

Covid-19 Support Line for Older People

Alone manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties to the outbreak of Covid-19. Professional staff are available reassurance where necessary. The support line is one seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

Thought for the week

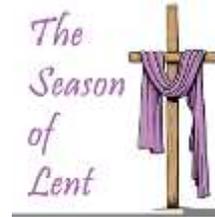
SEEING YOUR LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

1. Jesus he is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.
2. Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time. Later, with hindsight, we may see them as being good for us. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life.
3. Repent and believe the good news was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God, others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?
4. There is immediacy about the call of Jesus: 'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near'. Recall when you had a realisation that NOW was the moment of opportunity - for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say 'yes'?

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

21st. February First Sunday of Lent



PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre will be open on Friday morning from 9.30- 1.30

clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com

Fr. John: 086-2403787; email: frjohn51@gmail.com.

Website: www.clonmoreparish.ie

Wilderness

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to embrace the wilderness. The past year has given us experience of wilderness as our world battled a pandemic. Many people were afraid, isolated, alone, and uncertain of what the future would bring. Humanity was adrift in what seemed like a desert moment. However, wilderness can bring opportunity. It can be a time for deep reflection, where we take stock of what is most important to us, a chance to let go of things that are really not important and focus on where we are being called to be. During this past year, what opportunity did this wilderness offer you? Lent is also a time where people give up something, focus on weight loss or getting fit, take on a course, try to better themselves in some way. And these can be good things, but Lent is so much more than that. It is a retreat time, a time to make room for something deeper. It is a spring-cleaning sort of time, an opportunity to ask, 'what needs clearing out in my life so that I can make more room for God?' 'What changes am I being called to embrace?' Without change we cannot grow, and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. Lent offers us the opportunity to make space for something new, to let go of that which is keeping us from living life to the full. The Gospel today is short, Jesus is sent into the wilderness, into the desert, and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space. It is true that we might encounter our demons there, but we should not be afraid because as the Gospel tells us clearly today, this is a Spirit-led desert. God is with us. Let us try to embrace this wilderness. How we make use of this time determines what will be. 'You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover will be yourself.' (Alan Alda)

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

Hope matters and we cannot live without it. Hope is a course of action, not a wish that things will be different. The future can be better and can be brighter. We each have the power within us to make it so. Do not wish to be anyone to be anything but what you are and try to be that perfectly. St. Francis of Assisi. Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards. Soren Kierkegard

Anniversaries - with love we remember

Sunday 21st. February: Simon Timmins, Boley Shillelagh;



Following HSE guidelines we will have mass online via our Parish Webcam on Sundays at 10.30 in Ballyconnell.

Anniversaries will be prayed for at this mass.

Our weekday masses will be on our Facebook Page at 10.00

ASSITANCE COLLECTING PRESCRIPTIONS OF MESSAGES ANYBODY IN OUR COMMUNITY OR PARISH WHO NEED ANY FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF COOLKENNO GAA OR CONTACT FR. JOHN. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER AND TOGETHER WE WILL OVERTCOME IT.

PARISH LOTTO

Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Results for Tuesday
16th. February 2021 Numbers: 01, 15, 26, 29
No Winner. Next week's Jackpot €15,000
9 Match 3s win €112 each.

A wonderful way of supporting our Parish financially is through the Lotto. If you would like to renew your lotto subscription (those are due for renewal) and if anyone wishes to join our lotto, you can get forms in the Parish Centre. If you wish to know when you are due for renewal you can contact the Parish Office or contact Fr. John

If you would like to receive a weekly email with our Parish newsletter, please provide us with your email address.

'Lent reminds us the Lord is always with us' Lenten Pastoral Letter of Bishop Denis Nulty.



Writing to the people of the diocese ahead of Ash Wednesday, Bishop Denis reminds us in his Lenten Pastoral: "Lent is never about adding to the difficulty of what we are all experiencing - far from it. Rather, Lent presents us with the most powerful reminder that, in the face of the turmoil and pain, the tremendous suffering of this world, the Lord is with us, by His Cross we have been healed, by His Cross we have been saved and by His Cross we have hope. The risen Lord walks with us and calls us to rediscover and share with others the grace and joy of life lived with Him."

Stations of the Cross in this time of Pandemic

The Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation, with Bishop Denis, has prepared a *video series of Stations of the Cross*. Each week a set of three stations will be uploaded to kandle.ie and other platforms. The stations will be led by Bishop Denis, with a parish reader proclaiming the scripture passages. Frontline workers and people who have been severely impacted by COVID-19 will read the reflections for each station. You are invited to pray these stations each week and pray them in their entirety during Holy Week.

A special *video invitation from Bishop Denis* to these stations can be viewed on www.kandle.ie

