

PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th. March 2024

Palm Sunday



The Parish Office will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30 - 1.30
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ANNIVERSARIES - WITH LOVE WE REMEMBER

Saturday 23rd. Ballyconnell 7.30.: Nora Kearns, Ballynultagh, and hers on Jimmy Kerans, Shillelagh. Andrew Byrne, Gould

Chrism Mass: Bishop Denis invites you to join him for the celebration of the Chrism Mass. It will take place in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Carlow on Monday, 25 March at 7:30 pm. At this diocesan Mass, the holy oils are blessed and consecrated for use in parishes in the coming year and the priests of the diocese renew their priestly promises. The diocesan choir will lead us in singing, for the first time, the newly composed Mass of St Brigid by Fr Liam Lawton.

Ballyconnell Bingo will take place in Ballyconnell hall every Sunday at 8.00 pm. The jackpot this week €775.

PARISH LOTTO: Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto

Results for Wednesday 20th. March: Numbers: 7, 13, 18, 31

No Jackpot winner - Next week's jackpot €11,000. 13 Match 3's - €77 each.

Collections: Weekend: March 16/17

Envelopes: €310 Baskets: €450; Bingo: €508. Envelopes ret.95

Collection for Gaza: Bishop Denis is encouraging the taking up of a collection on Good Friday in support of the efforts of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre to provide assistance and aid to the many Christians who are affected by the conflict in Gaza. While a Good Friday collection is not the norm in this diocese, Bishop Denis is asking that each parish do their best to support a collection for this cause.

Collections at Easter: The Priests of the Parish do not receive any payment from the offertory or weekly envelopes. These collections are lodged into the Parish account. The priests rely on the contributions from Christmas and Easter. I would encourage you to be as generous as possible this Easter. There is an Easter envelope in your envelope box for this collection. Please place your envelope into the envelope box at the back of the churches. If you do not have an envelope, you can use your own envelope. Once again thanks for your generous support

Coolkenno GAA Lotto: Last week's numbers: 4, 9, 20, 28. No Jackpot winner.

Next week's jackpot €3,200 Next Draw: Monday 25th. March in the Crab Lane.

Lucky Dip Winners: Jonathan Crossley; Richard Codd; Jim Cushe; Eileen Hiney

Bingo on Saturday @ 3.30 in Coolkenno GAA Car park

Model Exhibition: Tinahely Community Sports hall Co. Wicklow Y14 N228. March 24th. Over 50's exhibition. Proceeds to South Wicklow Hospice, Homecare and Kare Tinahely Local services.

Clonmore Schoolhouse Community Coffee Shop

We are delighted to let you know that a community coffee shop will operate in the old Schoolhouse in Clonmore (beside the Castle), for two mornings a week on a trial basis for 2024. The coffee shop will be run by volunteers who are locals living in the community. It will open on Friday and Saturday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30, serving teas, coffees, homemade cakes and buns at very reasonable prices. The new launch date will, for the community coffee shop has been moved to Friday 5 April at 9.30 am. And all are very welcome.

Fair weather Friends

'Now to the gate of my Jerusalem, the seething holy city of my heart, the saviour comes. But will I welcome him? Oh, crowds of easy feelings make a start; they raise their hands, get caught up in the singing, and think the battle own'. So begins Malcom Guite's sonnet 'Palm Sunday' (Sounding the Seasons, Canterbury Press, 2012), capturing the elation of the crowds that line the streets of Jerusalem to welcome Jesus. But their loyalty is short lived, as we discover in our readings of the Passion. Jesus is soon deserted, betrayed, denied and left to face humiliation and death alone. Too soon they'll find the challenge, the reversal he is bringing changes their time. We can all see ourselves in the Passion. There are times, when things are going smoothly, when it is easy to praise God and shout 'Hosanna' There are days when we struggle, when we are confused or upset and do not know what God expects of us. We can even turn our backs on him when the going gets tough, or when we cannot find the courage to stand up for our beliefs. This week we are the disciples walking with Jesus, on a journey that leads to the cross, and beyond. Today we read Matthew's account of the death of Jesus; yes, it is the long Gospel but we should not miss out on the journey that spending time with this account offers. As you read perhaps you might notice the various characters and their roles, their words and actions. A good question to ask as we enter into this text is 'Where do I stand?' Are you looking on as a bystander, are you in the group of disciples or some other character: Pilate? Pilate's wife? Perhaps it is a more difficult journey as you relate to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, a Jesus who is 'grieved' because of many things: isolation, the disappointment he must feel because of the abandonment of his friends, betrayal, loneliness, mocking, torture? This is not an easy journey. We know the story does not end here, but for this week we enter into the reality of betrayal, trial, suffering and death. We might remember today those who stand for justice, those who are counter-cultural, those who stand against oppressive systems even though the path is often dangerous and lonely. We might recall times we felt betrayed, abandoned or times we were in despair. Jane Mellet



HOLY WEEK

Monday 25th. Chrism Mass in Carlow at 7.30

Tuesday 26th. Mass in Ballyconnell at 9.30.

Holy Hour in Kilquiggan to pray especially for all the needs of our families from the town's lands of Killabeg, Kilquiggan, Seskin, Mullinacuff, Stratnakelly, Laragh, Ballynultagh, Ballyrahan, Shillelagh. It will be a holy hour of adoration with music, prayers and quiet time. You will have the opportunity to come forward and light a candle at the altar rails as you pray for your family

Wednesday 27th. Mass in Ballyconnell at 9.30. Easter Penance Service, Ballyconnell at 7.30

Thursday 28th. I will visit the sick and housebound.

The Easter Triduum.

Holy Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. Clonmore at 7.30.

Good Friday - Day of Fast and abstinence Celebration of the Lord's Passion: Kilquiggan at 3.00.

Holy Saturday - The Eater Vigil. 9 pm in Ballyconnell.

Easter Sunday: Mass in Ballyconnell at 9.00, Mass in Kilquiggan at 10; Mass in Clonmore at 10.30.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK