

BALLINAMORE & DRUMREILLY LOWER PARISH NEWSLETTER

25th Feb. 2024.

2nd Sunday of Lent

Feast Days: 27th Feb St Gregory, 1st March St David & Women's World Day of Prayer

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Tues & Thurs emails & messages

Fr. Malachy Moses C.C. Mob 087 490 4380

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Fr. John Mc Mahon 049-4339610 Mob. 086-2126582 (Carrigallen)

Join us live, @ churchtv.ie Select Leitrim, then Aughawillan, Aughnasheelin, Ballinamore or Corraleehan

Ballinamore Church:

Sat & Sun 11am, Mon 7 pm, Tues, Weds & Thurs 7:30 am & Fri 9 am

Sat 24th Feb 11 am No intention

Sun 25th Feb 11 am: People of the Parish

Mon 26th Feb 7 pm James Mawn (Glenfarne & Boston) and Fr Mick Lally (Ballintubber, Co Mayo)

Sat 2nd Mar 11 am **Confirmation**

Sun 3rd Mar 11 am Micheal Sherkle (Tully)

Peter and Katie Roddy (Foxfield, Fenagh)

Molly Prior (Lisacarn) 2nd Anniversary and her son Micheal Prior (Tráthnóna) 4th Anniversary

Eucharistic Adoration:

Fridays 9.30am –10.30am

Eucharist Ministers: 25th Michael Darcy, Maeve Sharpley & Noel Dolan 3rd Mar Evelyn Mchugh, Marian Sharpley &

PJ McLoughlin 10th Brendan Sweeney & Eilis O'Dell 17th Mar Michael Duignan & Peggy Ferguson

Ministers of the Word: 25th Feb Niamh Griffin 3rd Mar Kay Maguire 10th Mar Ciara Duignan 17th Mar John Darcy

Door Collectors: 25th Feb & 3rd Mar Seamus Earley, Michael Fanning & Camillus Martin.

CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE: Saturdays after the 11am Mass in Ballinamore Church, and on request at any time.

Aughnasheelin, St. Mary's Church:

Fri 7pm & Sat 8:15 pm

Mass Intentions

Fri 23rd Feb 7 pm Michael Sammon

Sat 24th Feb 8:15 pm Frank and Aileen Flynn (Derrynawana) and Tom Joe Flynn (Drumeenaun)

Fri 1st Mar. 7 pm Packie Joe & Bridgid McCabe (Gubnaveigh) and all deceased members of the McCabe family

Sat 2nd Mar 8:15 pm no intention

Stations of the Cross for Lent: Fridays after 7pm mass.

Eucharist Ministers: 24th Feb Margaret Murphy & Volunteer 2nd & 9th Mar Seamus Prior & Margaret Mc Teigue

Ministers of the Word: Confirmation Class **Door Collectors:** Peter Flynn, Brendan Reynolds & Brian O'Dowd

Corraleehan St. Brigid's Church:

Wed 9:30 am & Sun 9:45 am.

Mass Intentions

Sun 25th Feb 9:45 am Thomas Patrick and Brigie McNiffe (Drumgowna) and all deceased family members

Sun 3rd Mar 9:45 am No intention

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday 10 am to 4pm & 6pm to 8pm

Eucharist Ministers: Teresa Maxwell and Annie McManus **Altar Society:** Nell Prior and Bernie Dolan

Ministers of the Word: Helen McGovern & Sean McNiff **Door Collectors:** Gerry Meehan & Joseph McNiff

Aughawillan St Patrick's Church:

Weds & Sat 7pm

Mass Intentions

Sat 24th Feb 7 pm Bernie and Monica Prior and deceased members of the Gallagher and Prior families
Kathleen Gallagher Campbell (Killaphort) and deceased members of the Gallagher Family

Sat 2nd Mar. 7 pm no intention

Eucharist Ministers: Pat Stringer and Breege Mc Cauley **Altar Society:** Michelle Dolan and Katie Meeken

Ministers of the Word: Doreen Flanagan and Donal Quinn **Door Collectors:** Paddy Deane and Gerry Flanagan

BALLINAMORE PRAYER GROUP 8 pm on Tuesday night at the Parish Centre. Come along and invite your friends.

