

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Friday: 10 am



Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem

Catechesis on prayer - 22. The prayer with the Sacred Scripture - from Pope Francis Part 2

Through prayer a new incarnation of the Word takes place. And we are the "tabernacles" where the words of God seek to be welcomed and preserved, so that they may visit the world. This is why we must approach the Bible without ulterior motives, without exploiting it. The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore they should be welcomed and understood in that same Spirit, so that the encounter can occur.

It bothers me a little when I hear Christians who recite verses from the Bible like parrots. "Oh, yes... Oh, the Lord says... He wants this..." But did you encounter the Lord, with that verse? It is not only a question of memory: it is a question of the memory of the heart, which opens you to the encounter with the Lord. And that word, that verse, leads you to the encounter with the Lord.

Thus, we read the Scriptures so that they may "read us". And it is a grace to be able to recognize oneself in this passage or that character, in this or that situation. The Bible was not written for a generic humanity, but for us, for me, for you, for men and women in flesh and blood, men and women who have a name and a surname, like me, like you. And when the Word of God, infused with the Holy Spirit, is received with an open heart, it does not leave things as they were before: never. Something changes. And this is the grace and the power of the Word of God.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are now 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is **2017**

Welcome to St Michaels for Personal Prayer

To maximise the number of people that can join us for Personal Prayer, we have made a number of changes to the church so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe. Please use only the bottom half of the church and exit from the left only, using the one-way system following the arrows.

We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit.

We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime. Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.



When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE

Holy Week and Easter Triduum 2021

Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA has asked to let you know about resources available from Tarsus Scripture School as follows:

'At the start of Lent, I'm writing on behalf of the Tarsus Scripture School to let you know about our Lent/Easter Programme 2021. This time, we are offering reflections on the readings for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. At least in Ireland, it looks as if we will be not be celebrating together in church — all the more reason, therefore, to explore more personally the Word of God. The programme offers one webinar and one meditation. The meditation — after Easter — will be an opportunity to "take in" what we have celebrated over Holy Week and Easter.'

TSS for Lent and Easter 2021

Easter: Weaving the Tapestry of Death and New Life
9 pre-recorded lectures; 1 webinar; 1 meditation (€30)

"Behold my servant": the Servant of the Lord in Isaiah (Jessie Rogers)

"And when I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself": Easter in John (Sean Goan)

"Dying and raised to new life in Christ": Salvation in Romans. (Kieran J. O'Mahony)

For registration and further details, please go to: www.tarsusscriptureschool.ie.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic (1) African bishops warn second-largest continent has few vaccines (2) Nun says her Vatican appointment means 'clerical mindset is changing' (3) David Quinn: Caricaturing the 'mother-in-the-home' provision in the Irish Constitution (4) Michael Kelly: We must be consistent in our pro-life ethic.

Messenger (1) Does God talk to you? (2) Ronan Barry: Eight years -- Pope Francis.

Tablet of 6/2 (1) Prayerful life -- Nine reasons to pray (2) Capital punishment in the US -- A most premeditated murder.

Tablet of 13/2. (1). Pope Francis urges Myanmar coup leaders to release political prisoners. (2). The cost of division. — America's coming schism?

Universe/Catholic Times. (1). America's right hide behind God as they spin their false theories. (2). Caroline Farrow: Covid has shone a spotlight on how we treat the disabled. (3). Lent is time to grow in faith, hope, love and to share them, says Pope. (4) Solidarity, not competition, must rule the vaccine rollout.

Thoughts

LENT 2021

The days are noticeably longer, lengthening into our **Springtime of Faith**. This is our season of opportunity, for a deeper engagement with faith and prayer, discipleship and life. On account of the pandemic, we need no ritual reminders of mortality — it touches us every day. But the pandemic is a paradox, both a burden and an opportunity. We can choose to live these days differently and fruitfully.

Parish Finance – Thank You

A sincere word of thanks to parishioners who continue to drop in their weekly offering and once-off donations to the Sacristy and Presbyteries. It's very much appreciated in these challenging financial times for the parish. We also thank people who are using the 'Donate' facility on the Parish website to support the parish as well. A Donate button is placed on several pages of the website including the Webcam page used for livestreaming Masses. Please continue to support your parish either through a direct contribution to the sacristy or presbyteries or via the Donate Button on the parish website.

Lent and Ash Wednesday

There was an excellent response on Ash Wednesday as many people visited the church to collect the prepared envelopes of the Blessed Ashes and the accompanying prayer. It was a different way of doing things this year but it worked very well. Weekday Masses continue to be live-streamed so that people can join in Mass for Lent. In any other year people would make a commitment to attend Mass during the weekdays of Lent. This year we can keep this resolution but virtually.

Reflections for the Sundays of Lent

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM. Cap in Rochestown has kindly made his weekly reflections on the Sunday readings for Lent available to the Diocese. These reflections will be available each week during Lent as 'Reflections for the Sundays of Lent' on the Diocesan website. Fr Silvester's reflection for this First Sunday of Lent is now available on <http://corkandross.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Lent1B.pdf>

Thought for the day

In Italian, Lent is *quaresima* or forty (days). In German, it is *Fastenzeit* or time for bodily restraint. Our English word comes from an older Anglo-Saxon word for *spring*—*len(c)ten*— whence our Lent. Italian tells us how long it will last (with its symbolic overtones). German tells us what to do in that time. But English tells us what is supposed to happen, that is, we are supposed to experience a springtime of faith, a time growth and new life.

Prayer

God of new life, bless us on our pilgrim way towards the great feast of Easter. Help us to know our need of your presence, breath your Spirit into our reading of the Word, teach us to set aside whatever hinders our true discipleship so that we may come to life in abundance and know in our hearts the joy of the Gospel. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. We are at a major turning point in the life of Jesus when 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 with nothing positive about them. Later, with hindsight, we may see it as a necessary testing that was for our good. 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. The arrest of John the Baptist was the occasion of the start of the public ministry of Jesus. When has some event outside of your control unexpectedly led you into some new and fruitful activity?
4. Convert 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?
5. 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?

PRAYER

God of the covenant, O God of mystery, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world's corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving flood of baptism your people are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days, we beg you, unseal for us the wellspring of your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Grant this through your Son, Jesus Christ,

Coronavirus COVID-19

Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:

- Wash** your hands well and often to avoid contamination.
- Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue safely
- Distance** yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell