:45pm each Sunday of Lent (starts this Sunday 22nd Feb) in the Prayer Chapel of St. Sylvester's Church, Malahide for short time-out with reflection on the Sunday Gospel, quiet time and prayer. Open to all those in their late teens, 20's and 30's. Hope to see you there!

Lenten Evening Prayer in Taizé Style: Hosted by Myam - this Tuesday 24th February from 8pm-9pm in the Prayer Chapel of St. Sylvester's Church. The evening will include Taizé chants, scripture, prayers of intercession and time of silence. All welcome.

LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE

Tuesday 24/02/15, 7.30-8.30 pm in the Parish Meeting Room; a review & discussion on Matthew's Gospel, chapters 10 to 17. The reading plan for next week is Matthew, chapters 18 to 23, weekly reading guide available on Tuesday night. All welcome, please come along.

VOLUNTEER KNITTERS

Volunteers are needed to teach the children of St. Cronan's Senior School to knit. It is for one hour a week from 1:30pm – 2:30pm on Monday or Tuesday. If interested, please contact 087 2871033.

THE ROSARY

The Rosary Statue was blessed for use in homes of the parish at the October Candlelight Procession. If you would like to pray the rosary and have the statue in your home for a week, or get more information, please contact a member of Legion of Mary in main porch after Sunday morning Masses.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Parish Finance Committee members & helpers will be manning our annual finance table at the back of the church at all Masses next weekend, 28th Feb/1st March.

- (1) If you would like a standing order form or box of parish envelopes please leave your contact details
- (2) If you have any queries regarding the new CHY3 tax relief procedure please ask . The forms now cover a five year period, so if you completed a form last year that will include this year and the next three years.
- (3) If you received a CHY3 form and have yet to return it to the parish, you may do so next weekend.

Thank you to all who already support the parish finances so generously, it is much appreciated.

LEGION OF MARY

Legion of Mary urgently needs new members to continue it's apostolate – over 18's – Wednesday s 7:30pm in Sacristy; and Tuesdays 10:30am in Sister's House; Junior Members Fridays 5:00pm in Sacristy. Come and see, you'll be most welcome.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

An Information and Recruitment evening to recruit new members of the St. Vincent de Paul will be held in:

The Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords
Thursday 26th February 2015 at 7:30pm
All Welcome

LECTURE IN GARDINER ST.

MONDAY MARCH 2nd 2015 at 7.30pm
Pope Francis: The great Reformer
with AUSTEN IVEREIGH, Author of Pope Francis: The Great Reformer
Lecture in Saint Francis Xavier's Church, Gardiner Street. 7.30 PM.
Admission - donation.
Join us also for a cuppa after the talk.

DIABETES IRELAND

Diabetes Ireland is inviting all walkers to support the charity through registering to take part in an all new fundraising walk. *Lap The Lake* 2015 is a 28km walk around the Blessington Lakes in Co. Wicklow encompassing 4.5km of the Blessington Greenway Trail with the remaining on the incredibly scenic Lake Drive. Enjoy the stunning scenery of water and mountains on Sunday June 21st and help raise much needed funds for Diabetes Ireland. Full details at www.diabetes.ie or lo-call 1850 909 909. Registration fee €25 plus minimum €100 fundraising required.

TROCAIRE WATCH – WEEK ONE

Did you know that the Lenten Trocaire Box Campaign raises almost €10m each year throughout Ireland! With the money raised extraordinary life changing projects are able to happen around the world. 30 years you may remember LIVE AID a great initiative by Bob Geldof in response to the famine raging through Ethiopia. We haven't heard much since then but Trocaire in all that time have been working with people there to provide irrigation schemes in various parts of the country.

This year we follow the family and community of Mahlet who lives in Sebeya in northern Ethiopia. She is the girl on the front of the Trocaire Box this year. When you take your Trocaire Box home read her story and also the effects that climate change has on her country. Use your Trocaire Box well as each cent you put in makes a huge difference to the lives of Mahlet and her community.

PARISH RETREAT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY

Sacrament of the Sick – Thursday 5th
at 1:10pm (transport provided)
Evening Talk – Mrs. Elma Walsh –
Hope in a time of crisis
Friday 6th – Reconciliation during
Taizé Prayer 7:30pm

LENT 2015 – WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' ?

Every year on Ash Wednesday my head fills with all the things that I should be doing for Lent. What will I give up? Alcohol, chocolate, TV, Facebook, etc. But it is also about taking on. So will I pray for an hour each day, read more about faith, go for a walk, volunteer for a soup run etc. And its about giving to charity. How much should go into the Trocaire Box, will I download the Trocaire app onto my phone, will I give to another charity? Then there are the suggestions that everyone else gives and the things that people assume you would do naturally!

With so much going on in my head I run the risk of starting off trying to do everything and in the end do nothing or give up after a week or so frustrated by my failure. So this year I have decided to try a week to week programme which is based on the Gospel of Ash Wednesday in which Jesus sets out the three things that we are asked to do. Good deeds (giving alms); Pray; Fast (not with a gloomy face). It should be possible to do something in this week for each of these.

As I begin the week I will write what it is I hope to do each day and at the weekend see how things are going:

	Good deed	Prayer	Fast (Give up some...)
WEEK ONE			

It is much harder to stick to Lent these days as all the time we are surrounded with the message of self satisfaction. We are told that we deserve a treat and we shouldn't have to wait. But what does that do to ourselves? It damages the human spirit because we reduce ourselves to being no more than self-satisfying beings. We loose our connection with caring for others and how our actions affect the lives of those around us. We loose our sense of God. St. Augustine spoke about "within each one of us there is a God shaped space and only God can fill it." The more we narrow our lives, the less impact God can have.

So think about it between now and next week. If you only put one thing in each box above and achieved it, you have made the first step in the right direction. Each step that you take makes this Lent different and each difference you make allows you to be more open to God. Good luck.

PARISH RETREAT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY

Tuesday 3rd Evening Talk – The Grandparent Vocation – Eanna Johnson

Wednesday 4th – The Spirit of Youth – Fr. John Harris O.P.

PARISH CENTRE UPDATE

On Valentine's Day we got a delivery of three and half loads of concrete which were the foundations of the Centre. Into these was placed the medals that many of you left in. We pray that Our Lady and the Saints whose devotion these medals honour will keep the building site safe and make all who enter and leave our Parish Centre blessed by their experience.

The ESB supply to the Church was diverted and now it's full steam ahead with the building. You get a good idea of the size and shape of the building and over the weeks ahead we will watch it grow.

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POPE FRANCIS LENTEN PREPARATION – PART IV

"Make your hearts firm!" (James 5:8) – Individual Christians

As individuals too, we have are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer! The 24 Hours for the Lord initiative, which I hope will be observed on 13-14 March throughout the Church, also at the diocesan level, is meant to be a sign of this need for prayer.

Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organizations. Lent is a favourable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family.

Third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds me of the uncertainty of my own life and my dependence on God and my brothers and sisters. If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God's love holds out to us. We will also be able to resist the diabolical temptation of thinking that by our own efforts we can save the world and ourselves.

As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart (cf. *Deus Caritas Est*, 31). A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realizes its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: "Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum": Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.

It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you.

PARISH RETREAT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY

3:00pm Blessing of Children, Babies and Expectant Parents

Monday 2nd Mass at 7:30am and 10:00am – Evening Talk 7:30pm Archbishop Martin