RECENT DEATHS: Please pray for the souls of Pat Purcell, Tipperary (husband of Peggy Callaghan, Dernasmullan) who died in Luton on 18th Feb, Bridie Mc Teigue (Moher, Aughnasheelin) funeral Mass on Sat. 12pm, and also Maureen Dolphin (Willowfield Rd) funeral Mass on Sun. at 11 am. **May They Rest in Peace**

ENROLMENT MASS for FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN: for Children making first Confessions and getting their First Holy Communion takes place this Tues at 7pm in St Marys Church Aughnasheelin.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - SUGGESTION: if there are 2 or more Eucharistic Ministers, on a rota for the one mass might they be seated towards the front of the church, meet and bow at the front of the Altar before going towards the side of the Altar. It would be appreciated if ministers were in place at the altar at the end of the peace prayer just before the priest and congregation recite the Lamb of God. Thank you for your consideration and co-operation.



WAYS OF SUPPORTING the PARISH FINANCIALLY: The traditional way to support your parish is by contributing through your weekly envelope collection. Thanks to all who do so, so generously each week. In recent times some people set up a SO/EFT to pay, please contact parish office at 071 964 4039 / ballinamore@kilmorediocese.ie, or you scan the QRcode with your smartphone, <https://churchtv.ie/>, follow the links for your Church to make a donation. The light a candle feature lets you to light a candle in Ballinamore Church from anywhere, 24/7.

VISITATION of the SICK and HOUSEBOUND: takes place this week: Aughnasheelin, Corraleehan, and Aughawillan on Thurs am. Ballinamore rural and town in the pm. Fr. Sean & Fr. Moses will contact you in advance of visit.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS RETREAT: 8th/10th March takes place in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne. Contact Fr Ultan Mc Goohan- umcgoohan@hotmail.com

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR TRÓCAIRE BOX IN EACH CHURCH

KILMORE APOSTOLIC WORK SOCIETY ANNUAL RETREAT: will be held in the Pastoral Centre, Cavan, Sun 3rd Mar, 10.30 am until 4.30 pm. Fr Pat Kelly, SMA who is giving the retreat, spent 50 years on the missions. Full programme of activities, lunch and refreshments costs €50. Further information call Ann O'Hara at **087 621 8684**

BIBLE STUDY & LECTIO DIVINA IN LENT: An introduction to the Gospel of St. John, followed by prayerful reading of Gospel passages led by Bishop Emeritus Leo O'Reilly, continues each Thursday 7.30-9pm. Course is in the Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cavan and concludes 21st Mar. All welcome, further info on **049 437 5004**.

EXPLORING THE MASS: A Lenten series with Bishop Martin and Kilmore Faith Development Team. Have you ever heard someone say, "I'm not getting much from Mass"? Maybe the real question is, "What am I contributing to Mass? Am I genuinely involved, or just an observer?" You are warmly invited to join a unique three-week online series of interactive discussions, personal stories, and an opportunity to ask questions. Please note change of dates **The sessions will run on Wednesdays, 28th Feb, 6th and 13th of March** sessions will start at 7:30 pm. for 1 ½ Hrs everyone is welcome, to register, please send your name and email address to pastoralcentre@kilmorediocese.ie

COMMUNITY NOTES

ATHLETIC CLUB: Training continues Tues & Thurs at 7pm. New members welcome each night. Preparations at each training session for the LSP Leitrim Primary Schools Sports Hall Athletics competition at the end of this month.

AUGHNASHEELIN FORÓIGE CLUB: thank everyone who contributed to their club fundraiser last weekend. Congratulations to the following winners: Ella Curry, Caleb Duignan, Breege Mc Cauly, Leah Guckian, Marian Devlin, Brian McGovern, Doireann McManus, Eugene Mc Guinness, Michelle Reynolds, Maura Sweeney & Fintan Fitzpatrick

CIÓRCAL NA mBAN: We had a great first meeting. Next meeting Tues 5th Mar 7pm before the flower arranging workshop with Ruby's Mill at 8pm. Places available, if interested contact Louise **0861925895** / Shirley at **0866083516**.

