

Parish of Magh Ene
 St. Joseph's Church, Ballyshannon
 3rd Sunday of Lent
 Sunday, March 19th 2017



Rev. Ian Fee CC
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Sun 19th	10.00am	Bernard Kelly, The Mall Thomas, Ann, Martin & Michael Magan and dec. family Patsy Cleary
Mon 20th	10.00am	Special Intention
Tues 21st	10.00am	Mass in the Rock Nursing Unit
Wed 22nd	10.00am	Prayer Service
Thurs 23rd	10.00am	Special Intention
Fri 24th	10.00am	Special Intention
Sat 25th	10.00am	Special Intention
Sun 26th	10.00am	Months Mind – Peggy Mannion Hugh & Margaret McGowan & dec. family, Laughill Philippine Drummond, Finner Patricia Crawford

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

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 12th 2017

Offertory	Returned	Development	Returned
Envelope	€468.00	Envelope	€159.00
Loose	€240.00	Loose	€98.00
Total	€708.00	Total	€257.00

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.

Praying with the Lord in Lent – Last year, in response to Pope Francis' call, parishes, together and separately marked the 24 Hours for the Lord. This year the dates of March 24th/25th have been set aside for times of prayer and reflection. Here in St. Joseph's, we will have 2 hours of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on Friday evening, between 5pm and 7pm. All are welcome to come along to share time with the Lord, offering a part of the day in quiet prayer, to ask intercession or to listen to the Lord's voice. We will gather in the side chapel of the main sanctuary.

Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel – Matthew 4:5-42

Jesus leads the woman along a wonderful journey towards a deeper, fuller human life. You can enter the story from the perspective of the woman. Recognise her resistance to growth, her complacency, her evasions, and her eventual acceptance, partial though it was, of Jesus. When have you, or others, made a similar journey in your relationship with God? With others? With your own self?

The woman is attracted by what Jesus is saying, but from very human motives: the thought of having water in such a way that she did not have to come and draw it from the well. We too are attracted to Jesus by very mixed motives, some of them matters of personal interest – belonging, community, security. What have been the human motives that have attracted you to faith, prayer, religion, church and which have been stepping stones to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus? Perhaps we can also see the same movement in the growth of some of our human relationships.

You can also enter the story with Jesus, the ideal leader, parent, teacher, or spiritual guide. Notice how he meets the woman where she is, needing her assistance; how he is patient with her, but also challenges her to grow to what she is capable of.

Gospel Reflection – The late singer songwriter Leonard Cohen sang, "Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." How true. Especially of ourselves in our relationship with God. There is only one way to come to God: As we are. No false face, no illusion of perfection, no avoiding of the realities, fragilities and limitations of our lives, of who and what we are. This doesn't mean that we come to God ashamed, beaten down and defeated. On the contrary. It is the very reality of ourselves that God welcomes. God can work in and through us when we are honest with him and ourselves. The Samaritan woman in today's Gospel thought she knew how Jesus would see her so her defences were up. She was ready to be seen for just one aspect of her life: her faith, knowing that that was enough for many to judge her and dismiss her, a wall placed around her by others prejudices. Christ didn't look at her in that way though. Christ looked to her as a human being, not as a Samaritan, a Jew or any other human distinction. Before God, we have to be as we truly are, no matter how others may see us, no matter how others may judge us. God does not look at us that way. It is through the areas we feel are weaknesses or vulnerabilities that God works. The first thing he does is he asks us to accept these 'cracks' and to realise that rather than being sources of hurt, they can be sources of grace. If we build walls around ourselves or seek to put others behind one, then no contact is possible. But if we look to the cracks in these walls, we can see through them, we can be heard and seen and through the cracks, the light can shine.

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

Diocese of Clogher Lourdes Pilgrimage July 6th-July 11th – 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)

Pioneer Association Fundraising Appeal – On January 1st 2018, the Pioneer Association will become a lay association as the Jesuits hand it over. To help in this and for its ongoing support, an appeal fund has been set up. Details can be found on their website pioneerassociation.ie

Community Notes (When space allows)

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.

Mary's Meals wish to acknowledge the sum of €141 which was collected at their Church Gate Collection in St. Joseph's and offer their thanks to all who donated as well as the collectors and organisers.

