

Parish of Newmarket on Fergus - Carrigerry - The Wells

Parish Office open on Mon, Tue, Thur & Friday 10.00am - 2.30pm. Closed on Wednesdays.

Parish website: www.newmarketonfergusparish.ie / Tel: 061 - 368127 / email: office@newmarketonfergusparish.ie

Parish Team

Fr. Tom Fitzpatrick: Tel: 700883 / 087 2720187
Mary Power: Parish Secretary

1st Sunday of Lent

21st February 2021

Sacristans

Bridget O' Halloran : Newmarket
Mary Barron: The Wells
Bernadette Glynn: Carrigerry

All masses are being live streamed via Webcam. You can access it through the parish website <http://www.newmarketonfergusparish.ie/>. Weekends from the main church and weekdays from the chapel

Sat	20th	6 pm	Donie Kilmartin, Rathmore, Sixmilebridge. 1st anniversary Jack Meere, Knocknagun. 1st anniversary Johnny Sheedy, Glencragga. 1st anniversary Agnes, Larry and Mike Kennedy, Ballycar Rd Martin Liddy, Kilnasoolagh Park Danny Liddy, Glencragga Elizabeth, Matthew and Sean Carroll and Cora Burke, Cork
Sun	21st	11am	Martin and Lucy Frawley, Clenagh Mary, Jean, Maria and John Hartigan, Carnakilla Jean McMahon, Knocknagun. 12th anniversary Pat Enright, Drumline and his parents Pat and Bridget. Mary O'Brien, Ballycar Month's Mind
Mon	22nd	10am	Daily Mass
Tue	23rd	10am	Daily Mass
Wed	24th	10am	Daily Mass
Thur	25th	10am	Daily Mass
Fri	26th	10am	Daily Mass
Sat	27th	6 pm	Weekend Mass
Sun	28st	11am	Seamus Boland, Hurlers Cross Mike Gaffney, Granaghan Beg. 2nd anniversary.



Recent Death: Your kind prayers are asked for the happy repose of the soul of

Anastasia Pyne nee Hastings, formerly of Drumline

May she rest in the loving embrace of the Father.



Church Collections

Thank you for your continued support to church collections. The accumulated amount from **Jan 1st to Feb 16th** is €4530.31.

St Patricks Day Virtual Event. Clare County Council invites Clare people at home/abroad to take part, by recording and submitting a performance, prizes to be won. For more details see www.clarecoco.ie.

Fr Flann Lynch ofm cap has put up two videos. One introduction and the other a meditation.

1. Fr. Flann Lynch -A super response to covid - search on Goggle or on You Tube
2. Fr. Flann Lynch - The Wild Ox's Strength: A Response To COVID.

**St Vincent de Paul
Local Helpline
086 3024238**

*Please leave your name and number
And a member will call you back*



The charity's Lenten Appeal began on Ash Wednesday but social and travel restrictions, including school closures and the suspension of public worship, means that for the first time in almost 50 years many homes will be without Trócaire boxes this year. Trócaire CEO Caoimhe de Barra said, "Lent is the engine that keeps our programmes going throughout the year. The public in Ireland always rally behind our campaign. While this year will be different, we hope the public will continue to support our lifesaving work overseas." To find out how you can donate to this year's life-saving campaign see

www.trocaire.org.

In 2020 Newmarket on Fergus parishioners donated €5073.23 to the Trocaire Lenten Campaign here in our parish. A wonderfully generous contribution. Thank you to everyone who donated.

In just twelve words, the Gospel reading at Mass a few Sundays ago paints a beautiful picture of Jesus reaching out to a sick woman. 'He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her.'

We are not told the woman's name. Perhaps, she represents all those who are sick in every time and place. For us today, she represents all the people across the world who are suffering due to COVID-19 or other illnesses.

I recently listened to an interview on radio with a former politician and writer who had come through COVID-19. The experience petrified her. She told us that she was frequently in tears. However, the familiar prayers from her childhood helped her greatly. For her the rosary and many other traditional prayers are lyrical and poetic. Reciting these comforting words creates another level for her, allowing her to find space and gives her a voice. The words of the Memorare are especially precious and calm her spirit. That is what Jesus did when he held the hand of the woman in the Gospel. He calmed her spirit. The woman on radio also draws strength from the communion of saints, those who had gone before her.

In this moment, we can't physically take each other by the hand as Jesus did. We can't gather for prayer, but we can pray. We express and nourish our love for ourselves and for each other through prayer. We are so much more than flesh and blood, we are also soul and spirit. When we pray, we are never truly alone. We are in communion with the Lord and every praying person across the world and the generations. We unite with women and men of goodwill everywhere. We join all who have gone before us in faith, our ancestors, Our Lady and the whole communion of saints. These months of staying apart are teaching us how to bond in deeper, more spiritual ways. There are as many ways to pray as there are people. We pray through thoughts, words, actions, symbols or silence. Many like to gently sit or kneel before the blessed sacrament, spending quiet time in the presence of the Lord to feel the soothing embrace of his peace reviving our spirit. We light candles. The warmth heals us, the flame becomes our prayer rising up to the Lord. The glow embodies our hopes and dreams and our love for ourselves and each other. The light drives back the darkness of fear and doubt. Every embrace with beauty is prayer. Music revitalises our bond with the God of love and mystery. Poetry, art, drama and the miraculous world of nature takes us to new and better places. The sight of new-born lambs in the field, daffodils, light refracted through stained-glass, the rising or setting sun, the waxing or waning moon are all calming and lifegiving. Sharing or receiving a kind word, a generous act, the laughter of children, the contentment of old age, people doing the best they can or starting over are all sacred moments.

Like the woman on radio many of us draw life from familiar prayers. There are times when we simply speak to God as we do to a friend. At other moments, the words of scripture, perhaps taken from our parish newsletter, bring us closer to the Lord as we place ourselves in the story of his love for his people.

We pray so that we can become truly ourselves. Almost two thousand years ago St Irenaeus wrote 'The glory of God is man fully alive'. We are so much more than our actions. We pray to give thanks, to unload the burdens of the past, to ask help, to seek comfort, to find a way forward, to nourish our friendship with God. Beginning each day with a moment of calm helps us to live that day in peace. Spending a little time before sleep searching for the moments when God held us by the hand and helped us, calms our spirit. The tenderness, goodness, kindness, forgiveness present in each day is to be treasured and celebrated.

If this terrible pandemic is teaching us anything, it is surely that we are not in control of the world. We need each other. We need God's Spirit living within us. *Fr. Albert McDonnell*

Do you want to fast this Lent? This is what Pope Francis says

"What are you giving up for Lent?" It's a question a lot of people will get these next few days. If you want to change your body, perhaps alcohol, sweets and cigarettes is the way to go. But if you want to change your heart, a harder fast is needed. This narrow road is gritty, but it isn't sterile. It will make room in ourselves to experience a love that can make us whole and set us free. So, if we're going to fast from anything this Lent, Pope Francis suggests that even more than sweets or alcohol, we fast from indifference towards others.

In his annual Lenten message, the Pope says: "Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience."

These are the words of the Pope:

Fast from hurting words ... and say kind words,
Fast from sadness ... and be filled with gratitude,
Fast from anger ... and be filled with patience,
Fast from pessimism ... and be filled with hope,
Fast from worries ... and have trust in God,
Fast from complaints ... and contemplate simplicity,
Fast from pressures ... and be prayerful,
Fast from bitterness ... and fill your hearts with joy,
Fast from selfishness ... and be compassionate to others,
Fast from grudges ... and be reconciled,
Fast from words ... and be silent so you can listen!