LITTER PICKING: Thanks to all who litter picked last week. **20 bags of rubbish!** Thanks to Leitrim Co Co for the equipment and collection of the litter. Hopefully we can get back out again in another few months, and in the meantime we should all be vigilant for litter around our own roads and try to keep the area litter free.

A BOOK CLUB: has started in the area. We will meet monthly if you are interested in joining, contact **086 608 3516**

AUGHNASHEELIN DEVELOPMENT GROUP FUNDRAISING TABLE QUIZ: in the Community Centre Mon 18th Mar at 5pm This will be suitable for all ages, so maybe take a family table or a few neighbours – tables 5 max for €40, all funds to go towards the development group. It will be a good community evening so please come along on the night.

LEITRIM SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS CLUB: sincerely thank all those who supported our recent church gate collection at Aughnasheelin and Ballinamore churches with a total of €435.95, any enquiries to **087 240 4822**

ST MARY'S NS, DRUMLEA: are accepting enrolment applications from Monday 26th of February. Applications forms available on our website drumlea.com or via email from office@stmarysdrumlea.com

BALLINAMORE GREENWAY PARKRUN & WALK: every Saturday at 9.30am - looking forward to seeing you there.

BALLINAMORE BADMINTON CLUB: Tues at 8pm Ballinamore Sports Complex. €3 per night, PAYG. All welcome.

LEITRIM VOLUNTEER CENTRE OUTREACH OFFICE: in The Island Theatre Ballinamore, working with volunteers and organisations to promote volunteering in Leitrim. Contact Claire **087 769 6514** or e mail claire@volunteerleitrim.ie

ISLAND THEATRE - UPCOMING EVENTS: March 16th 8pm - The Empty Nest (play) by Oisín Flores Sweeney, **March 21st 8pm - Pat & Faye Shortt 'Knuckle Down' (comedy)**, March 24th 2pm - Born to be Wild (children's show). Tickets and more info available at www.islandtheatre.ie

THE 42nd ANNUAL BALLINAMORE DRAMA FESTIVAL: begins in the Island Theatre, Ballinamore, on Sat 2nd Mar. The festival runs for nine nights, starting at 8pm, and ends Sun 10th Mar. Season Tickets €60 for the 9 nights, on sale in Murphy's shop, St. Brigid Street, or at the ticket office. Admission nightly is €10. Your support is much appreciated.

BALLINAMORE WOMENS GROUP meeting in the Island Theatre, 29th Feb 11am to discuss and finalise finances.

BALLINAMORE GOLF CLUB: Table quiz in Smyth's Siopa Ól, Fri. 1st March at 9.30 pm, upkeep of the greens in this our 90th birthday year. This is a wonderful facility in our town. €40 per team of 4 people. Great prizes and spot prizes and great craic is guaranteed.

GARDENING COURSES STARTING IN BALLINAMORE ETB CENTRE:

QQi Level 4 Growing Vegetables Wed. from 10am-2pm. **QQi Level 3 Trees & Shrubs** Thurs. from 10am-2pm.

Courses are free to everyone over 18. To register call or just call up to Seamus **087 916 8087**.

MENOPAUSE MASTERCLASS: Are you curious about what's going on inside your body and why you're having symptoms? Do you want to understand about treatment Choices and how nutrition and lifestyle can help, why not join Maj Cunningham (Pharmacist & Menopause Specialist), Ballinamore Library Wed. 6th March 2024 at 11am

SEAN O'HESLINS – MONTHLY DRAW: Tickets for February's monthly draw are available and can be purchased from Smyth's, Priors, Murphy's, Fresh today, and Phillip Farrelly and online. €550 in prizes, all support is appreciated.

