

Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin

LENTEN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin (CCPC) Newsletter. It is appropriate that this Newsletter is coming out during Lent as Lent is the preparation for the greatest Christian Feast of the year – Easter.

The CCPC is the gathering of all the Catholic parishes in the greater Clondalkin area. In these changing times it is more and more necessary for all parishes to work together to share resources and personnel. The symbolism of the logo is significant and captures what we are aiming to be. It represents the coming together of the Parishes of Clondalkin with the light of Christ in the shape of the dove of the Holy Spirit at the centre. We decided to use the rainbow idea in the names of the parishes to represent the idea of covenant: between us and God and between us and each other. There is also a space between the two people at the lower end of the logo to allow the stranger to enter and for us to go out to those who are outside our circle of faith.

In this newsletter you will find information on a number of activities that are occurring in Lent and Easter. These include: The Bible, a six week exploration of themes in the Bible which will take place on the Tuesdays of Lent; A competition for Children; A simple Retreat you can do on your own called 'Something different or Lent'; An Ashram style retreat that will take place after Easter & much more...

Pope Francis named this a *Year of Mercy*! His hope is that all Christian people and Catholics in particular would open themselves up to the Mercy of God this year. As part of this in a number of the Churches throughout the Clondalkin area we are setting up Mercy Gardens. These are simply creative and tangible ways of helping us to open ourselves to experiencing the Mercy of God. Inside you will get more information, have a look and get involved!

During this Lent may you experience the love and Mercy of God as you prepare to celebrate the wonderful feast of the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

God Bless

A word cloud shaped like a heart, featuring various religious and spiritual terms. The largest words are 'God', 'Christ', 'Jesus', 'love', 'life', 'faith', 'hope', 'peace', 'joy', 'grace', 'mercy', 'kindness', 'gentleness', 'patience', 'self-control'. Other words include 'Gospel', 'justice', 'good', 'brother', 'sister', 'neighbor', 'need', 'people', 'faith', 'God', 'make', 'compassion', 'mercy', 'kindness', 'gentleness', 'patience', 'self-control', 'peace', 'joy', 'grace', 'mercy', 'kindness', 'gentleness', 'patience', 'self-control'.

2016



what are you giving up?

internet
fast food
movies
chocolate
procrastination
twitter
credit cards
soft drinks
ice cream
smoking
tardiness
shopping
sweets
Facebook
caffeine
junk food
parties
candy
swearing
coffee
red meat
TV
MySpace

Lord, this Lent I will try to

Give up complaining,
focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism,
become an optimist.

Give up harsh judgments,
think kindly thoughts.

Give up worry,
trust in God.

Give up discouragement,
be full of hope.

Give up bitterness,
turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred,
return good for evil.

Give up negativity,
be positive.

Give up anger,
be more patient.

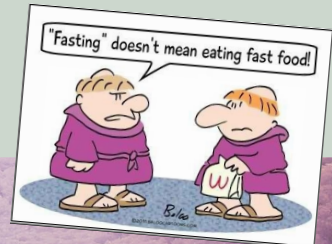
Give up gloom,
spread joy.

Give up jealousy,
pray for trust.

Give up gossiping,
control my tongue.

Give up sin,
try a little harder.

Give up giving up,
Live Mercifully!!



A few quick thoughts for



Praying

Lent is the time to start new patterns of prayer.

Perhaps I haven't been praying at all. This is a great time to choose to begin. It is important to begin realistically. I can start by simply pausing when I get up and taking a slow, deep breath, and recalling what I have to do this day, and asking for grace to do it as a child of God. I may want to go to bed a half an hour earlier, and get up a half an hour earlier and give myself some time alone to read the readings for the day, and just talk with the Lord about those readings or about the stuff of the day. I may choose to go to Mass each day during Lent. I may choose to get to church on Sunday, just 15 minutes earlier, so I can reflect a bit. Lent may be a time I would want to choose to start to journal the day to day reflections that are coming, the desires I'm naming and asking for, the graces I am being given.

"Prayer is a matter of love. We express love through prayer, and if we pray, it is an indication that we love God. If we do not pray, this indicates that we do not love God, for the measure of our prayer is the measure of our love for God".

~Archimandrite Zacharias "The Hidden Man of the Heart"

When do we spend time in quiet reflection? Do we remember that prayer is not only a time to speak to God, but also a time for God to speak to us? In our times of silent prayer and listening to God, we can hear God asking us to recognize the needs of those around us. Our prayer leads us to compassion and community.

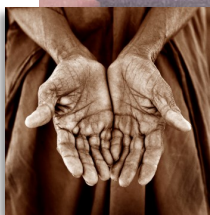


What does it mean to "Fast"?

