

THE MOUNTAIN AND THE VALLEY

Reading from Chapter 9 of St. Mark's Gospel which is about the Transfiguration and its aftermath, Jesus has now come down from the mountain to the valley below and is on his way to Jerusalem with his disciples. At the foot of Mount Tabor a crowd has gathered in a state of agitation and confusion. At the centre are the disciples and a sick boy. The disciples are unable to do anything for him and his distraught father asks Jesus to bring healing to him. Jesus heals the boy amid the confusion and uproar of the crowd and then moves on with his disciples who begin to squabble among themselves about who is the greatest. All of this represents the messiness of everyday life and of humanity. It is here that the church has to roll up its sleeves and get its hands dirty. The divine was very much present up on top of the mountain but now in the valley we are presented with the human. It is here we come across the pettiness, jealousy, anger, sexual impropriety, insincerity, scandal, gossip and all the other negative aspects of life that can drag us down and dishearten us. Sometimes even the best of us get sucked into the dust cloud of negativity but all is not lost. Jesus was the one person who walked into the dust cloud and never got lost. It was necessary that he do this for it is here in the messiness of life that the church of action manifests itself. It is here that love of neighbour is demonstrated even when our neighbours are not very lovable.

We have our transfiguration moments up on the mountain and they are necessary but sooner or later we must go down into the valley and face the messiness of humanity in all its fascinating goodness and desperate wickedness. Our job is to be like Jesus who went about doing good. We might say "but we can't work miracles and do great signs and wonders". We may be right but we can do little things well, scatter seeds and greatness will ultimately grow. Most miracles happen slowly – God

takes his time as nature takes her time. We are the ones who are in too big a hurry.

We get our Transfiguration moments in the stillness and silence of prayer. At Mass we are lifted out of the valley and brought up the mountain in the greatest of all prayers. It is here we find rest for our souls as we come to the Lord present in Holy Communion. We pray that we will be energized to do the Christ like things when we return to the valley to bring love to our neighbour.

Fr. Padraig

COUNTESS OF GRANARD BRIDGE CHARITY

A Charity Bridge night in aid of Countess of Granard fund will be held on Tuesday next 11th March in Newlands Golf Club at 7.30pm. Admission is €10 per person and the organisers ask for sponsorship of raffle prizes. All monies raised go to help provide guide dogs for the visually impaired.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Alex O'Neill is this week's winner. Congratulations Alex! Your prize is waiting to be picked up from the Sacristy after Mass today!

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

We are now in Lent and we are asked to give up something! WHY?

And would you like to let us know what you are doing to prepare for Easter

Your entries by email to ellenteresacoyne@eircom.n

et by Tuesday evening or to the Sacristy by Wednesday morning



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.

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

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PARISH NEWS

Clondalkin Village,
Clonburris & Knockmitten



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Vol. 19

Sunday – 9th March 2014

No 10

LIFE AND DEATH

Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return. These words from Genesis 3:19 were used in the past when a priest traced the sign of the Cross on foreheads during Ash Wednesday. The more common phrases used nowadays namely 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel' or 'Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel' may feel a little less threatening but the original phrase caused us to focus on our mortality.

On Tuesday over one hundred and fifty second year students from Colaiste Bride joined with five hundred students from all over the diocese in the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix at Dublin City University. This concert is an initiative of the Diocesan Liturgical Resource Centre and helps to promote appropriate music for school liturgies and parishes. Colaiste Bride students featured as soloists and were excellent ambassadors for their college. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin was present and he made a return visit to DCU the next day for the blessing and distribution of Ashes. In his homily he said

"Lent is not a period of negative renunciation. It is a moment in which we can better discern what is essential and what is superficial and what is actually deviant. In that sense the recognition that we are dust is not deprecatory; it is something that leads us paradoxically to recognise where we truly find greatness and meaning and purpose. Lent offers us the instruments of prayer, fasting and works of charity that help us to repent and follow the Gospel. In Lent we journey with Jesus as his self-giving love leads to his death, knowing however that it is the same love which ultimately opens then the real key to hope which is resurrection."

On the evening of Ash Wednesday we received the remains of Teresa Cahill and Sr. Brigid O'Hare, both of whom lived four score and more years. Throughout their lives they lived the words of the Archbishop and we pray that they are now experiencing the fullness of the resurrection.

Fr. Damian

DEATHS

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Sr. Brigid O'Hare, Presentation Convent
Teresa Cahill, Newland's Drive
Noreen O'Sullivan, Michael Collin's,
formerly Boot Rd

recently deceased. May they rest in peace.

