

Parish Bulletin - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 18th/19th 2023

MASS INTENTIONS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

CROOKSTOWN 7PM - Willie Doyle -Blackrath (A), John Leigh - Ballymount (A) Seán McLoughlin (M.M.), Eugene Kelly -Calverstown (24thA) & Teresa Kelly (4thA) Michael Lavin (A)Bridie Cassidy - Blackhall (A), Tommy Fleming - Blackhall (A), James (Ger) O'Neill, Kathleen Farrell (M.M.), Ann Price (11thA), Mick Price (8thA), Recently Deceased: Mary Kelly

BALLYMOUNT 8.30AM - Recently Deceased: Mary Kelly

KILMEAD 10.30AM - Jim Keegan (A) and his daughter Mary Keegan Shia (A), Rose Ita O'Brien (A)

MOONE 12 noon - Br. Alberic Turner (A) Dora Phelan (née) Carton (A), Dick Watts (A), Pat & Janey Nolan and their son Christopher Nolan - Portersize, William (Bill) O'Neill (A), Cecil Moore (1st A)

CROOKSTOWN: Wed & Fri 9.30am - Donor's Intentions.

MOONE TUESDAY 10AM - Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion



Archbishop Farrell has given approval for a diocesan collection to be taken up in support of the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquakes on Monday 5^{th} February. The Turkey/Syria Collection will take place on 25/26 February, at 1st Sunday of Lent celebrations, and will replace the SHARE collection.

The collection will be channelled through Trócaire, who are working with partners in the affected area. They have the capability to ensure that any funds raised in Ireland will be managed appropriately to meet the needs of those most badly affected.

Please be as generous as you can afford to be.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH & HOPE

is our parish programme for the Season of Lent. Full details will be available shortly.

OPERATION 'SOUL' TRANSFORMATION. Wednesday:

Make a special effort to get to Mass for blessed Ashes. If you are going anyway



invite someone along who may not otherwise go. **Thursday:** Make a special effort to kind and courteous to everyone today. **Friday:** Try join Fr Francis at the Holy

Hour in Crookstown from 7-8pm. Confession is also available. **Saturday** is traditionally associated with Our Lady. Take time to say a prayer in honour of her Immaculate Heart.

Sunday: Make a special effort to keep this day for family

. Lent begins on Wednesday -Happy Lent.



MASS FOR PEACE.

To Mark the First Anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine you are invited to join the Ukrainian Community in and around South Kildare to celebrate Mass for Peace at 9:30am in St Michael's Church, Athy on Friday, February 24th



The Annual Lenten Trócaire appeal is a major source of funding. Please consider taking a Trócaire box home with you, they are available at the doors of the Church. Your small change can make a difference to the life of someone in Somalia. "BE THE CHANGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE WORLD."

***** DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF ABUSE

The Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse is an initiative of Pope Francis and is held on the first Friday of Lent, which falls on February 24 this year.

THE ALEXIAN BROTHERS' PRAYER TO **CHRIST THE HEALER**

In the comfort of your love, I pour out to you, my Saviour, The memories that haunt me, The anxieties that perplex me, The fears that stifle me, The sickness that prevails upon me, And the frustration of all the pain that weaves about within me. Lord, help me to see your peace in my turmoil. vour compassion in my sorrow.

your forgiveness in my weakness, And, your love in my need. Touch me, O Lord, with your healing power and strength.



We look forward to welcoming all of the girls and boys who are preparing for Holy Communion and Penance, to our next Do

This In memory mass next weekend. Please keep them all in your prayers. Also please pray for the boys and girls of Scoil íde Naofa who celebrate the ceremony of light on Tuesay in St Ita's Church,

CATECHETICAL CORNER - TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

Lent begins on Wednesday. This beautiful Liturgical season is an opportunity for us to hit the reset button and turn our focus back to where it should be...on GOD. Everything that we do during Lent, what we give up or take on, our prayer, our giving to Charity are all done with the purpose of reminding of us of our need for GOD's mercy and forgiveness. The Lenten season is marked by a few very obvious liturgical practices. Firstly, the colour of the priests vestments change from green to purple. Indeed, the banners in the church will also change. And, according to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship: "In Lent, the altar should not be decorated with flowers..." (Letter on the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts #17). Other notable omissions are the Alleluia and the Gloria. Neither the hymn known as the Gloria (Glory to God in the Highest) nor the Alleluia verse sung before the Gospel is permitted during the entire 40 days of Lent (with a few small exceptions, St Patrick's Day being one).

