WHY SUFFERING

In the readings these days we are confronted with the mystery of suffering. We had the story of the man born blind, a father coming to Jesus seeking help for his son who was dying and the paralysed man who encounters Jesus at the pool. Jesus healed all 3 and yet for all the healings he did he said very little about suffering. He never gave a detailed explanation as to why people suffer. He healed all those suffering multitudes who asked him and of course he entered into the depths of suffering himself on Good Friday.

Theologian Fr. Robert Barron gives the perspective of the author William James who would bring his dog into his library every evening after his daily walk. The dog could see everything in the library – the thousands of books on the shelves, the papers on the table, the globe of planet earth in the corner. Yet even though the dog could see everything he could understand practically nothing. William James often wondered what was going on in his pet dog's head. How useless it would be for him to try and explain to the animal what a book was or how to write. These things which were so much part of William James's life were utterly incomprehensible to his dog and for him to try to explain something as simple as the alphabet would be a useless and futile exercise. But it then occurred to James that we are in a similar situation in relation to a higher mind. It is very possible that we like the dog see everything there is to see but actually understand it in the most superficial way.

If this is so then the higher intelligence could not even in principle begin to explain the deepest meaning of things due to the limited capacity of our minds.

So it is with Jesus – he did not come to give a sophisticated explanation of the meaning of life, love, suffering and death. He came to give us himself as he entered into the depths of suffering in his crucifixion. Here he made suffering and even death itself a place of hope. God in his love became the answer to suffering and the hope he gave us led to the joy of the resurrection.

Fr Padraig

CCPC INTERCESSORY PRAYER

CCPC Intercessory Prayer will be held on Tuesday, 15th April: Church for 7.30pm Mass and 8pm Penitential Service <u>NO prayer</u> afterwards in Pastoral Centre

GREETING CARDS FOR SALE

Price €1.50 or five for €5.00 - available in the Parish Repository, Church of Immaculate Conception, and The Village and also at Opening Minds, School & Office World, Newlands Retail Centre and Newlands Garden Centre

Proceeds in aid of Clondalkin Tidy Towns! Agnes O Neill, Secretary, Clondalkin Tidy Towns

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Tara Healy, a first time entrant, is this week's winner. Congratulations Tara. Your prize is waiting to be picked up by you from the Sacristy after Mass today

No Quiz – but because it is Easter we have



colouring pages for you to get your imaginations going. The pages are in the Parish Shop. Bring them back to us before Holy Saturday, beautifully coloured and us will put them

coloured and we will put them on exhibition. Fr. Damian has a prize for each person who takes part

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Notices and submissions for the Newsletter must be received before 10.30am on **WEDNESDAY** morning to be considered for inclusion into that week's edition. Envelopes marked "**PARISH NEWSLETTER**" should be left into the Sacristy or Parish Office.



Thanks to the cooperation of the priests of the CCPC the Village Church hosted the 7.30am and 7.30pm masses during the season of Lent. Thanks to Fathers David Halpin, Sean O'Laoire, Pierce Mullen and Michael Ruddy. The result was a large attendance at one Mass rather than a sparse attendance at each Church. You are invited particularly to join us for Morning Prayer Thursday, Friday and Saturday and the three liturgies that form the triduum. If you haven't received a timetable to your home or are visiting please take a copy home with you today. The timetable can also be viewed on our parish website, www.clondalkinparish.com

Parish Pastoral Workers

(for the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin)

Peter Sinev

089 461 4226

Christopher Okereke

457 3546

Fr. Damian

WEDDINGS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Caroline Doyle and Cian Fleming Laura M Hassett and Eamon Cruise Avril Hassett and Stephen Aitchsson

recently married.

ADORATION

This **Thursday 17th April** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held **in the Sisters' Oratory: from** after 10am Mass to 11.45am, **and from** 7pm to 9pm. All are welcome.

DAWN MASS

"It's in the gospel narrative, the excitement of that early morning, 'before the sun was up', movement in the garden, women at the tomb, puzzlement, strange encounters, men running, wonderment - the rising sun dancing for sheer joy."