To fast is to do without food.

Its purpose is to experience the effects of not eating. It also serves to be a penance or a sacrifice - for the purpose of strengthening us. When we don't eat, for even a little while, we get hungry. When we get hungry, we have a heightened sense of awareness. If, when we eat too much, we have a sluggish feeling, when we fast, we have a feeling of alertness. Fasting is a wonderful exercise whenever we want to sincerely ask for an important grace from God. It is not that our fasting "earns" God's attention, but by fasting, we clarify our thinking and our feeling. It is purifying and prepares us to pray more deeply.

Fasting is not just something we give up in order to receive praise, nor is it meant to provide us with the opportunity to complain. Fasting is a physical act and commitment we make with the hope of becoming a better person. Fasting should help us realize that "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:1-4). It is not the material things in life that bring true happiness and comfort, but in living, growing, hoping, loving, and giving thanks to God that our hearts are nourished. Fasting reminds us that we are not ruled by the things we want; it also reminds us that we are blessed to have even the basic necessities of life that many do not have, such as food, water, and shelter.



Practicing Generosity

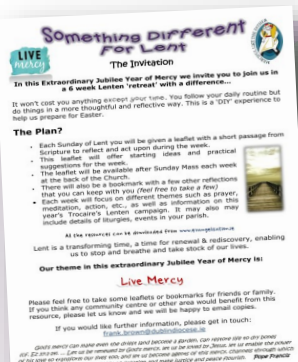
Almsgiving has always been an important part of Lent.

Lent begins with the powerful Isaiah 58, on the Friday and Saturday after Ash Wednesday. It is important to give ourselves the experience of fasting from being un-generous. Generosity is not simply giving my excess clothes to a place where poor people might purchase them. It's not even writing a "generous" cheque at the time a collection is taken up for a cause that benefits the poor. These are wonderful practices. Generosity is an attitude. It is a sense that no matter how much I have, all that I have is gift, and given to me to be shared. It means that sharing with others in need is one of my personal priorities. That is quite different from assessing all of my needs first, and then giving away what is left over. A spirit of self-less giving means that one of my needs is to share what I have with others. Lent is a wonderful time to practice self-less giving, because it takes practice. This kind of self-sacrificing generosity is a religious experience. It places us in solidarity with the poor who share with each other, without having any excess. It also joins us with Jesus, who gave himself completely, for us. Establishing new patterns of giving will give real life and joy to Lent.

Our prayer and fasting should call us to a greater awareness of the needs of others; then we must act on that awareness. We can give alms by sharing not only our money, but our time and talents as well. By giving to the poor we are saying, "I realize that you are there. You are a child of God and you are important." From almsgiving comes respect, care for the poor, and friendship that stretches our minds and hearts for love of God's creation.

Musings on Mercy

When I think of Mercy I think of forgiveness but on recent reflection I think that mercy is more than saying sorry or being sorry but has to be really heartfelt or stomach felt. I recall as a child a cousin who had swallowed something and there was a state of panic until an elderly neighbour who was a retired nurse restored calm and moved the audience away and told the little lad to relax and that he would have to bring up the offending object which he did eventually. If there is bitterness, resentment, hatred within us towards individuals, institutions or even God maybe this year of Mercy is a time to throw up these objects that block us from truly becoming ambassadors of Mercy. Within the area of the CCPC many find themselves in houses that, through no fault of their own, they paid more than the current market value and are now in negative equity. Many with an expanding family and can't afford to move. Parents have adult children living at home at an age that they themselves were married and had set up home. The pain of emigration has returned when many thought it was confined to history. We can bear resentments and regrets that these situations are the present reality but they should never be a yoke that keeps us down. Jesus told us he would take these burdens upon His shoulder. Mercy begins with me!! **Fr. Damian, The Village**



Something Different for Lent

In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy why not treat yourself & join us in a 6 week Lenten 'retreat' with a difference...

Our theme this year is

Live Mercy

It won't cost you anything except your time. Each Sunday of Lent there will be a leaflet with a short passage from Scripture to reflect and act upon during the week available after Sunday Mass each week from the back of the Church.. This leaflet will offer starting ideas and practical suggestions for the week. You follow your daily routine but do things in a more thoughtful and reflective way. This is a 'DIY' experience to help us prepare for Easter.

The leaflet will also be available to download & share from the parish's website, Facebook page or from www.evangelisation.ie

Join in and spread the word.

