

### Christian Motivational Phrases

'Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, it empties today of its strength.'

Corrie Ten Boom

### 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. The parable of the grain of wheat reminds us of a truth that any parent can testify to, namely that it is in dying to ourselves that we can give life to others. We will never be of benefit to others if we remain wrapped up in ourselves. In what ways has your dying to yourself brought life to another? How has the generous giving of another brought life to you?
2. Sometimes our emotions rebel at the thought of what lies ahead and we feel like praying Father, save me from this hour. Then a realisation may come for you as a parent, a teacher, a spouse, a friend: No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Recall times when you have accepted pain or hassle and been a source of life to others for doing so.
3. The story presents the death of Jesus as the moment of his glorification by God. We are also glorified when the grace of God enables us to give generously of ourselves. When have you experienced this in yourself or in another?
4. This voice has come for your sake and not for mine. The angel spoke that we might recognise the love being shown us by Jesus. Sometimes it requires the voice of another to draw our attention to love that is being offered to us. When was this your experience?

*Have a Wonderful Week*

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

21st. March - Fifth Sunday of Lent



### PARISH CENTRE

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

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Website: [www.clonmoreparish.ie](http://www.clonmoreparish.ie)

### 'We should like to see Jesus'

Those poor Greeks. Did you notice that they never actually get to meet Jesus? At the start of today's gospel, some Greeks who are followers of Jesus come to Jerusalem. They are travellers, outsiders, and would like to meet Jesus in person. But when Philip and Andrew relay the request, Jesus begins to talk about how his 'hour' is coming. It is the last we hear of the Greeks, who disappear from the story altogether. But they are important nonetheless. Firstly, they indicate that word about Jesus is spreading. More importantly, they prompt Jesus to reveal that, when his hour comes, he will draw 'all people' to himself. In the space of a few short verses, we go from a brief mention of a group of foreigners seeking Jesus, to Jesus making it clear that his saving mission is for all people, of all nations, both Jews and Gentiles - including these Greeks! There is no suggestion from Jesus that some groups are 'in' and others 'out'. All are included. All are invited. All are welcome. I remember once hearing someone describe their home as a domestic church, a place of 'indiscriminate welcome'. As we continue our journey through Lent and soon into Holy Week, we listen carefully to these words of Jesus. He came for everyone. He wishes to draw all people to himself. Notwithstanding the current restrictions on gatherings and public worship, let us take this time to reflect on the world we would like to build when things open up again. Are we open to everyone, including 'outsiders'? Do our homes, parishes and communities radiate welcome, where all who enter experience God's love? 'For some, the good news is that there are insiders and outsiders and they are the insiders. For others, the good news is that there are no outsiders.' (Rachel Held Evans)

## Anniversaries - with love we remember

Sunday 21st. March: William Byrne, Aghowel Lr. Matthew Byrne; Thomas and Kathleen Byrne, Munny and all deceased members of the Byrne Family.



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

## PARISH LOTTO

Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Results for  
Wednesday 16th. March 2021 Numbers: 06, 17, 20, 22  
One Winner. Next week's Jackpot €10,000  
17 Match 3s win €59 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

## 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](http://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](http://www.kandle.ie)

## Fifth Sunday of Lent - Some suggestions for this week.

1. Persevere in your chosen resolution for lent and remember that their purpose is to bring you closer to God
2. Pray for adults across the world preparing for Baptism at Easter.
3. Plant new life in a container or garden bed!
4. Be a happy presence in your home.
5. Give up television for an evening.
6. Take some quiet time to reflect on your life, to see where change may be needed and to ask for God's forgiveness.

## Turning to God for Forgiveness this Lent



As we move closer to Holy Week, many people's thoughts turn to the sacrament of reconciliation as part of the journey of Lent. Unfortunately, at this time of restrictions our parishes are not in a position to make this sacrament freely available to people. But, of course, the forgiveness of God is always available to us and there are many ways in which we can experience God's mercy, love and forgiveness as we anticipate

Alternatively, in your own time, you can spend some time in prayer to God and make what is known as an act of perfect contrition. This involves two things on the part of the person: firstly, to pray an act of contrition out of love of God and secondly, to make a firm commitment to go to confession when that becomes possible.

### An Act of Contrition

O my God, I thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.

Reminder of the words of Pope Francis in Lent 2020

"It [the Catechism] is very clear: if you do not find a priest to hear your confession, speak to God, he is your Father, and tell him the truth...Promise him: 'Later I will confess, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to the grace of God."