

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

St. Patrick's: Sat. Vigil 6.00 pm. Sun. 9.00 am. & 11.30 am. *Via the webcam.*

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. Patrick's: Mon. 10.00 am. & 7.30 pm. Tues. 7.00 am. & 10.00 am. Wed. 10.00 am. & 7.30 pm. Thurs. 7.00 am. & 10.00 am. Fri. & Sat. 10.00 am.

Via the webcam.

THE ROSARY: Mon. – Sat. at 9.35 am. in St. Patrick's Church. *Via the webcam.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Patrick's: Wednesday & Friday after 10.00 am. Mass. *Via the webcam.*



BAPTISMS - We welcome into our Christian Community: Dáire John Monaghan-Farren, Caoran Dubh and Abi Grace McTaggart, Mitchel Park.

BAPTISMS - Will take place in St. Patrick's Church on the following dates: **March: Sat. 20th & 27th. April: Sun. 4th, Sat. 10th, 17th & 24th.**

- **Two weeks notice must be given.**
- **Only 10 persons (including children) per family in the church.**
- **There will be only individual baptisms.**

† **DEATHS** – We extend our sympathy to the Carlin family circle on the death of Paul Carlin, formerly Gortnaghey. May he rest in peace.

LAST WEEKS COLLECTION: £1,123

Thank you to all who contributed.

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE'S ADVENT APPEAL - Donations can now be left at the Parish Office.

S.V.P. - HELPLINE: 079 279 299 23

WALKING WITH JESUS ALONG THE VIA DOLOROSA

SUNDAY LENTEN PROGRAMME

Please join us at **3.00 pm. via our webcam.** *Please use the leaflet that accompanied last weeks bulletin.*

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION - Gentle meditation on a Mon. at 6.30 pm. Please go to mcnmedia.tv open St. Patrick's Church and click on the Blessed Sacrament link.

TROCAIRE BOXES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

DIocese OF DERRY PRAYER FOR LENT

Each day of Lent everyone is encouraged to pray the Diocese Lenten Prayer.

Loving Father, To prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world, Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert.

In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness.

With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

KEVIN LYNCH H. C.

Lotto No's: 11, 16, 18 & 23. Lucky Dip: Davy McCloskey. Jackpot £2,825.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – REFLECTIONS (Notes supplied by intercom)

1. In the Old Testament the privileged place of God's presence was the Temple in Jerusalem. In the New Covenant, this was replaced by the person of Jesus. This is the symbolism of the action of Jesus in the Temple. Recall how Jesus has helped your

relationship with God and give thanks for this.

2. But we are the Body of Christ. When have you been particularly aware of the sacredness of people (yourself or others).

3. There are many ways in which people, the temples of God, are being profaned today. Where are you aware of the sacredness of the human person being violated? Who are the people seeking to cleanse the temple, by promoting respect for the dignity of every human person? Perhaps in ways you have done this.

4. We may also think of institutions as in some way temples of God's presence. In this time when aspects of our institutions are crumbling we can perhaps identify with the Jews who were horrified at the suggestion the Temple would be destroyed. What is it like for you living in a time when some of the things you have taken for granted are collapsing? Where do you find hope in such circumstances?

HOLY LENT INSPIRED BY THE LIFE OF JOSEPH (FR JOSEPH VARGHESE)

Once again, we set out on this time of penitential pilgrimage, fully aware of the mercy of God for us all. This year we have a special guide to help us on our journey to Easter: our Patron, St. Joseph. On the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has issued a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde* ('With a Father's Heart'). In this letter he proclaims a "Special Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and running until the same feast day in 2021.

All Christians know the story of the Birth of Jesus but how often have we considered the role of Joseph in this? It is hard to imagine just how much trust he put in God in accepting total responsibility for looking after Mary and her baby. Whatever God asked of him he accepted and, in his own quiet way went about fulfilling the duties assigned to him in circumstances that were difficult to

understand. It is timely and appropriate that we should be entering this "Special Year of St Joseph" just now, in the midst of the global pandemic caused by Coronavirus. The peoples of the world would do well to adopt a response to the pandemic similar to the response St Joseph adopted when he had to decide his best course of action to the problems he was confronted by, prior to the Birth of Jesus. Never was patience, trust, concern for others and understanding more necessary than at this moment in time. St. Joseph had those attributes in abundance. Lent is a journey on which we travel, spiritually, from captivity to freedom. Hence, we could not have a better companion on this journey than St Joseph. Let us pray with Pope Leo XIII:

To thee, O Blessed Joseph, we fly in our tribulation and after imploring the help of thy holy Spouse, with confidence we ask also for thy intercession. By the affection which united thee to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and by the paternal love with which thou didst embrace the Child Jesus, we beseech thee to look kindly upon the inheritance which Jesus Christ acquired by His Precious Blood, and with thy powerful aid to help us in our needs.

Protect, most careful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen people of Jesus Christ. Keep us, loving father, from all pestilence of error and corruption. From thy place in heaven be thou mercifully with us, most powerful protector, in this warfare with the powers of darkness and, as thou didst once rescue the Child Jesus from imminent danger of death, so now defend the Holy Church of God from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Guard each of us by thy constant patronage, so that, sustained by thy example and help, we may live a holy life, die a holy death, and obtain the everlasting happiness of heaven. Amen.