

**Parish of Magh Ene**  
 St. Joseph's Church, Ballyshannon  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
 Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2017



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| <b>Sun 12<sup>th</sup></b>                             | <b>10.00am</b> | Molly Rooney – Months Mind<br>Jackie, Annie & John Gallagher, The Rock<br>Hugh Diver, East Rock       |
| <b>Mon 13<sup>th</sup></b>                             | <b>10.00am</b> | Special Intention   |
| <b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup></b>                            | <b>10.00am</b> | Mass in the Rock Nursing Unit   |
| <b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup></b>                             | <b>10.00am</b> | Prayer Service  |
| <b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup></b>                           | <b>10.00am</b> | Patrick, Mary, Kieran & Peter Begley  |
| <b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup></b><br><b>St. Patrick's Day</b> | <b>11.00am</b> | Jimmy & Maura Boyle, East Port<br>Rosemary Daly   |
| <b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup></b>                             | <b>10.00am</b> | Special Intention   |
| <b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup></b>                             | <b>10.00am</b> | Bernard Kelly, The Mall<br>Thomas, Ann, Martin & Michael Magan and<br>deceased family<br>Patsy Cleary |

**Masses in Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church, Bundoran ~ Weekend** – Sat Vigil @ 7pm, Sunday @ 8.30am, 11.00am; **Weekdays** @ 10am

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available in St. Joseph's on Saturdays after 10am Mass

**Masses for St. Patrick's Day** – Mass in St. Joseph's for St. Patrick's Day, a Holyday of Obligation, will be at 11am. In Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church, Bundoran, Mass will be at 8.30am, 11am and 12.30pm – NB - No Vigil Mass on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Liturgy Teams for March**

**Reader** – Eamon Daly; **Prayers of the Faithful** – Aoife Cassidy **Eucharistic Ministers** – Marie Begley & Michael Finan; **Collectors (front)** Eamon Daly, **(back)** Patrick McKenna; **Altar Society** – Claire Hughes & Mary Conlon

*If a minister is unavailable, could they please organise a replacement? If they can't, please contact the relevant contact person.*

**Sunday Collection – March 5<sup>th</sup> 2017**

| <b>Offertory</b> | <b>Returned</b> | <b>Development</b> | <b>Returned</b> |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Envelope         | €876.00         | Envelope           | €188.00         |
| Loose            | €254.00         | Loose              | €142.00         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>€1130.00</b> | <b>Total</b>       | <b>€330.00</b>  |

At all Sunday morning masses, a special collection will be taken up after Holy Communion. The proceeds of this go towards the Development Fund of St Joseph's. Our sincere thanks for your continuing generosity in this important collection which allows us to continue to take good care of St. Joseph's.

**Celebrating the Sacraments in our Parish**

**Baptisms** of those resident in the Parish take place in St Joseph's, Ballyshannon on the second Saturday of the month and in Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church, Bundoran on the fourth Saturday of each month. A month's notice is required. The birth certificate of the person to be baptised should accompany the application for Baptism. Further information is available from the Parish office.

**Marriages** – Six months' notice to the Parish is necessary for all marriages. Agreement for the date of marriage always presumes that the necessary Church/Civil documentation has been completed. Church documentation is completed in the Parish where a person is resident. Living in a new area for six months constitutes residency. This is especially so when a new residence is outside the country. The obligation of providing the necessary Church/Civil documentation lies with the couple.

## Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel – Matthew 17:1-9

On the mountain, the disciples saw Jesus in a new way. His appearance changed. Sometimes in friendship there are moments of sharing in which we get to know a friend in a new and deeper way. Have you had that experience in human friendship, or in your relationship with Jesus and God? Recall when that happened, and what it was like for you.

The clear vision of Jesus with Moses and Elijah was followed by a frightening experience of being in a cloud and it was in the midst of the cloud that the disciples were instructed 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him'. Have you had the experience of learning the truth about life and about your relationship with God from moments of confusion as well as from times of special joy?

After their special experience the disciples came down the mountain again. We cannot live each day at the level of special spiritual experiences, but the memory of them can strengthen us in difficult times. What memories encourage you in time of trouble?

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### *Feast of St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland*

*Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.  
I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,  
Through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation.*



This excerpt from Patrick's great prayer, the Breastplate speaks to an understanding of God that is perhaps more spiritual than theological in that it conveys a sense of God as an energy that flows through and permeates every moment of every day and every molecule of our physical selves. It also conveys the reassurance of God's loving and caring presence. This is the God Patrick spoke of to our ancestors, the God he knew, the God he experienced. This is the God we are invited to reflect upon as we mark Patrick's feast day. This holy day and holiday is celebrated in many different ways, for many different reasons. For some, it is a celebration of our nationality, our culture and history, the particularly 'Irish' gift we offer the world but to lose sight of the spiritual aspect of this day, to marginalise the reality of Patrick's mission to share the Christian message with the Irish people so that it is almost a mere afterthought would be an insult to the man whose name is otherwise celebrated around the world. We cannot take the call to faith in God out of our conversation and celebration of Patrick. If Patrick saw a need in the Ireland of his time for the message of hope and the values inherent in the Gospels, how much more would he see it today? To reduce Patrick to a green-clad cliché is dangerous for us as a people and to ignore his message is to deprive future generations of something that has sustained us through so much turmoil and suffering. Patrick, in his isolation and loneliness found in God a guiding light, a consoling presence, a reason to be merciful to those who brought him suffering and a purpose in life to nourish and sustain him. Surely, we need this inspiration in the Ireland of today as well?

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**The Novena of Hope** at the Graan, Enniskillen this year is from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March (6.30pm) to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Sunday services are 9am, 10.30am, 12 Noon and 4.00pm. Weekdays 12.30pm & 7.30pm except Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup>) which is at 11am & 7.30pm and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at 11am & 6.30pm. Services for the sick on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm.

**Diocese of Clogher Lourdes Pilgrimage July 6<sup>th</sup>-July 11<sup>th</sup>** – Total Price €735 (including flights, full board accommodation/meal, transfer from designated places throughout the diocese to/from Belfast International airport). To book Invalid Places contact Fr. Noel McGahan (04885549604); to book Pilgrim Places contact John Hueston (04867724329)

### **Community Notes** (When space allows)

**The Ballyshannon Active Retirement Association** are holding their A.G.M on 13th March in Killbarron House at 2.30 p.m. Full attendance of members would be welcome. New members also welcome.

Please bring the €10 donation as agreed for The National Active Retirement Association

**Abbey Arts Centre Spring Concert** featuring Bel Canto, Cor Craobhaigh & Friends, Sat 25th Mar @ 8pm Raffle proceeds, on night, to Bluestack Special Needs Foundation. Tickets €10, available from Abbey Centre and Bel Canto members.