ADORATION

This **Thursday 13th March** 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.

SRULEEN SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK – MARCH 9TH TO 16TH

A week dedicated to issues on Social Justice is being held in Sruleen. Find out what the term "Social Justice" means, what is happening throughout the world and how you could get involved. Speaker and events taking place will show what type of social justice issues are being tackled at a local, national and international level, past and present. Admission Free!

NOTICES

Monday 10th March

Miraculous Medal Novena after 10am Mass and Rosary.

Tuesday 11th March

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

MASS TIMES FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

St Patrick's Day, a Holy Day of Obligation, Masses are 9am, 10.30am and 12 noon. Evening Mass in Clonburris at 6.30pm – no evening Mass in the Village Church

FR. PADRAIG'S FAITH DEVELOPMENT SESSION

The Faith Development session will not take place next Wednesday but will resume the following week – Wednesday 19th March

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday 18th March the Intercessory Group will meet in the Church for 7.30pm Mass and followe with Intercessory Prayer in Parish Office till 8.30pm and all are welcome

CHURCH DUTY

Cleaning: Betty Byrne and Rebecca Duggan
Altar Linen: Mary O'Neill
Flowers: No flowers on the Main Altar Lent. (Church in use mornings Tuesday and Wednesday for schools – weddings Thursday and Saturday)

"VINCENT'S HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Vincent's Charity (St. Vincent de Paul) on Main St. invites all to a special event on Thursday 13th March – 12 noon to 4pm to mark St. Patrick's Day. Light refreshments will be available as well as many good bargains!

ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday 16th March

9.00am Paddy Crosbie, School around the corner fame
10.30am Molly and Tommy O'Rourke
12 Noon Mary and Patrick Henry
Olive Grace, MM
5.30pm Christina (Chrissie) Quirke, 1st An

CLONBURRIS Mass Intentions

Saturday 8th March

6.30pm Matthew and Rosanna Plunkett An.
Joe and Betty Plunkett An.
Kathleen McGovern A.and B/Rem.
Johnnie Plunkett An.

Sunday 9th March

11.00am Annie and William Kavanagh An.
Joseph Markey An

Competition Winner

Congratulations to Jessica Kenny competition winner, your prize can be collected after Mass.

We are delighted to inform you that Clondalkin in now the 51st town in Ireland to be declared a fairtrade town.

This is the result of hard work, perserverence, dedication and commitment of sixth class and their teacher, Paula Galvin.

APPRECIATION

I would like to register my appreciation of our local Gardaí in our newsletter. Last Thursday, I attended their annual policing forum in the Green Isle Hotel. We were given an update on the Newland's Cross road works from the SDCC who were present ... on the Garda work among the young and teenage school goers ... their care of the vulnerable elderly in our midst ... their concern for the local unemployed and efforts to help develop employment for them... their efforts to help local business become more viable and their open clinic every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. till 11a.m. They noted local problems as expressed at the meeting, to have them sorted a.s.a.p.

I came away with a renewed appreciation of their work on our behalf and give them 110% for their care of us.

Sr.Pius

"TRÓCAIRE" BOXES

Trócaire Lenten Appeal is to provide water to communities who are in need all over the world. Boxes are available from the Parish Shop for all who would like to participate.

CEIDHLÍ

Ceidhli in Áras Chrónáin on Sunday 16ú Márta ag 8.p.m. Fáilte roimh chách. No Social night on Fri. 14ú. Máire Ní Bhroin

MONDAY CLUB

Emma and Alex, girls who are Junior Certificate students visited us last Monday along with their mentor Harry to discuss a liaison with Coláiste Bríde. It went extremely well and their civics' class will come to us at the end of March and we shall go to them early in April. This is a terrific opportunity for us and for them to discuss the educational structures of our time in school and the norms of today. The advent of technology has made our schooldays seem pre-historic to say the least. Who says you are too old to learn new ways? Maybe we can teach these young people a thing or two. Let's hope so!

Next week we celebrate the start of Seachtain na Gaeilge with an Irish session with Betty and her musicians. All welcome!

Joan

CALLING ALL LADIES!

The Flora Women's Mini Marathon is fast approaching and this year we are hoping to recruit 100 ladies to step out and raise much needed funds for older people in need.

ALONE supports the 1 in 10 vulnerable older people who are at risk of homelessness, socially isolated, or in crisis.

Run or Walk for ALONE and help older people in need.

Please support our cause by contacting Gillian or Suzanne on 01 6791032 or email fundraising@alone.ie for more information