GAELTACHT GRANTS 2024: Leitrim Co Board GAA with Comhairle Contae Liatroma is offering grants for attendance at Gaeltacht courses to Leitrim boys and girls as part of promotion of an Ghaeilge. Grants for €300/€200 to be awarded to boys and girls living in Co Leitrim. Application by Thurs 1st March 2024 leitrimgaa.ie/gaeltacht online

SENIOR SCÓR Leitrim Co Finals of Scór Sinsear takes place Sat. 23rd March in Drumshanbo. The club needs to be represented in all different competitions. All interested should contact Seán Ó Súilleabháin at **087 6821566**

REFLECTION

Love is Transformative. It's a language the deaf can hear,
a song the crippled can dance to, and a sunset the blind can see.

SING TOGETHER at the ISLAND THEATRE Monthly drop-ins **11am-12.30pm**. Pay as you go/can. Next dates **24th Feb, 23rd March & 20th April 2024**. Call Sarah for more information **087 762 0523** / sarah@sarahgarden.ie.

Everyone is welcome and you don't need to be an experienced singer, this is a chance to sing songs from every genre. **IRISH CONVERSATION CLASSES**. The Ciorcal Comhrá, or Irish Conversation Circle in Ballinamore Library is on Tues. 8 pm. Different levels/classes apply. Admission free. Ring or text **087 682 1566** to book.

TIN WHISTLE LESSONS: Fridays at 7pm for beginners and intermediate/advanced children. All newcomers welcome. Classes in Sean O Heslins GAA clubroom for more information contact Sarah at **083 483 5881**

THE WRITE WAY WORKSHOP: with Best-selling author Nicola Kearns, Sat. 23rd March, 10 am-5 pm, in The Junction Arts Centre Ballinamore. Whether you are a novice writer or seeking to enhance your existing skills, this course offers the inspiration and guidance to turn your writing ambitions into reality. **COST**: €110. €30 deposit secures place. To Book: Ring Michael at **085 8535115** or book online at www.leitrimartschool.ie

ARE YOU AN ADULT CONSIDERING EDUCATION? Exploring your options and need further information or guidance? The Leitrim Adult Educational Guidance Service will be in Ballinamore Library on Thurs March 7th from 10.30am to 3.30pm to answer any question you might have. No appointment necessary, just come along on the day.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING COURSE – STARTING FEB. 26th: Mohill Computer Training is now accepting registrations for its P/T 4-week QQI Level 4 Desktop Publishing course. Ideal for new and intermediate computer users preparing for employment or simply looking to upskill. Learn to create stunning publications such as Logos, Business Cards, Invitations, Flyers and Newsletters. Register by calling **071 9632024** or emailing Feargal feargalodonale@msletb.ie

MONAGHAN INSTITUTE'S OPEN EVENING takes place on Tues. 5th March 11am -7pm. Meet our staff team and learn more about studying with us in September 2024. Browse courses and apply now @ www.monaghaninstitute.ie.

CAVAN INSTITUTE: is hosting an Open Day Thurs. 29th Feb. from 9 am to 3.30pm. This is an opportunity to visit the institute and discuss the opportunities available, upon completion of a PLC or Traineeship course here in Cavan Institute. The event will take place over two sites -- the Cathedral Rd campus and on our new state of the art campus on the Dublin Rd. (Courtesy buses will take interested students to view the facilities on the Dublin Rd.) So, if you are interested in accessing progression routes for third level education in Higher Education Institutes and Universities, upskilling, obtaining employment or taking a gap year, why not come along and see what Cavan Institute can offer?

FREE HORTICULTURE COURSE (QQI Level 4) F/T Horticulture Course commencing on the 26th Feb. Drumshanbo for 45 weeks. Training Allowance available. Contact Linda on **086 2031664** or email LindaLogan@msletb.ie

TEMPLEPORT DAY CENTRE resumes on Wednesdays. Usual transport arrangements, new members welcome. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS: movement to music & stretching suitable for older adults. Thurs 10am in Ballinamore Old Primary School (beside the old convent, pedestrian crossing & new national school). All welcome.

DANCE FIT & TONING CLASS: Mondays at 8pm in Ballinamore Community Hall, and Wed. 6.30pm in Ballinamore Old Primary School, fun exercise class with Michelle Fanning. For further information contact **087 939 0980**.

