

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 14th February 2021
Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

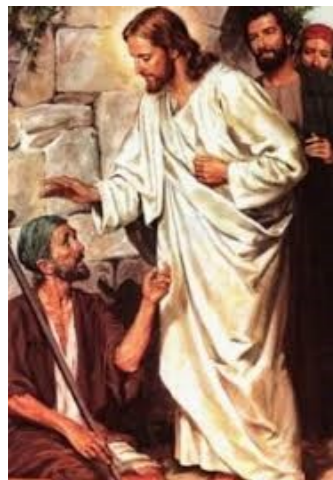
Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
St Mary's Presbytery
Dublin Road ☎ 9834958

St Mary's Parish Centre
24 James Street
☎ 9834587 ☎ 9838347
www.stmarysdrogheda.ie

Hospital Visitation: is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 February 2021



'Stretched out his hand...'

Jesus, in today's Gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society due to the huge stigma surrounding the disease, which was highly contagious but was also seen as a punishment from God in Jesus' time. Jesus is moved with pity for this man and reaches out to him. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. It is the religious hierarchy of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing (healing him), Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love.

A question for us from this Gospel today might be, who are those our society outcast? Who is alienated in our communities? What moves you with pity? Who is it that we need to reach out to at this time?

Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he wants to shout from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will use encounters like this one to compile evidence against him. For now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the Gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.

'There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.'

(Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 225)

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 14th February, 2021

Sunday 14th Feb.	10:00am	Barbara O Grady <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Matt Nolan Senior; Eamonn Mc Donagh; Nuala Kavanagh; Dodie O' Brien Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Tom Halpin, wife Agnes, son Oliver & Maureen Halpin, Robert & Bridget Williams & deceased family members and special intention; Margaret Mc Evoy
Monday	10:00am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	10:00am	Special Intention
Wednesday 17th	10:00am	Ash Wednesday - Rose Sherwin
Thursday	10:00am	Special Intention
Friday	10:00am	Special Intention
Saturday	10:00am	Alice & Dick Gerrard
Sunday 21st Feb.	10:00am	Michael Mc Nally; Jemmy & Mary-Ann Fay and Joe Fay; Joey Gallagher, Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Declan O'Halloran Michael Keeley



St Mary's Schedule (On webcam only.)

We want to say a very special thank you to so many of our parishioners who volunteered to help out in so many ways in the past few months. We have a wonderful team of parishioners who have helped to keep our church safe for everyone.

Mass will be celebrated privately each day at 10:00am and will be available via webcam. You can join us by going online to our website live stream. The Church will be open each day from 11.00am to 4.00pm so that people can call in to say a prayer or light a candle. Copies of the parish bulletin will be available in the Church.

St. Valentine's Day (February 14th)

In the third century AD, Valentine (226-269) bishop of Terni, Italy, performed weddings for couples who were not allowed to get married, because for example the bridegroom was a soldier or a slave. Valentine gave the married couple flowers from his garden. Hence why flowers play a very important role on Saint Valentine's Day. These marriages did not please the Roman Emperor Claudius Gothicus and on February 14th 269 AD, Valentine was beheaded because of his Christian faith. A relic of St Valentine is still to be found in Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church, Dublin city. "Valentine", derived from the Latin *valens* means worthy, strong, powerful.

St Valentine, pray for us.

Wednesday 17th February - Lent Begins

It was agreed by the Bishops that ashes should be available in churches in plastic sachets or paper envelopes for members of the faithful to take home with them. We will have ashes in plastic sachets on a table in front of the altar after Mass on Ash Wednesday.

We invite families to take one sachet home with them

It is a day of fast & abstinence

Once more we are preparing to welcome back the season of Lent into our lives. Every Lent offers us a precious opportunity to deepen and increase our faith. Lent is our annual retreat when we are each called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. On this day we begin our Lenten journey to Easter. It is one of two fast days in the church year. On Ash Wednesday the priest blesses the ashes. These ashes are made from the palms which were blessed on Palm Sunday last year.

Ashes also remind us that our life on earth will come to an end and that our eternal life with God will then begin. Our life with God begins with baptism and so the beginning of our Lenten journey is inextricably linked to our baptismal journey.

A prayer for those who died...



Mary (Mamie) Duffy (née Hamill), Marian Park
Kathleen Plunkett (née Skelly), Marian Park
Trisha (Patricia) Meade (née Hughes), St. Finian's Park & Priest Lane
Marie Hughes, Priest Lane
Cian Tierney, Bryanstown Village & Phnom Penh, Cambodia; **Jimmy Hanlon**, Forest Grange
Sarah Kelly (nee Tiernan) Broadmeadows
Anthony (Tony) Lynch, Platin Road.
May they rest in peace

Supporting Our Parish:

Parishioners can leave their envelopes or a donation to the parish in the boxes at the back of the church or you can now use the **donate button** facility on our website. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks. Keep safe and well.