Why is that? First of all, the Gloria is a hymn that celebrates the coming of the Lord using words from the angels at Christ's birth. The Church during Lent returns in spirit to a time when the people of God were in exile, waiting for the Messiah to come and save them. It is a similar season of expectation as is Advent, but instead of awaiting Christ's birth from the womb of Mary, the Christian people await Christ's second "birth" from the womb of the sepulcher.

Secondly, following this same spirit of exile, the Church joins Moses and the Israelites as they wander in the desert for 40 years. It is a time of penace and purification, one where the faithful join together in saying, "*How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*" (Psalm 137:4) The word "Alleluia" is rooted in a Hebrew expression that means "praise the Lord" and is thus omitted during Lent.

Our focus in Lent is not in rejoicing, but in mourning our sins, looking at those things that prevent us from an authentic relationship with God. Once these are removed through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are able to rejoice again at Easter, for it is not only Christ's resurrection that we celebrate, but our own rebirth in the spirit, so the Christian people "groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as [children], the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23) This is not a recent practice is goes back to Pope Alexander II in 1073. Saying goodbye to the Alleluia gave rise to many quasi-liturgical practices of burying the Alleluia in the ground only for it to be dug up for the Easter vigil. Such practices were inspired by the sentiment of Bishop William Duranti (1296) voiced in his commentaries on the Divine Office: "We part from the Alleluia as from a beloved friend, whom we embrace many times and kiss on mouth. head and hand, before we leave him." So, really we say "farewell", not so much goodbye as "see you in a few weeks, when we will have the mother of all celebrations at Easter time. Happy Lent.

Kilmead, another milestone on the lifelong adventure of faith. *****

HOLY HOUR DURING LENT Every Friday during Lent there will be a Holy Hour in Ss Mary & Laurence Church in Crookstownat 7pm with the opportunity for individual

confession.

MASS TIMES IN NARRAGHMORE & MOONE **ST JOSEPH'S BALLYMOUNT:** Sunday 8:30am

SS MARY & LAWRENCE CROOKSTOWN: Saturday 7pm (Vigil)

Wednesday & Friday: 9.30am ST ITA'S KILMEAD: Sunday 10.30am Mass is celebrated most weekdays at 10am

but is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Most Blessed Trinity Moone:

Sunday 12noon. Holy Day: 11am

THE PARISH TEAM:

FR LIAM RIGNEY PP - 087-2607377; Email: liam.rigney@dublindiocese.ie Fr Tim Hannon CC - 059-863 0704 FR FRANCIS MCCARTHY CC -

087-6978143 **CONOR MCCANN - Parish Pastoral Worker** - Narraghmore & Moone 086-7905654. Email: conor.mccann@dublindiocese.ie NATASHA GEOGHEGAN - Parish Pastoral Worker - Athy & Barrowhouse 087-6730300. Email: natashsa.curran@dublindiocese.ie.

PARISH SECRETARIES

BER MURPHY & TRISH HOLLIGAN - . Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 10am - 4pm. Ss. Mary & Laurence Church, Crookstown, TEL: 059 8623154. Email: stlaurenceschurch@gmail.com

MASS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday 22nd February is a day of Fast and Abstinence Mass will be celebrated as follows Crookstown Church at 9.30am, Athy Church at 9.30am, Kilmead Church at 10am, Moone Church at 7pm and Athy Church at 7.30pm. Blessed Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.