CORLOUGH LINE DANCING: Tuesdays in Corlough Community Centre at 8pm, admission €7 all welcome.

CALLING ALL TUTORS! Leitrim Dev. Company are creating an up-to-date list of tutors and speakers, who are available to offer courses, talks and workshops on many subjects. If you would like to be added to the list for 2024, please email your name, contact information (phone & email) and a brief description of what you do to annamctiernan@ldco.ie Community Groups will contact you directly to make arrangements for course/talks.

FAMILY CARERS IRELAND: Are you caring for a loved one at home with additional needs? A spouse, partner, child, close relative or neighbour? Then you are a family carer! Become a member of Family Carers Ireland, the national charity supporting Ireland's 500,000+ family carers nationwide. Contact **057 93 70221** and hear how we can support you or for more info visit www.familycarers.ie.

5 STEP SUPPORT SERVICE: Are you affected by the misuse of alcohol or other drugs by another individual? 5 Step Support can help you; it is a free, non-judgemental, one-one consultation service. Putting your needs and wellbeing first, helping you manage stressful, difficult and emotional issues. For more information please contact **071 915 0578/085 875 9319** or email sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.com you don't have to be addicted to suffer from addiction!

GENTLE REMINDER: to update your church contributions for 2024. Offertory contributions for the upkeep of your church are made payable to the local church. All Dues contributions towards salaries for priests are made payable to Ballinamore Catholic Church 2 ACC

REMAINING DATES DIOCESE OF KILMORE PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE 2024 Friday 12th April '24 7.30pm – 10 pm Sat. 13th April 10 am – 5 pm. Fri 11th Oct. 7.30pm – 10 pm & Sat 12th Oct. 10 am – 5 pm *It is planned that the above courses will take place Face to Face. Courses will take place in the Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Cavan, H12 E5 C7. To book a course please log on to: www.accord.ie

BOOKING ANNIVERSARIES MASSES: As you are aware we have shared mass intentions in our churches at the weekends. We try to limit the number of intentions to a maximum of three. To maintain this arrangement please book anniversary masses well in advance of your preferred time. Priests are allowed one mass stipend or donation per day, when we have shared intentions the extra donation is sent to retired or missionary Priests, who celebrate the extra Masses. Please book your Masses via email ballinamore@kilmorediocese.ie or phone **071 964 4039**

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ORIGINAL St PATRICK'S COLLEGE: Tuesday 12th of March 2024 will mark the opening of this iconic building which served as a college (up to its relocation to the new college building in 2012) and now houses the **Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre since 2005**. Bishop Martin Hayes will be the principal celebrant of a special Mass to commemorate this milestone anniversary in the Cathedral of Saints Patrick & Felim, Cavan on Saturday 16th of March 2024 at 11am. Further details will be announced in due course.

TOTUS TUUS MAGAZINE is a Catholic magazine, full of articles from Irish priests and laity, which aims to highlight the beauty and joy of our faith. It is now in its 7th year and is run by donations. If you haven't come across Totus Tuus Magazine and would like a free copy please contact Fiona Kiely on **086 876 0058**.

CAREER IN CARING FOR THE ELDERLY: Home Instead are always looking to recruit Caregivers. Whether you can work a couple of hours a week or want to work full time, we would like to hear from you. Experience and FETAC/QQI level 5 qualification in healthcare is an advantage but not compulsory as training is provided. Please contact Seyi or Ciara on **(071) 9317051** or recruitment-admin.sligo@homeinstead.ie for more information.

ALONE IS LOOKING FOR VISITATION VOLUNTEERS: in your area to make befriending visits to older people looking for extra social contact for 1 hr per week. ***Volunteers needed*** would you provide companionship visit or make friendly calls to Older People once a week for an hour or two? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided, if interested please sign up here: <https://alone.ie/volunteers/> for more information, contact Sinead on Sinead.Flanagan@alone.ie on **086 192 1505** and leave a message with your name and contact number and I will phone you back.



