

**Parish of Magh Ene**  
 St. Joseph's Church, Ballyshannon  
 4 Sunday of Lent  
 Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2017



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<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Months Mind – Peggy Mannion Hugh & Margaret McGowan & dec. family, Laughill Philippine Drummond, Finner Patricia Crawford
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Tues 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass in the Rock Nursing Unit
<b>Wed 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Thurs 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Fri 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Sat 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Prayer Service
<b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Months Mind – Terence McDermott

**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 19<sup>th</sup> 2017**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Development</b>	<b>Returned</b>
Envelope	€318.00	Envelope	€203.00
Loose	€137.00	Loose	€77.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€455.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>€280.00</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.

**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)

## **Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel – John 9:1-41**

A long story like the one we have today provides many different points of entry for prayer. Read the story and stay with what resonates with you. Some possible points of entry are:

The blind man was healed. Can you recall occasions when some blindness of yours was taken away and you could see in a new way? What was that experience like for you?

The Pharisees claimed to be the ones who could see, who knew where God was to be found, when in fact they were blind. It was the man born blind who showed himself open to see the hand of God at work in what happened. There can be some of each in us. What has helped you to be open to seeing the hand of God at work in your life? Who have been the Jesus people who have led you to this point?

There are many characters in the story: Jesus, the blind beggar, the disciples, the neighbours, the blind man's parents, and the Pharisees. Put yourself in the position of each one and see what you learn from identifying with them.

**Gospel Reflection** – What a convoluted Gospel we have today. The healing of the blind man unleashes a chain of chaos and confusion. His neighbours are dumbfounded, the Pharisees are suspicious and at war with one another, and the Jews are cynical, even calling in the man's parents as witnesses.

The character of Jesus, and of the blind man, are called into question as everyone tries to figure out what has happened. Jesus and the man who has been healed are both accused of being sinners. The interrogators even ridicule the man, asking, 'Are you trying to teach us, and you a sinner through and through?' But things are simple for the man who has experienced Jesus' healing. He knows what he has witnessed, and is ready and willing to attest to it. 'If this man were not from God,' he says, 'he couldn't do a thing.' He understands that his encounter with Jesus was extraordinary.

Jesus finally clears up the confusion, turning everything on its head, as is often his way. It is the man who had been blind who sees who Jesus is: 'Lord, I believe.' The Pharisees who think they see things clearly are the ones who are really blind to the truth. 'We are not blind, surely?' is the question facing all of us as we advance through Lent. Are we open to the Good News and the healing power of Jesus?

*(Triona Doherty - Intercom)*

**Mother's Day** – A very happy Mother's Day to all Mums at Mass with us and to all Mums who are carried in hearts and prayers today. We think of all our deceased Mums whose love, sacrifices and care are carried each day in the hearts of all who love them still. We pray for all expectant mothers and for mothers of sick children. We ask God's comfort for mothers who have lost children and for those women who cannot be mothers. We think of all foster mothers and those who are like mothers to us with their love and care. We pray for all single mothers and ask that all who are or who live out the vocation of mother will find joy, strength and deep meaning in their lives. We entrust them to the care of our Mother Mary and pray that they may be rewarded for the vocation of love they share with our Blessed Mother.

**Spring Forward** – The clocks change this weekend, we lost an hour early on Sunday morning; hopefully, you noticed and weren't late for anything important!! Of course, we get the hour back, so to speak, in the autumn but how many others hours are lost each week, each month each year, time we won't get back, time that is gone forever? One of our focuses in Lent is on self-discipline and the call to a generous and giving spirit. Is there time in our lives that could be spent more productively for the good of others? Is there too much time in our lives that is being flittered away on selfish pursuits? Not that we can't or indeed shouldn't have our down time, our time to relax, to pursue hobbies and interests but if we begin to see time as a gift purely for ourselves then we miss out on so much. How many people in your life would wish you to grant them some more time? A visit, a call, a simple message perhaps? Time is precious but how much more a precious gift when offered to someone else.

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**Lough Derg Pilgrimage Season 2017** – The season begins in just over a month's time on May 1<sup>st</sup> with the One Day retreats, continuing through May until the 3 Day Pilgrimages begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>, running through to August 15<sup>th</sup>, with One Day Retreats continuing from August 20<sup>th</sup> on select days until September 24<sup>th</sup>. For more details of the season and the full list of dates for One Day retreats can be found on the website [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org)

**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 11m & 6.30pm.

**Pioneer Association Fundraising Appeal** – On January 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://pioneerassociation.ie)