On the **8th of December** last the **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy**, established by Pope Francis began and it runs to the **20th November 2016**. His fervent desire is that this Jubilee Year be a fresh opportunity for everyone to experience the great mercy of God, something so central to the faith and life of Pope Francis. As he said, "Let the Church be a place of Mercy and Hope, where everyone is **Welcomed, Loved and Forgiven!**" Every person, whether they think of themselves as religious or not, longs for the embrace of mercy, the love that accepts us as we are and, at the same time, calls us to become what we are made to be. The mercy of God, says to us 'It is never too late'. Can you accept the invitation this year daring to rediscover that central Gospel message; **that we are truly loved, we are loveable and that we are capable of sharing that love with others?** For Mercy is love in action! This is an invitation to us all to start again; to be the message, be the Church we want to see. It is an open door we are invited to enter and discover the wonder of the love and mercy of God that calls out to the deepest recesses of our hearts and of our world. Watch out for updates, opportunities and special events as the year unfolds.

The Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin Celebrating the Year of Mercy Invite you along to



As Seen On The History Channel

Starting Tuesday 16th February 7:30pm to 9pm

with Exodus

God speaks to Moses through the burning bush (Ex 3) and returns to Egypt; The ten Plagues of Egypt (Ex7-11); Moses leads the Israelites in The Exodus & parts the Red Sea (Ex14); He receives the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai (Ex 20)

Then the following Tuesdays

23rd Revolution

1st Mission

8th Betrayal

15th Passion

Final Episode after Easter 12th April Courage

The Exodus and the life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth are some of the best-known stories in the Bible. They're also some of the narratives that are retold in a miniseries,

The Bible Series, that brings the accounts to life through a combination of live action and computer-generated animation.

The program reveals new insights into many of the key biblical characters in the Old and New Testaments.

Keith David narrates the series that stars actress Roma Downey—*Touched by an Angel*—who also serves as an executive producer along with her husband, Mark Burnett

Each Episode is followed by a short discussion & a Cuppa!!

Hosted in

Rowlagh/Quarryvale
The Immaculate Heart Of Mary
Collinstown Road,
Rowlagh, Clondalkin
Dublin 22

For info contact: ccpc.clondalkin@gmail.com

Help us to create a MERCY GARDEN in each of our Churches

It's as simple as

1 2 3

Help build Our Mountain of Mercy!!

We all carry our own burdens – perhaps the burden of illness, of breakdown in relationships, of economic stress, the burden of our own sinful actions...Our faith tells us that we don't have to carry these burdens alone, God walks each step with us in mercy and love.

This Lent a base stone has been placed in a specially prepared space in our church, together with smaller stones. In your own time during this holy season we invite you to take a stone from this space, or indeed from another place such as your garden, and carry it with you for a while – a day, a week...

As you do so, pray and reflect on where in your life you are in need of God's mercy. It can be a reminder of the things that weigh you down, or a worry or concern

that prevents you from living as freely and as fully as you can. Take your stone out once every day and hold it in your hand. By the end of the five weeks you will know every part of it as well as you know your inner self. Some also carry the stone in their pocket to remind them, whenever they touch it, to look for something to be grateful for, to say thank you for, and even to remind themselves to do *something merciful* – a small act of kindness ... *You might want to try it.*

Whenever you are ready, you can place the stone into the Lenten space in the Church, as a sign that you are ready to welcome God's mercy into your life, you are letting this burden go and that you are willing to share this mercy with others.



2

We invite children to bring &
PLANT A FLOWER &
tell us the person who inspires them to do

Good Works

Let's make this happen
together!

3

We invite you to record & contribute your
Work of Mercy on
our parish's

MERCY TREE

an unexpected gift Make a new friend
Pick up litter Say "hello" Call a lonely person
Open a door Help carry a load Plant a tree
Pass a kindness on Buy someone's meal
Cheer up a friend Thank a teacher Give blood
Lead to a child Do one kind act every day
Leave a thank you note Offer your seat
Tip generously BE TOLERANT Let another go first
Bake cookies for emergency workers Taste a meal
Give a compliment Pay the next driver's toll
Lend a hand Give a balloon to a child
Offer a ride Celebrate the day Respect others

Pass it on!

be the **CHANGE**
you want to see

IT'S SIMPLE.

Commit to doing at least one
Act of Mercy this Lent

Take a tag (or more if needed)
Anonymously write down what
you did to Help others
Place it on the Tree!!

What is mercy?

compassion forgiveness
understanding mercy empathy
love kindness generosity inclusivity



NO ACT OF KINDNESS
NO MATTER HOW SMALL
IS EVER WASTEFUL!!

IT'S EASY PEASY

1. **Think** of the person who inspires you to do Good Things for others (Mum, Dad, Granny, Teacher, etc)
2. **Write** them on a tag
3. **Plant** a flower for them &
Say a little prayer of thanks for them!

