

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 24th January 2021
Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
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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.



Now is the time

More than 50 years ago, in his famous 'I have a dream' speech, Martin Luther King Jr talked about 'the fierce urgency of now'. He urged people to take positive action and to march forward together to address inequality and injustice, and his energy and conviction brought about massive change.

That sense of 'fierce urgency' seems to grab Jesus and the disciples in today's Gospel. In the opening chapters of Mark's Gospel everything happens 'at once' or immediately. There is a sense of hurry; the time has come, the kingdom of God is near, and Jesus needs helpers to work alongside him. Simon, Andrew, James and John are certainly ready, so ready that they are prepared to leave behind their livelihoods, and even their families, to attend to the urgent business of spreading the Good News.

Jesus asks the same of us, his modern-day disciples: 'Follow me'. We are summoned too. We are challenged to set aside our worldly concerns, to see the world in a new way, and to begin a new adventure with Jesus. For every person in our world who is suffering or oppressed or in need, there is a 'fierce urgency of now'. The work of the kingdom is too immediate to wait.

'This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilising drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children... The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.'

Martin Luther King Jr

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 24th January, 2021

Sunday 24th Jan.	10:00am	Frank Byrne; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Christy Flanagan; Joe & May Kelly; Charles Watters; Johnny Reynolds, Valerie Walker, Eamonn (Edward) Moore; Dolores Farrell
Monday	10:00am	Thomas & Jane Lynch; Vera Mc Keague
Tuesday	10:00am	Maureen Downey; Carmel Clinton
Wednesday	10:00am	Veronica Faulkner <i>First Anniversary</i> ; May Maher; Willie & Michael Moran
Thursday	10:00am	Malachy Oakes, Joe Keappock
Friday	10:00am	Special Intention
Saturday	10:00am	Mary Doyle <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Nicky Mc Keon; Dolores Grant McMahon
Sunday 31st Jan.	10:00am	Veronica Faulkner <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Lilah Mathews, Sean Mathews & John Fennell; Thomas Lowth; Tommy Nolan; Martina Bagnall



St Mary's Schedule (On webcam only.)

We earnestly hope that in 2021 we will find ourselves vaccinated, going back to work or finding new jobs, heading back to school, and breathing a sigh of relief.

We all look forward to a resumption of our visits to our elderly in our nursing homes and those who have been confined to their homes. Our prayers are with those families who lost loved ones during the course of the pandemic. Yet, like we do in the seasons of Advent and Lent, we must stay alert and prepare for whatever may lie ahead.

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.

Adoration in the main Church Monday to Friday 11:00am to 4:00pm. Please Note: Due to a Wedding on Tuesday 27th January there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on that day.

Catholic Schools Week 2021

Since Covid 19 arrived in Ireland last year we have lived through ten months of uncertainty and challenge, a time which has tested our faith and resilience and we have wondered on many occasions if life will ever be the same again or when will we get back to some level of normality, and 'Where is God in all of this?'

So this year our Catholic Schools week which begins tomorrow is more important than ever for all of us. Why because our Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience, and we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Our schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give love and receive love. This love is bound in faith and is more resilient than any virus. We had to change our attitudes and we had to refocus on what was important in our lives. One paradox that the pandemic taught us was that in looking after our neighbour's health we are really looking after our own. If those around us don't have the virus then we won't get it, so it's in my own interest to be concerned about everyone I meet.

In putting other people first I'm making my own life better. That is a huge reversal from the prevailing way of living that was in fashion- at least until Covid 19 came along. That was a world where I was number one and planted firmly at the centre.

A lot of people have made time for prayer and quiet reflection since the crisis first swept across the globe last spring. The pandemic made us all take stock of our need for solidarity and helping each other out. The strength and support of the family unit was also clearly evident since the pandemic hit us. Covid 19 also made us reflective of our need for



A prayer for those who died...

Edel Farrell (néé Dunne), Highfield and Millmount Abbey
Neil Mc Keown, Rathmullen Park
Harry Kelly, Meadowview & Scotland
Philomena Keenan (née Rafferty), Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone (sister of Agnes Lannon, Beaubec)

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.