We are being given an opportunity to test out "sun dancing" on Easter morning. All are invited to take part in "Dawn Mass" at 7am in Corkagh Park and even if we don't see the sun dance we have reason to dance and celebrate the Risen Lord

NOTICES

Monday 14th April

Miraculous Medal Novena after 10am Mass and Rosary.

Tuesday 15th April

Lectio Divina under the direction of Sr. Anne in the Pastoral Centre after 10am Mass.

REMINDER: In addition to the morning Masses there will be Mass at 7.30pm during the weekdays for Lent

DEATHS We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of: Kevin Carroll, Castle Park Sean Fogarty, Newlands Rd

recently deceased. May they rest in peace.

SPY WEDNESDAY – ADORATION IN THE PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group will have a quiet time in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord on Wednesday, 16^{th} April in the Parish Pastoral Centre at 8.15pm to 9.15pm and all are welcome

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima (originally Clondalkin Parish 8 days Pilgrimage to Fatima for the past 24 years) **Date:** $11 - 18^{th}$ September **Spiritual Director**: Rev. FR. Owen Lambert CSSp **Hotel:** Domus Pacis, Fatima **Fare:** \in 725 per person sharing Further details from Eileen Carty, 4574832

EASTER PROGRAMME

The Easter Programme depicting ceremonies and times are now being delivered to all homes and they are also available from the parish Shop, Sacristy and entrances

ANNIVERSARIES

Monday 14th April

7.30am James Connolly

Wednesday 16th April

7.30pm Connie Martin, MM

Easter Sunday

All Masses, 9am, 10.30am, 12 noon and 5.30pm are offered for the intentions of all parishioners

CLONBURRIS Mass Intentions

Saturday 12th April 6.30pm Annie Harrison An

Sunday 13th April 11.00am John C Downey An.

CLONDALKIN ACTIVE RETIREMENT

A quite enough week at our club on Tuesday last as a lot of our members headed to Galway for Active Retirement Ireland AGM

Brian McElroy, Funeral Directors will be joining us on Tuesday 15th April to give us a little talk on the obvious, and to give us all a few tips on how to make everything easier for our families. Brian will then kindly provide some food for all our members and Sean will play some music and we will rock around the floor.

Clare

CLONDALKIN PARISH CENSUS NOVEMBER 2013

A census was carried out at all Masses in Clondalkin Parish on the weekend of 16/17 November 2013 and counted 1,556 people at Mass. Some of the findings include:

Mass attendance during the Parish census represented 13% of the Catholic population in the Parish.

Mass attendance is highest among older age groups, with the highest rate of 53% for those aged 75—84 while the rate was just 4% of those aged 25-34.

169 people (11%) were not Irish and of these 86 were from Poland.

The results are now available on the Parish website.

The Priests of the Parish and the Pastoral Council would like to thank everyone who attended Mass on the weekend of the parish Census for their generous cooperation with the survey.

LOURDES 2014

Date: 7th May – 5nights Hotel: Jeanne D'Arc Fare: €735 per person sharing As we are limited to 30 places early booking is advisable. Booking forms are available in the Sacristy, Parish Shop and Office

PILGRIMAGE TO CORK IN HONOUR OF VENERABLE NANO NAGLE

The Presentation Sisters and Associates invite you to Cork to celebrate Nano made Venerable on May 10th 2014. Bus will leave Clondalkin Church at 8.00 am. We look forward to many of you joining us for the day. Please give your name to Sr. Concepta (0876222847), parish office or convent if you are interested. More details after Easter.

CHURCH DUTY

Cleaning: Rebecca Duggan and Betty Byrne **Altar Linen:** Mary Jenkins **Decoration of Church for Easter:** At 4pm in the Church to put all ornamentation in situ on Holy Saturday

MONDAY CLUB

Coláiste Bríde hosted a morning for us last week. We were taken on a tour of their organic garden on our arrival and later we were given a short history of Clondalkin. This was followed by each of us being presented with a framed photograph and a synopsis of our youth which the girls had done as homework from our meeting the previous week. As we were having refreshments the school principal took out from her busy schedule to come and chat with us. All in all a truly lovely time was had by us all and we warmly thank all those involved and wish the girls success in their future lives