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Parish Office - Second Sunday of Lent - 25th February 2024.

Reflection on Abraham's story:

In todays first reading, God asks Abraham to sacrifice to him his only son. "Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, whom you love— Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.""

God knew just how precious Isaac was to Abraham, having had to wait until he was 100 years old to have him. Yet he asks him to sacrifice his son!

Lessons

1: The greater the cost, the greater the sacrifice. Abraham had all night and morning to be

terrified about the coming events... and to talk himself out of it. It must have been a very difficult for him.

2: Sacrifice doesn't always come with answers.

There were no answers or explanations given.
The response must be fast, no dilly-dallying.
Unwavering obedience is required by God

3: Godly obedience should be based on faith in providence.

When Isaac asked his dad where the lamb was, "Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."— (Genesis 22:8). Abraham believed the Lord would salvage the situation. Again faith.

4: Obedience both relies on God for strength and *expects* God to deliver.

Abraham continues in obedience. "He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son."—Genesis 22:9–10.

Imagine the anguish and horror in that moment. Envision reconciling the internal conflict of sacrificing someone you love for

someone you love more. Of course, we know the story doesn't end there. God interrupts: "'Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.' Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide."—Genesis 22:12–14

God came through, just as Abraham had expected and promised he would have "descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore."

5: What God requires, He provides.

In fitness training, people are reluctant to make sacrifices necessary to reach their goals: junk food, too much exercise, not enough exercise, free time, TV, alcohol, comfort zones, caffeine, accountability, and so on.

Until they give up what they want for something they want *more*, they'll always come up short.

Has God asked you to take a knife to something? Has He asked you to put something on the altar and trust Him with it? How have you responded? Let Abraham's example be a blueprint for your obedience to God to do his will and especially this Lent.

<u>The Stations of the Cross:</u> in Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea each Friday evening at 7pm during Lent.

<u>Confessions in Bundoran Church:</u> every Saturday from 5pm to 6pm.

Blessed Carlo Acutis Relic: will visit St. Macartan's Cathedral Monaghan on Sunday March 3rd and St. Michael's Church, Enniskillen on Monday March 4th, further details including schedule of liturgies and devotions at www.clogherparishes.ie/

<u>Church of Our Lady, Bundoran:</u> Eucharistic Ministers for March:

7pm Kathy McEniff & Donna Cheshire.

8.30am. Patrick McGloin.

11am Bernie Ward, Grainne McGloin & P.J. Davey.

March Ministers of the Word:

7.00pm. Claudia Kennedy. 8.30am. John Campbell. 11.00am. Bernie Ward.

March Altar Society:

Celia Warnock & Sheila Clancy.

Church Collectors for March:

7pm Cindy O'Beirne, Mary Herrity & Kathy McEniff. **8.30am**. Kevin Garvin, Cormac Meehan & Patrick McGloin.

11.00am. Donal Breslin, Padraig Davey, Jim Herrity and Grainne McGloin.

St. Joseph's Church, Ballyshannon:

Eucharistic Ministers for March:

Seamus O'Neill & Yvette Morrow.

March Ministers of the Word:

Holy Family National School.

March Altar Society:

Bernie Boyle & Breege Loughlin.

Church Collectors for March:

Patrick McKenna.

St. Joseph's Church, The Rock: Sunday - February 25th at 10am:

Eileen Kennedy (Erne Dale Heights).

Margaret Mannion (Ardlongfield).

Reggie & Pail Gallogley (West Port).

Michael, Susan & Dec Mbs Dolan Family (Carrickboy)

Jackie, Annie & John Gallagher (East Rock).

Vincent Cleary (East Port).

Sunday - March 3rd at 10am:

John, Kathleen & Lena O'Mahoney (Rathmore).

Dympna & Richie Bromley (West Rock).

Hugh, Margaret & Dec Mbs McGowan Family
(Laughill).

Mary McCaffrey (Assaroe Road).

Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Bundoran.

Saturday - February 24th Mass at 7pm

Margaret Moohan (Drumacrin). Joan & TP O'Connell (Sea Road). Pat & Mary Hughes (Randlastown, Co. Antrim).

Sunday- February 25th Mass at 8.30am:

Private Intentions.

Sunday – February 25th Mass at 11am:

People of the Parish.

Monday - at 10am.

Private Intentions.

Tuesday – at 10am.

Private Intentions.

Wednesday – at 10am.

Prayer Service.

Thursday – at 10am.

Anthony & Elizabeth Doherty (The Rock).

Friday - at 10am.

Private Intentions.

Saturday - March 2nd Mass at 10am Private Intentions.

Saturday - March 2nd Mass at 7pm

Private Intentions.

Sunday— March 3rd Mass at 8.30am: Bridie O'Doherty (White House).

Sunday- March 3rd Mass at 11am:
People of the Parish.



May all who died recently Rest in Peace.



Church Finances: February 17th & 18th 2024:

St Joseph's Offertory Collection:

Envelopes: €362.50 Baskets: €271.00 Total: €633.50

St Joseph's Development Fund:

Envelopes: €180.20 Basket: €0.00 Total: €180.20

Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea. Envelopes: €784.00 Baskets: €745.00

Total: €1,529.00

May the Lord protect, guide and help us in the week to come.