

# St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 7th March 2021  
Third Sunday of Lent

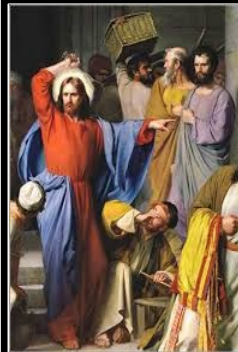
Fr Phil Gaffney PP  
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC  
St Mary's Presbytery  
Dublin Road ☎ 9834958

St Mary's Parish Centre  
24 James Street  
☎ 9834587 ☎ 9838347  
Email address stmarysdrogheda@gmail.com  
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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.



THIRD  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT



## Third Sunday of Lent 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*



This year Trocaire's Lenten Campaign will focus on exploring the Impact of Conflict on Families in South Sudan. This Lent, we learn more about the suffering of people who have lost their homes and loved ones to war, and how they are rebuilding their lives through love, friendship and solidarity. Trocaire boxes are available at the back of the Church or visit the website <https://www.trocaire.org> for more options to donate.

## Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 7th March, 2021

|                          |                |  |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Sunday 7th March</b>  | <b>10:00am</b> | Dolores Meegan <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Paula Mimna; Thomas Curran; Betty Johnston; Con O'Brien & Cassie O'Brien; Birthday Remembrance<br>Fr. John O'Leary; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke;<br>Freddie & Maura Tiernan; |
| <b>Monday</b>            | <b>10:00am</b> | Sheila O'Carroll; Paddy & May Reid; Birthday Remembrance   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>           | <b>10:00am</b> | Holy Souls   |
| <b>Wednesday</b>         | <b>10:00am</b> | Johnny Dundon <i>Month's Memory</i>  |
| <b>Thursday</b>          | <b>10:00am</b> | Barry Behan; Connie Mc Evoy  |
| <b>Friday</b>            | <b>10:00am</b> | Special Intention  |
| <b>Saturday</b>          | <b>10:00am</b> | Nola Mc Ginnity; Kieran Wogan & his son Ciarán Wogan   |
| <b>Sunday 14th March</b> | <b>10:00am</b> | Val Vaughey; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Mary O'Riordan;<br>Michael Byrne, Ollie & Maureen Rice  |

## St Mary's Schedule (On webcam only.)



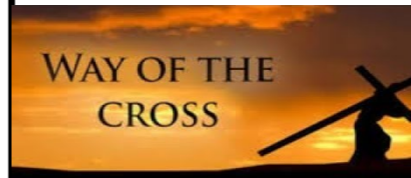
We earnestly hope that in 2021 we will find ourselves vaccinated, going back to work or finding new jobs, heading back to school, and breathing a sigh of relief.

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.**



**Each Friday from 10:30am - 11:00am in the Church we will play a recording of the Stations of the Cross and you can join us via our webcam.**



## Diocese of Meath Vocations

Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (Jn 12:32). Is the Lord drawing you to Him in a call to the Sacred Priesthood? Please join us for an hour of Adoration and reflection on the call of Jesus who wants to lift you to Himself on Thursday 4th March @ 7pm by Livestream on the Diocesan Facebook Page.

## Pro-Life Prayer Vigil

On Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal will be leading a time of prayer, with Eucharistic Adoration, for the protection of life. It will be *Livestreamed* on the Facebook page of Holy Family Parish (Drogheda) It will begin with a Eucharistic Holy Hour from 10am to 11am and conclude with 11am Holy Mass. 041-9830441 .

**LIGHT THE FIRE! 2021** – St. Patrick's Day with the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal a Livestreamed event, beginning at 2:30pm - go to [www.slaneparish.ie](http://www.slaneparish.ie). Event begins with the recounting of the story of the life of St. Patrick, followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas Deenihan, Bishop of Meath, and concluding with a time of Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. More details at [www.franciscansisterscfr.com/st-anthony](http://www.franciscansisterscfr.com/st-anthony).



## A prayer for those who died...

**Anne (Nancy) Rose (née Taaffe)**, Patrick Street  
**Frances Daly (née Walker)**, Ballsgrove  
**Aldona Fabisiak**, Grangerath  
**Rose Curtis (née Leer)**, Inniskeen, Monaghan  
**Joseph (Joe) Pepper**, Wheaton Hall & formerly Dublin.

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.