

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

22<sup>nd</sup>. March 2020

PARISH CENTRE

Opening hours from 9.30 am to 1.30  
Tuesday and Friday.

Phone 059 9156890; email: [clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com](mailto:clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com)  
Fr. John O'Brien: 086-2403787; email: [frjohn51@gmail.com](mailto:frjohn51@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.clonmoreparish.ie](http://www.clonmoreparish.ie) Dioc. Website: [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)  
Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>. January 2020

## 'It was your eyes he opened!'

The Trócaire Lenten campaign this year invites us to Kenya, to hear the struggles and concerns of the people of Ishiara parish who are suffering the disastrous effects of climate change. Fr Barasa, the parish priest there, says: 'Climate change is an important issue within our faith because whatever God created is good. Whatever God created is also related to us; we need the environment and it needs us. What I pray for is that everyone will come together, because one continent cannot do it on its own. I would like to ask people to work together against climate change. Let us pray for rain and support each other so this planet may still be here for the next generations, so that we may not be the last ones to live here.' The Gospel today tells the story of the healing of the man born blind who, like us, is being invited to see more clearly, until he finally worships Jesus. In contrast, the Pharisees in the story are becoming more blind. The more clearly the man can see, the more opposition he faces, as those who hold power object to him and his new-found vision. How can we as parish communities work for justice for our brothers and sisters who are in need? We need to see them, to see their struggle, to see the systems which contribute to the crisis. Through small actions we can live in solidarity and challenge those in power to work for transformation. 'Transformation ... begins with the people of God who start turning the things of death into things of life. And the kings and presidents and nations will follow.' - Shane Claiborne

## Thought for the week

### A Coronavirus Prayer



Loving and healing God, we, the people of Kildare & Leighlin turn to you in prayer, confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts. *Generous God*, fill

us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families. May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace. Comfort their family and friends. Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick and all who work in our medical facilities. Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people. We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe. *O God of creation and life*, we place ourselves in your protection. May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow.

St Brigid, pray for us.

St Conleth, pray for us.

St Lazerian, pray for us.

May all the saints of God, pray for us. Amen.



## Have a Wonderful Week



*"You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognise the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope." Thomas Merton*



During these extraordinary times we are called to look out for each other and care for one another. Our first concern is for the vulnerable among us and the lonely. We have already seen and, in the days ahead we will continue to see, the incredible depth of practical love and concern demonstrated by so many people across our diocese and our country. May we be ever grateful for the witness of solidarity and compassion unfolding in our midst.

Although we may not be able to gather as a faith community, we all still belong to our diocesan family. There are many ways to keep in touch and stay connected with your parish and diocese.

1. See [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) for up to date news and resources, including a list of parishes that have webcams so that you can join in prayer and watch Masses and other Church services taking place these days, as well as a statement from Bishop Denis
2. Follow the diocese on twitter: @KANDLEi @KandLeYouth @meithealkandl - Here you'll find a lot of news and inspirational prayers over the days ahead
3. The website of the Irish Bishops' Conference has a rich array of resources and news to keep in touch from an all island perspective. [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

**Free Digital Resources for Staying in Touch with Daily Prayer**  
The following resources can be accessed via computer and/or smart phone. Some are always free and others have been made available free of charge during this coronavirus pandemic. These are just a sample. We have plenty of tools to support us in our prayer life.

- [PrayAsYouGo.org](http://PrayAsYouGo.org): A wonderful free website and phone app with reflections, music and daily Mass readings (both audio and written) as well as Lectio Divina, virtual retreats and much more
- [Sacredspace.ie](http://Sacredspace.ie): A daily prayer resource on website and available as an app
- [Magnificat](http://Magnificat.org): A website and app with Daily Mass prayers and scripture readings, Prayers for the Hours of the day, Meditations and Essays on the saints. This is being made free of charge at this time
- [GiveUsThisDay.org](http://GiveUsThisDay.org): A daily resource from the US featuring daily Mass texts and Readings (using US readings and calendar), reflections and daily morning and evening prayer. Free at this time

### RADIO MARIA IRELAND

I would like to place the services of Radio Maria Ireland at your disposal in this current moment of challenge for the faithful in Ireland. We are broadcasting 24hours each day according to our threefold mission of prayer, catechesis and human formation. Daily Mass will be aired at 10am each day from our studio chapel, including Sundays for those who would like to tune in. Radio Maria Ireland is to be found on television - Saorview, Channel 210, (Freeview in NI) By downloading our free app for mobile devices - Radio Maria Ireland, Through our Website or Facebook page on the Listen Live link

### COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.