

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim

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Fourth Sunday - 31st March 2019

This Weekend:

March 30th/31st

7.00p.m.

1. John Coyle, Corclaragh
2. Eddie, Kathleen & John Doherty, Devine Crescent.

10.00a.m. No Intention

12noon

1. Helen Kearney (1st Anniv.)
2. John Foley and deceased members of the Foley & Donohoe families.

The Manor - Sunday 31st March - No Intention

First Friday 5th April 7.00pm: Eamon Murray

Weekday Masses: The Manor at 11.00 a.m.

Saturday 6th April - Noel McGlynn, Rathowen

Next Weekend:

April 6th/7th

7.00p.m.

1. Kathleen & Sean Logan
2. Yvonne Sheridan (12th Anniv), Camlisk

10.00a.m.

Josie Carroll (1st Anniv.) and deceased members of the Carroll family.

12noon

1. Clare Reilly (née) McGuinness.
2. Tony & Harry Devine, Marian Ave.

The Manor - Sunday 7th April - Brigid & Ned Flood, Pound St.

Offertory Collection: Sun March 24th - €1,365.00 - sincere thanks.

BAPTISMS - We welcomed Laura Maebh Holly, Lacken; and Lucinda Sandra Patricia Stokes, Corboy into our Christian community recently.



RECENTLY DECEASED - Please pray for Patrick (Paddy) McGrath, Bracklin, who died recently. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. *Requiescat in Pace.*

CONFIRMATION - Congratulations to all the young girls and boys of the parish who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Francis on Friday last. Thank you to their teachers for all of their dedication in preparing the young people for receiving the sacrament. Thank you too to the teachers and children who provided music for the ceremony and to all who assisted in preparing the church and grounds. We pray that these young boys and girls will always welcome the Holy Spirit into their lives to guide and direct them in God's ways.

FIRST FRIDAY: Fri Apr 5th - Evening Mass @ 7.00pm. The usual communion calls to the sick and housebound of the parish will take place on Thurs 4th at the usual times.

ANointing OF THE SICK - will be celebrated on Wed Apr 3rd during 11.00 a.m. Mass.

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE takes place on Tues Apr 2nd @ 8 pm in St. Mel's College, Longford. (Tea/Coffee @ 7.30pm). The theme is: Safeguarding: An ongoing challenge and a vital ministry in the church in Ireland. Teresa Devlin, CEO of the National Safeguarding Board for the Catholic Church in Ireland is guest speaker. All are welcome.

HAVE YOU A KEEN INTEREST IN HORTICULTURE?

NLN 2 year Fetac level 4 full time Horticulture programme has a limited number of places available this May and June. If you would like to learn more about this programme or how to apply please contact Alan Garvey on 087-9065521.

THE DEEP END - The Elder Son

Sometimes we can be so familiar with a Gospel passage we tend to switch off after the first few sentences. That would be a shame, especially when the Gospel is one of the great blockbuster parables. The real challenge in today's Gospel is what happens after the lost son returns. The elder brother has 'worked like a slave' all those years and is understandably upset. The Father's welcome of the younger son would have been considered extremely foolish by those listening to this story. However, the Father makes it clear that his outreach to the younger brother will not change his love for the older brother. It will cost the elder brother nothing to reach out. We have nothing to lose in welcoming home the lost.

Today, we can try to place ourselves somewhere in this narrative: where do you stand? This Gospel shows us that God returns the lost to the community, regardless of the boundaries that we might put in place. Jesus teaches us a lesson in radical hospitality. No matter how far we wander from home, God is still a loving God. The elder brother has a choice: to come to the party or to sulk in the corner. Luke, excellent story-teller that he is, leaves the reader to decide the outcome.

'God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power ... that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live' (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si.*)

MISSION APPEAL - the total amount donated to the Holy Ghost Missionary Order has now reached €1,607 - thank you for your generosity.

Longford Westmeath Education & Training Board, FET Centre Block A, Church Street, Longford. Drop in Morning - 3rd April 2019 - 10am-1pm; Meet the staff-see the facilities. Get information on upcoming courses.

TAX FORMS - Thank you to all who have returned forms in relation to the Tax Relief Scheme for Charities. All outstanding forms would be most welcome to enable us to maximise our claim from this valuable source of income.

"Your potential is the sum of all the possibilities God has for your life." - Charles Stanley

"Start your child's day with love and encouragement and end the day the same way." - Zig Zigla

READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - APRIL

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Matt Farrell, Anna Coyle.

Sunday 10.00 a.m.: Sean Noonan, Siobhan Campbell.

Sunday 12 noon: Kate O'Donohoe, Niamh Cassidy.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - APRIL

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Pat Appleford, Marie Reilly, Mairead Fulham.

Sunday 10.00 a.m. Liz Brady, Orla Noonan, Ann Smith

Sunday 12 noon: Kate O'Donoghue, Emma O'Reilly, Yvonne Tuite.

Please arrange a substitute if you cannot be present.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." *Mother Teresa*

- Fr. Tom Healy P.P. -