

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim

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Third Sunday of Lent - 7th March 2021

This Weekend **Mar 7th**

- 11.00 a.m. 1. Michael Kenny, Lacken
2. Liz Hughes (Month's Mind)
3. Anthony Garvey, Cullyvore
4. Michael (Mickey) Smith (Months Mind)

Weekday Masses: *St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m.*

Wed 10th Mar People of the Parish

Next Weekend: **Mar 14th**

- 11.00 a.m. 1. Deceased members of the Morgan Family, Lisnanagh
2. Shane Dockery and Maeve Dockery.
3. Martin Kelly

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please pray for Jack Colgan, Kiltykeary and for Sr Elizabeth Brady, Our Lady's Manor, who died recently. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Requiescant in Pace.

EDGEWORTHSTOWN PARISH WEBCAM

A webcam has recently been installed in the Parish Church.

The webcam is accessible at:

churchtv.ie ⇒ Longford ⇒ Edgeworthstown

There will also be a link on the parish website:

edgeworthstownparish.ie

DAILY MASS - @ 11.00.

SUNDAY MASS - Sunday Mass will be celebrated @ 11.00 a.m.

We will offer Mass for all the intentions which are booked in the parish diary for each weekend.

We invite family members to join us in praying these anniversary Masses.

CHURCH OPENING - As the current health restrictions are ongoing it is not permissible to have a congregation present at Mass. Consequently this means that we will be unable to open the Parish Church until after morning Mass has been concluded

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Eucharistic Adoration will now take place from 11.30 to 12.30 daily.

• The Deep End • A question of authority •

It is tough at times to figure out who has authority on certain issues. There are 'experts' everywhere, telling us how we should eat, exercise, manage our finances... the list goes on. Something that has struck me during the current pandemic is how hard it can be to know who to believe. We hear from doctors and virologists, politicians and economists, and their opinions don't always align. It can take us a while to trust the voices we hear in the media.

The Temple scene in today's gospel sparks a debate about Jesus' authority. While he certainly cuts an authoritative figure as he drives out the stall-holders and money-changers, he is immediately questioned. The Jews demand a sign to explain his

provocative words and actions, as if to say 'Who do you think you are?' It is interesting to note that in John's Gospel, this scene takes place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (unlike the Synoptic Gospels where it comes towards the end). This would explain the disbelief of the witnesses.

In calling the Temple 'my Father's house' Jesus identifies the source of his authority. But his interrogators do not understand, nor do his disciples, though we are told it later makes sense to them after the resurrection. This scene offers more than an angry Jesus and a clueless audience. It is a public revelation of Jesus' identity and authority, as the one in whom God's presence dwells. It also emphasises the radical new way of living that Jesus has come to bring about. As we journey through Lent, we ask ourselves where the message of Jesus has become obstructed in our lives, and how we might open our hearts again to his presence and guidance.

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them... The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.' (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*)

- Triona Doherty (INTERCOM)

• Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel •

1. In the Old Testament the privileged place of God's presence was the Temple in Jerusalem. In the New Covenant, this was replaced by the person of Jesus. This is the symbolism of the action of Jesus in the Temple. Recall how Jesus has helped your relationship with God and give thanks for this.

2. But we are the Body of Christ. When have you been particularly aware of the sacredness of people (yourself or others).

3. There are many ways in which people, the temples of God, are being profaned today. Where are you aware of the sacredness of the human person being violated? Who are the people seeking to cleanse the temple, by promoting respect for the dignity of every human person? Perhaps in ways you have done this.

4. We may also think of institutions as in some way temples of God's presence. In this time when aspects of our institutions are crumbling we can perhaps identify with the Jews who were horrified at the suggestion that the Temple would be destroyed. What is it like for you living in a time when some of the things you have taken for granted are collapsing? Where do you find hope in such circumstances.

- John Byrne osa (INTERCOM)

POPE FRANCIS - LENT 2021

"Fasting helps us to love God and our neighbour, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outwards that focuses our attention on others and considers them as one with ourselves".

"Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need".

"In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind".

Tax Relief Scheme - Thank you to all who have returned Tax Relief forms. At a time when parish income is reduced significantly we would be delighted to receive any outstanding forms please.

SHROVE DUES - are now due to provide an income for the parish clergy. Thank you for your generosity.

- Fr Tom Healy -