

The Parish of Leitrim/Ballydugan/Kilmeen

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(The parish newsletter is available On-line @ www.clonfertdiocese.ie)

The Fourth Week of Lent:

NO MASSES (until further notice)

**Anniversary Masses can be rescheduled
or they can be offered privately by the priest.**

From The PP's Desk:

Dear Parishioners,

we have entered unprecedented times; challenging times as our normal life and way of going about our business is disrupted for the time being. We must do what we are asked to do and co-operate fully with the directions coming from those who know and are best equipped to lead us out of this pandemic. We should not pay heed to fake or false news. We should not underestimate our resilience. We, as Christians, will be fortified by our faith and solidarity with all our brothers and sisters. We, also, have recourse to prayer. We cannot underestimate the power of prayer at this time. Our churches will remain open for private prayer. Please pray for those affected by the virus and all working to help them and to prevent its spread in our community. There are some copies of "Prayer at Home When Gathering for Mass is not Possible" in the foyers of the churches. You can also download it from the Diocesan

Website: www.clonfertdiocese.ie. All priests will continue to celebrate Mass privately on weekdays and on Sundays. You can join spiritually in the celebration of Mass either on radio or on web-cam. For example, Radio Maria Ireland on Saorview 210, or www.radiomaria.ie www.clonfertdiocese.ie for Loughrea Cathedral or www.knockshrine.ie for Knock. The Sacraments of confession and the sick will be celebrated as requested. Funerals, weddings and baptisms will be limited to close family members and with strict adherence to the guidelines for safety.

Please look out for the most vulnerable in our community and don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way.

Take care, stay safe and keep up the prayers.

HSE Coronavirus Guidelines: Visit www.hse.ie or www.clonfertdiocese.ie. Wash your hands properly and often. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze. Put tissue into a bin and wash hands. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Try to avoid close contact with people who are not well. Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

Reflection: Today we have road rage, air rage, wrap rage, computer rage. Our fuses are getting shorter and shorter, our skins thinner and thinner and our patience stretched beyond breaking-point. What's wrong with us? How did it get this bad? There are many explanations and theories but they don't touch upon the heart of the matter: the human heart, and our need for repentance and conversion; the fallen human condition and our propensity to justify ourselves, defend ourselves and insist upon our rights first, over and above everyone else. How do we deal with anger? How do we control our rage? The remedy is always repentance. Anger is always assuaged by the humble and necessary first step of saying 'sorry', which, for some inexplicable reason, seems to be the hardest word. - "Walk with Me". p.45.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent: The experience of the man born blind helps our understanding of Baptism. 'You went, you washed, you came to the altar, you began to see what you had not seen before. In short, your eyes were opened in the fountain of the Lord and by now you began to see the light.' So spoke St Ambrose to the recently baptised, recalling that experience to them.

087-7950325 or email: caoifrain@hotmail.com

Please pray for parishioners who are ill at this time.

Pope's Intention for March: Catholics in China - We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

West Offaly Training: Kids Computer Camp. 6/7/8th April. Contact 057-9152003 for further information.

Galilee Spirituality Centre: Caring for the Carers. April 2nd. 10.30am. Contact 071-9664101. Also, a day for parents who have had the loss of a baby. April 4th, 10.30 - 3.30pm.

Anam Cara: Bereavement Support Evening. Tuesday 24th March. Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit. 7-9pm. Email Pauline.cahillane@pieta.ie to see if it's on or rescheduled.

Lourdes Annual Clonfert Diocesan Pilgrimage: 14th - 19th August 2020. Contact Society Travel at 090-9645350.

The Seumas O'Kelly Players Spring Comedy," The Cripple of Inishmaan" Postponed

REMEMBER, *O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.*

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

A thought: Always treat people the way you would like to be treated.

Happy Mother's Day (Sunday 22nd March).