DIOCESAN VOCATIONS RETREAT

“Do you love me?
Feed
my Lambs,
look after my
Sheep”

Come join us as we'll help you
discern and answer the call of God's love in you.

8th-10th March @Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne

for more information email Fr. Ultan McGoohan -
umcgoohan@hotmail.com



SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

CAMINO 2024: Join Focus Ireland ‘In the Footsteps of St James’ on a fully guided walk from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela along the Camino de Frances and help support families in our community’s facing homelessness. Dates 27th May – 3rd June. Ex Dublin. Contact Monica on **087 954 7007** or email events@focusireland.ie for details and bookings.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE

PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2024: 7 Nights B&B from €273 per person sharing. Airport transfer available on request. Contact us for details Tel. **01 4434510** Medjugorje: **00387 36 651 518** Ireland: **00353 1 443 4510** or email: reservations@med-irishcentre.com and Website: www.med-irishcentre.com

CALLING ALL 18 30 YEAR OLDS! Do you want to explore your faith with other like-minded young people in a beautiful and reflective location? Join us for a Retreat for Young Adults at Lough Derg, Pettigo County Donegal on Saturday 27th April 2024 from 10am to 4pm. Refreshments and Lunch provided. This Retreat is organised by The Knights of St Columbanus Omagh and is free of charge. To Register please visit tiny.cc/loughderg or Email info@knightsostcolumbanusomagh.co.uk

BALLINAMORE DRAMA FESTIVAL

The 42nd annual Ballinamore Drama Festival commences in the Island Theatre, Ballinamore, on Saturday night, 2nd March. The festival runs for nine nights, starting at 8pm and closes on Sunday March 10th. Season Tickets, for €60 for the 9 nights, are on sale in Murphy's shop, St. Brigid Street, or at the ticket office. Admission nightly is €10.

Our adjudicator this year is Declan Drohan (ADA). Declan Drohan M.A. H.Dip.Ad.Ed teaches on the B.A. in Performing Arts and the M.A. in Creative Practice at ATU Sligo. He trained at the Gaiety School of Acting, and with Michael Chekhov Europe. He is co-director of Chekhov Training and Performance Ireland, and serves as a director of the Glens Centre Manorhamilton.

There are four groups, from Pomeroy, Tubbercurry, Enniskillen and Glenamaddy, competing in the Confined Section and five groups from Carrigallen, Dalkey, Clontarf and two from Wexford, in the Open Section.

Saturday 2nd:

Our Neighbours Corn Mill Theatre Group, Carrigallen open the Festival with Robert Scott's 'According to Rumour'

Sunday 3rd:

Dalkey Players, Dublin perform 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller.

Monday 4th:

Pomeroy Players, Tyrone present 'There Came a Gypsy Riding' by Frank McGuinness

Tuesday 5th:

Phoenix Players, Tubbercurry, perform 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell (Adapted by Ian Woolridge)

Wednesday 6th:

Enniskillen Theatre Group, Fermanagh, stage 'There Lonesome West' by Martin McDonagh

Thursday 7th:

Clontarf Players, Dublin, perform 'Radium Girls' by D. W. Gregory

Friday 8th:

Wexford Drama Group, Wexford, bring us 'How I Learned to Drive' by Paula Vogel

Saturday 9th:

Ballycogley Players, Wexford perform 'Out of Order' by Ray Cooney

Sunday 10th:

The Festival concludes with the Glenamaddy Players, Galway performance of 'The Outgoing Tide' By Bruce Graham.

We look forward to welcoming all our patrons to another enthralling festival week.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

'I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."'

(Psalm 116:10)

Newsletter Insert

Travelling so far for water each day affects other parts of the lives of Malita and her children, Margaret, Patrick and Patricia.

Carrying 20 litres of water leaves the children tired and some days they are not able to go to school. Farming is an important part of how the family support themselves, but a lack of water makes farming difficult. Trócaire and our partners in Malawi are working to create solutions to the water shortages, such as digging bore holes close to villages. To learn more, go to: <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/>



'Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity.'

