



NEWSLETTER

26TH FEB. 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 5th, 11.30am. Richie & Niall O'Keeffe.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Saturday 25th, 6pm. Margaret & Patrick Hill & Imelda. Liam & Nellie Geoghegan, & Dan, Andrew & Paul.

Sunday 26th, 11.30am. Brigid & John Carley and family.

Weekday Masses; Tuesday, Wed, Thursday and Friday in Raharney 9am.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €590
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €635

RIP: Margaret (Peg) Beatty, Grehanstown.. Funeral in St. Camillus church this Monday at 12pm.

Stations of the Cross: prayer at the stations on each Thursday of Lent in Raharney at 7pm.

Cemetery Sunday: takes place on June 18th.

Anam Cara Midlands, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 8th March at 7:15pm in the Mullingar Park Hotel. This event is *free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died*, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378

The welcome group and the Assoc of Ukrainians in Ireland are presenting an evening of free entertainment in The Church of the Assumption, Kinnegad to mark day 365 of the war and to honour those who are affected by the war in Ukraine. The event takes place for 7 – 9pm on Feb 26th. All welcome.

Special Collection for those affected by earthquake in Turkey and Syria: The Bishops are taking up a special collection in all Dioceses in response to the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Bishop Tom has suggested that a special collection should be taken up at all Masses on first weekend of March - 4th/5th March. Proceeds can be sent to the Diocesan Office, which will then be forwarded to Trocaire who will work with Caritas in bringing relief to those who are in need.

Demons

Jesus went into the wilderness and struggled with the demons. Such is the metaphor of spiritual life presented to us in today's Gospel. In the course of our lives, we are all "led into the desert by the Spirit," and we must struggle with the demons.

We struggle with the demon of self-sufficiency. Ignoring our interdependence, we imagine that we can "go it alone," and end up dividing ourselves into isolated units of races, classes, and genders, living as though we do not need the other. We may even reach the point of living as though we do not need the Other.

We struggle with the demon of power. We begin by setting ourselves above others, and often end with oppressing them, using our power in a cruel or unjust manner to keep others down.

We struggle with the demon of pride, imagining ourselves to be better than others, or the 'top dog' in our little world, or number one in the world.

Lent is a time to struggle with the demons, "to rid ourselves of the hidden corruption of evil."

"Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned."

As the kernel and center of his good news, Christ proclaims salvation, this great gift of God which is liberation from everything that oppresses man but which is above all liberation from sin and the evil one, in the joy of knowing God and being known by him, of seeing him, and of being given over to him.

Pope Paul VI, [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#)

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



**In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:**
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*
Take one Hour with the Lord

Sunday Message

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A • 26 February 2023 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 1



STOPPAGE TIME

(MT 4:1-11)

Part of growing to maturity is figuring out who we are and what we want out of life. We seek meaning and happiness. We want to find ourselves. Some people achieve this while going through school and college. For others, it takes longer. A few even step away from their job or regular routine to go on a journey of discovery. They take time out to look at themselves and what they're about.

This is what Jesus does in today's Gospel. He has spent three decades living at home as a regular member of the community, probably engaged in the family carpentry business. But after being baptised in the Jordan, he feels the need to take a deeper look at himself. He steps away from what he has been doing to think and pray. He wants to get a sense of God's plan for him. So he goes out into the wilderness on a journey of discovery.

While there, he is tempted to seek wealth, glory, power. Satan is luring him in a particular direction, trying to get him to give into some of the strongest human temptations, but Jesus will not follow. He knows this is the wrong way to go.

At the end of the 40 days, he is sure of what God wants of him. He knows the direction his life must take. You could say he has found himself and his mission.

That is what the season of Lent is about. It invites us to go on a journey of discovery, to take time to look at the shape our life is in and see what needs changing in order to be our best selves. ■

REFLECT

In his book *Let us dream*, published last year, Pope Francis uses the word 'stoppage' to describe the Covid-19 lockdown. He uses it to describe how so much of life as we knew it ground to a standstill, a complete halt. It was a traumatic experience for everyone, but Pope Francis says stoppage can also be good. It gives us time to think, reflect, assess our priorities, consider what is important and what is not.

Stoppage, Pope Francis says, offers a place of refuge against the tyranny of the urgent. We know what he means. Life can be so busy; everything can appear so urgent that we don't have the time or opportunity to step back a bit. The lockdown forced us to step back, to take a breather from the tyranny of the urgent. Lent is our annual opportunity to do the same. It's our stoppage time, our chance to step away from the demands of the urgent, to stop and think and pray and evaluate.

Look at your life. How good a Christian are you? Is there anything you need to change in order to draw closer to Jesus? ■

LEARN

Lent coincides with spring. It reminds us how deeply the rhythms of life and death are embedded in our world. New life can only come into being because the old life has passed away. One of the great messages of Lent is that we can only find new life when we let go of the dead parts of ourselves that hold us back from growing. Just as a rose bush needs pruning to produce well-shaped roses, we need to allow ourselves to be pruned to become the kind of people God wants us to be.



PRAY

Pray that this season will be a time of renewal for the entire Church. Pray, too, for catechumens who are preparing for baptism at Easter.

DO

Lent is not so much about giving up as about discovery. Take time to look at your life. What do you need to discover or rediscover this Lent?

SAY

Lord, during this Lenten season help me to turn towards you every day so that I may find new life in you.