By this Easter, with your help, we hope to have a **Mercy Mountain**, A **Mercy Tree** full of good works that are being done, and a **Colourful, Blooming Array of Flowers** dedicated to all the people who inspire us to do good things for others!! **All from our local area...**

Celebrating God's Mercy in the Jubilee Year Season of Lent

The Jubilee Year of Mercy we have just begun encourages us to 'draw near to the mercy and love of God in a way that enriches us, and helps us to greet other people with mercy, understanding, and without judgment', our aim to be *'merciful like the Father'*. This little reflection reminds us that God's mercy is something we recognise our need of, and give thanks for, at the start of every Mass.

God's mercy is also something we could perhaps celebrate and receive in a deep, personal and special way through the Sacrament of Reconciliation in this Lenten Season of the Jubilee Year of Mercy...

Fr. Derek Farrell, PP, Parish of the Travelling People

Check with your local parish for times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Lent

- In Rowlagh-Quarryvale & Neilstown. At all Masses on weekend of 12th & 13th March a reconciliation service will be incorporated into the beginning of each Mass with an opportunity for individual confession.
- In the Village Church - On Saturday's after the 10 am Mass to 11am & from 6:50pm to 7:25pm

Reconciliation Services

6.00pm on March 12th & 10am on March 13th in Rowlagh-Quarryvale
7.00pm on March 12th & 11.30am on March 13th in Neilstown
7.30 pm on March 21st in Clondalkin Village
7:30pm on March 22nd in Bawnogue/Deansrath

Out of the Depths
Out of the depths I cry to You
I cry to You, O Lord
Have mercy
Lord have mercy

From dark and sin You bring me in
To pastures fresh and green
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

New mind, new heart
New life, new start
Renew our spirit Lord
Have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy



During the season of Lent morning Mass will be celebrated in the village church Mon to Fri at 7.30am and also in Bawnogue for those who head out early to work, school or college but would still like to go to Mass. For Lent evening mass is held in the village at 7.30pm Mon to Fri.



Dawn Mass in Corkagh Park @ 7.30 am on Easter Sunday
27th March - See you there!

Join us!

CCPC Website Consultation Process

The CCPC has begun a process of re-evaluating our parish's current web presence with a view to making this an affective and useful part of our parish's ministry.

So we would ask you as a parishioner **to complete a questionnaire**

or

As an active group in the parish to have a quick discussion at your next meeting and fill in the questionnaire
(Either individually or as a group).

Once completed send all completed questionnaires back **to your parish office** before

Monday 29th Feb 2016

Questionnaires are available at the back of the Church or from the Parish Office
or can be downloaded from the Parish Website or from

<https://onedrive.live.com/redir?resid=7F261FED9DC362D2!23886&authkey=!AA226y7PqxyIMQI&ithint=file%2cpdf>

Thank You
F O R Y O U R H E L P

Important Notice

Have your say

hello!

Details of a few movements within the CCPC



Christina Malone has been a Parish Pastoral Worker for the Archdiocese of Dublin for the past six years and was appointed to the CCPC in September 2015. Previous to her appointment here she had worked in the parishes of Celbridge and Straffan as well as the Office for Evangelisation & Ecumenism. Originally from Germany, Christina lives with her husband and their two children, aged two and four, “down the country” in Portlaoise.



Frank Brown has been a PPW in the Archdiocese of Dublin for over 6 years and before being appointed to the CCPC in October he was based in the Parishes of Rathmines, Harold's Cross and Mount Argus. Originally from Belfast but after 25 years is now considered an honorary Dub, he is married to Deborah, has three children and holds an MA in Religion & Education.



Maybe it is because I sold cars for many years or that I lived in rural South West County Dublin, I was never a big user or fond of travelling by bus. It was with some surprise and ironic amusement that Fr Damian told me that I could stay on the 13 bus all the way from Clondalkin when I take up my new appointment.

Yes, all good times must come to an end. On Monday 8th Feb at 9.30am I took up my new role as Chaplain to Dublin City University (D.C.U.). I am very sad to be leaving Clondalkin after just shy of three years, firstly as a Deacon and since June 3rd 2014 as a Priest. I have been made to feel very welcome and allowed to grow as I began my Priestly Ministry.

I thank all the clergy & religious in the area and especially Fathers Des, Shán, Padraig and Damian for their welcome, support, guidance and encouragement. Parishioners were very generous to me at the time of my Ordination and I was honoured to celebrate Mass for the first time here in the Village Church.

My particular ministries and chaplaincies including, Scoil Mhuire, Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society, the Pioneers, the Environmental group, the Legion of Mary, all enabled me to get to know many parishioners. I also thank Anne Brett (parish secretary), the Sacristy team, all the various ministers and all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council. Above all, I wish to thank you, our parishioners for your prayers and support.

For the moment I shall still be living across the road but as my commitment from now on will be to the students and staff of D.C.U. I will no longer be available for Weddings and Baptisms but I will of course honour my commitments to fulfil the Weddings that I am committed to. Last Sunday I officiated at Baptism for the last time as a Priest of the Combined Parishes of Clondalkin. I will say Mass here when I can.

As I take my leave of you as a Priest of the Parish I ask you to please pray for me as I take up my new role. I will keep you in my prayers. *Fr Seamus*

Kids' Corner



 **Year of Mercy**
Youth & Children's  **Competition**

Theme: **Mercy in Action**



Age Groups
4-7 yrs
8-12 yrs
13-15 yrs
16-18 yrs

Year of Mercy - Mercy in Action Contest:
Open to All!! GREAT PRIZES

Pick up an entry form from your local church or school
Entrants are invited to submit entries displaying their idea of
Mercy in Action

Submit a photo, collage, artwork, video, story or poem to

Entry to
Mercy in Action Competition,
YOUR LOCAL PARISH CHURCH

Entries are due to your parish on Monday 7th March 2016

CREATIVE SPIRIT COMPETITION for the Year of
Mercy with the theme is **Mercy in Action**

For anyone 4-18 years

Create a Photo, Collage, Video, Artwork, Song, Story or
Poem displaying the idea of **Mercy in Action**

Get an entry form from your Parish Church/School or
download all the details from

www.evangelisation.ie/2016/01/26/mercy-in-action-year-of-mercy-competition-for-parishes-schools/



s r c o n f e s s i o n s n g
n e g s j q t r k e o p a y c
r y o o n e k t x i f i c r l
o a d m o o z z x o l p r e u
h r b y k d i i r s m x i v a
t p c t h s f t q l p s f b n
f n r d u i y r a k t o i c u
o z w s c d x c i t i z c r g
n d e u a c n l k d s d e o d
w j r y c i l o h t a c r s a
o c s a s h e s b q r y e s b
r t n e l c w v d i w z r q y
c h i b y r j r o y b j g j a
x t w v r y z v z l i l d l c
i i p w u b k h v w k q e g p

Hidden Words:

Ashes	Good Friday
Bible	Jesus
Catholic	Lent
Confession	Love
Cross	Nails
Crown of Thorns	Prayer
Crucifixion	Sacrifice
Forty Days	Stations

Do at least
ONE Good
Thing EACH
DAY to Help
Someone!

**Find all of the hidden words about
Lent in the puzzle!**





You are invited to

Rediscovering Mercy – an Invitation to Reconnect Faith & Mercy

“A space to reflect on how mercy is both experienced and expressed in our lives and across the world”

Hosted in Bawnogue Parish

This programme has been designed by Trocaire especially for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

It will run for 4 Wednesday evenings during Lent –

starting on **Wednesday 24th February** &

Continuing on 2nd, 9th & 16th of March. The programme has a strong emphasis on social justice and is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching



An Ashram Retreat – Saturday 9th April

in Rowlagh-Quarryvale Church

The day will begin at 9.00am and finish with *Satsung* or reflection session at 7.00pm concluding at 8.00pm. Cost for the day is €10

Numbers will be limited so please book in in advance

Phone Toni in Rowlagh Parish office 016261010 or email David on dpm.halpin@gmail.com



Churches & Parishes of the CCPC

Clondalkin Village	014593520
Clonborris	014593520
Knockmitten	014592323
Sruleen	014570032
Bawnogue	014519810
Deansrath	014570380
Neilstown	014573546
Rowlagh/Quarryvale	016261010
Parish of the Travelling People	018388874



www.facebook.com/Combined-Catholic-Parishes-of-Clondalkin-175156396168463/?ref=hl



ccpc.clondalkin@gmail.com

Plug into your Parish

Every parish has Lenten/Easter liturgies (*like the daily Mass liturgies and the Lent Reconciliation services*), and they also have other seasonal activities. Engaging in them as a family (*if possible*), or with friends helps to keep Christ at the centre, and it will also help you to help others.

Never underestimate the support you give to others *even by your very presence*.

You are building up your parish by participating in these liturgies and activities!! Why not see how you can get more involved? Find out if there is a parish group or ministry you could bring your gifts to. Find out what charities are in your parish.

Take the risk, get involved

&

Be the difference you want to see!!



Useful
information