(Laudato Si', 28)



Malita on her farm.

Photo credit: Muiru Mbuthia, Trócaire

Sacred Space

Add some plants to your sacred space this week. These will help us to reflect on Malita and the importance of her family farm, and remind us to give thanks for the food we can grow at home.



Prayer of the Faithful

- 1) Loving Father, we pray that individuals, communities and policymakers can work together to build a just world where all people have access to their basic needs, such as food, water and education.
- 2) Loving Father, we pray for those parts of the world where war, conflict and climate change make access to safe, clean water difficult. Give us the courage and strength to stand up against injustice wherever we see it.



Music

'Come to the Water' by John B. Foley SJ

'Eye Has Not Seen' by Marty Haugen

'Come Back to Me' by Ian Callanan



This Week

Check your home or parish for water leaks and dripping taps.



GOSPEL REFLECTIONS BY FR PAUL THORNTON

Mark 9:2-10

At the end of July there is the annual pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick. The struggle up the bare mountain with shale collapsing under your feet is worth it on a clear day when you arrive at the summit, and you can see all 365 islands in Clew Bay. It is a moment to be quiet and to savour all that is beautiful.

When we begin to become aware of the beauty we have experienced, our sense of the sacred in nature grows deeper. As we grow in this spiritual awakening, we also see the great wound that has been caused to our beautiful earth.

How much greater must the experience have been for Peter, James and John when after their climb up the mountain with him, Jesus is transfigured before them. His clothes and his face become dazzling white, and the voice of the Father is heard. The natural reaction is to want to hold onto this moment forever, to set up the three tents, for this is holy ground. To have that connection with this place and this event will mean so much to these and the other disciples when they face the events of Holy Week in Jerusalem.

Malawi's natural environment is becoming more unpredictable and unstable. Families like Malita's, pictured on our Trócaire box, live with the uncertainty of what the weather will bring; yet they don't give up. They continue to rebuild, replant and use the skills that are being provided by Trócaire and its partners.

Pope Francis reminds us that our ecological awareness depends on our ability to see the interconnectedness of the people and communities of the world with the planet itself. The more we lose this awareness the less chance there is of finding the holy ground on which the transfiguration takes place. We have to open again the book of nature alongside the scriptures so that we will be engaged in what Archbishop Dermot Farrell calls 'a quest for insight, inspiration and strength so as to live in a new way on this earth, our common home'.* How might you reconnect with nature this Lent? You could look up Trócaire's family resource to help you to reconnect with nature. Read more about Malita's story and find homily notes at: <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/>

* Archbishop Dermot Farrell, *The Cry of the Earth – The Cry of the Poor*, Dublin: Veritas, 2021, p. 9.

Take Action Day of Celebration – World Water Day

World Water Day occurs every year on 22 March. In 2024 this falls on a Friday just before the Easter break. Use this day to celebrate all things water in your parish. The following are just some suggestions for integrating water issues into your parish for the day. We would encourage you to join with your local school, youth club and community groups for these activities.

- A Pledge Waterfall: Create a waterfall of pledges in a public area. Each water droplet coming down the waterfall can be an individual pledge.
- Organise a river or beach ritual using this Trócaire resource: <https://www.trocaire.org/documents/trocaire-river-ritual-season-of-creation/>
- Do a water liturgy review. How many times

during our Catholic celebrations do we use water? One example is during baptism; can you find more, especially as we enter Holy Week?

- Join the Trócaire volunteer programme: <https://www.trocaire.org/join-us/volunteer/>
- Fundraise for Trócaire: <https://www.trocaire.org/ways-to-help/fundraise/community-fundraising/>



Patrick uses the water pump at Puteya Primary School.
Photo credit: Muiru Mbuthia, Trócaire

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBANUS LOUGH DERG RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

(18 to 30 year olds)

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2024
10AM-4PM

With guest speakers, inspirational talks, reflective time and concluding with the celebration of Mass.



EVENT FREE OF CHARGE

TO REGISTER PLEASE
SCAN THE QR CODE



For further information please contact
info@knightsofstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk