

Ardagy & Moydow Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Lent, 14th March 2021

Laetare Sunday

Out into the light

Today, the 'middle' Sunday of Lent, is known as Laetare Sunday – *Laetare* means 'Rejoice!' We tend not to think of Lent as a time to rejoice, but signs of joy are central at Mass today, such as the use of flowers on the altar and rose-coloured vestments for the priest instead of the usual Lenten purple. The shadow of the cross still looms large, but we look forward with hope to Easter, when light will conquer the darkness.

We are offered an opportunity today to pause and reflect on our Lenten journey. In our gospel we hear that 'the [person] who lives by the truth comes out into the light'. On the other hand, Jesus says that those who 'prefer darkness to the light' live in fear that their actions will be exposed.

We hear a lot of talk these days about transparency. We have seen the damage caused by those whose private actions gravely contradict the message they proclaim in the public sphere. Some questions we might ask ourselves this Lent are: Am I living a truthful life 'in the light'? Am I honest in my dealings with others, trying always to choose what is right and just, or are there things I do in secret that are unkind or dishonest? Am I attentive to the needs of others or am I more inclined to think of myself? Lent offers us an opportunity to step out into the light, to allow the light of Jesus to sweep away any darkness or destructive habits and to begin again.

'We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence, and we are able to share it with others; when we know when to smile with those who smile, and weep with those who weep; when we accompany those who are sad and at risk of losing hope; when we recount our experience of faith to those who are searching for meaning and happiness... and there – with our attitude, with our witness, with our life – we say 'Jesus is Risen,' with our soul.' (Pope Francis)

Triona Doherty

Aid for the Children of Yemen: Fr. Neal Carlin's new book, *'The Eagle, The Tiger and Covid'*, is now on sale at £10 and can be purchased by contacting goldenagecentre@hotmail.com. All proceeds are being sent via a direct contact to aid the Children of Yemen.

Preparing for Marriage?

Catholic Engaged Encounter: A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation Course is planned for 27 – 28 March 2021. This two-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how to enrich your future relationship. For information and booking telephone 0287638512 or log on to marriageencounter.ie

Tarsus Scripture School will offer reflections on the readings for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. 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.

TTS 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.

'And when I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself': Easter in John.

'Dying and raised to new life in Christ': Salvation in Romans.

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

Working in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham, the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre offers a Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn 2021. If you require any more information please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 71264087 or email: tferry@derrydiocese.org.

Redemptorist Publications is delighted to announce it is extending its mission to encompass **Dementia Prayer Week** as part of its pastoral outreach initiative.

Dementia Prayer Week, which was previously run by the Pastoral Care Project for the last 12 years, will now feature under Redemptorist Publications pastoral outreach initiative. The event will launch from 12-19 March 2021 with the aim to raise awareness and a deeper understanding of the spiritual needs of people living with dementia. It will also provide a fundraising drive to help support and ensure future dementia resources are more widely available for the Christian community.

Everyone is invited to take part in this national event, now in its thirteenth year. The initiative will be highlighted, and all those living with dementia prayed for, during Fr Denis' online Mass on 14 March.

Dementia : A Prayer

It steals upon our loved ones,
it steals when we do not understand
what is happening;
why it is happening?

The happening is that slow dying
the taking away of a precious
loved one.

We see someone we loved and treasured,
someone who won our respect,
we see that person denied
of dignity and slowly losing
an awareness of life and living.

It hurts...oh, how it hurts.

Let prayer be our help
let prayer be our strength
let prayer rise like a fountain
of love.

May we come together in prayer
for our cherished one.

Dear God,
we pray, may your will be done.

***Michael Cauchi, former carer and trustee
Pastoral Care Project 2007***

Trócaire Boxes available in Post Offices nationwide

February 27, 2021



Trócaire Boxes

Because of the difficulties in distribution this year due to the Covid lockdown, An Post have very kindly offered to display the Trócaire boxes that had been intended for a schools audience, throughout all post offices in the country. Over 120,000 English language boxes and 3,300 Irish boxes will be distributed. By the end of the week, anyone who wants to pick up a Trócaire box can now also do so from their local post office. Your support can help families like Ajak's and Awut's hurt by conflict survive and thrive.