

"With God on our side who can be against us?"

There are many people in the world today who must feel God is not on their side. They are hungry, living in poverty and deprived of so much of what we take as the everyday normality of our lives. Water does not flow from their taps, roofs are not over their heads, their children do not even know, never mind wear, designer names. It is estimated that nearly 750 million people live in extreme poverty with millions more living in unacceptable poverty and conditions. God could all too easily be perceived as distant from or non-existent in the lives of so many. Yet we are told that God has carved us in the Palm of His Hand and is with us always to the end of time.

God is present and he wants to walk towards those hundreds of millions of people and bring to them hope, bring to them justice, bring to them a decent and meaningful existence. "I have no hands now but yours" the hymn tells us - God tells us. When people walk towards each other and work for each other in a spirit of decency, God is moving among them and stirring up something very noble in their hearts. Simply put, it is love of neighbour, it is hearing the cry of the poor and it is responding.

When God stirs hearts into action and response, then wonderful and life changing events occur. God is then truly with people and the scripture passage is beyond question "With God on our side who can be against us?" Nobody - if God is truly allowed to be within us and if we allow God direct us towards the good, then nobody can be against us - nobody can be against the poor, nobody can stand idly by and watch others suffer or be deprived.

The Transfiguration, featured in today's Gospel, did not last too long but its impact was intense. The disciples wanted to capture the moment, put a roof over it and remain in it. Jesus knew this was not where he needed them. Mountain tops and religious highs were for another day. For now, he needed them to retrace their steps, go down the mountain and meet people at ground level. It is only when you look into the eyes of another, meet them where they are, that you can truly see what is going on in their lives.

"Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here"



Parish of Clones

Sacred Heart, Clones
St Alphonsus, Connors
St Macartan's, Aghadrumsee

Parish Office

10.00am—4.30pm (Monday—Friday)

Telephone: 047 51048

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28th February
2021

Second Week
of
Lent

Masses and Intentions for the Week

		Second Sunday of Lent
Vigil	7.30pm	Peggie, Maura, Paddy & Margaret Mohan
Sunday 28th	11.30am	People of the Parish
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Mon 1st	10.00am	Edward O'Grady, Fermanagh Street
Tue 2nd	10.00am	Jeffrey Douglas, O'Neill Park
Wed 3rd	10.00am	Janine Mullally, Belfast
Thurs 4th	10.00am	Teresa McCabe, Analore Road & Dec'd Members McCabe & Sherry Families
Fri 5th	10.00am	Eamon Magennis, Clonmore & James & Bridget Harlin, Ardee; Susan O'Neill, Coraghy
Sat 6th	10.00am	Mass of the Day
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		Third Sunday of Lent
Vigil	7.30pm	Stan & Peggy Kerr, & Joan & Peter Duffy, The Diamond; Eileen Crudden, Rossbrick; Jimmy Carey, Tattynagolan; Gerard Finn, Cherry Park; Vincent McCaffrey, Drumgramph
Sunday 7th	11.30am	Martin Connolly, Clontreat (Month's Memory); Annie McCabe, Coolnamarrow (Month's Memory)

Parish Mobile (in case of emergency): 085 817 6203.

Masses for the week

Saturday 7.30pm Sacred Heart, Clones
11.30am Sacred Heart, Clones

Weekdays: Mon-Sat in Sacred Heart Church at 10.00am
(When there is a funeral in Clones, the Mass will be at **11.00am**)

All Liturgies in Sacred Heart Church are broadcast on the Parish website

Baptisms are celebrated in Sacred Heart Church on the second Saturday of each month at 4.00pm and in St. Macartan's Church on the third Sunday at 1.00pm.

Baptism: We welcome into our Christian faith community Caolán Feeney

Death: We pray for Michael Tumelty, Downpatrick

Sacred Heart Church Readers:

6th Mar Vigil Marie McPhillips
7th Mar 11.30am Paul Jenkins

Pope's Intention for March

That we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.



A Note of Appreciation

Thanks to those who have recently made contributions by cheque, cash, PayPal and bank transfer; and to those who have either set up a standing order or have requested parish envelopes. We acknowledge all who contribute on a regular basis; your support has been invaluable over the past year. And we are grateful to the many who have contacted the Parish Office to update their details with full and complete addresses.

Prayer Through Lent: Resources to help families and individuals pray at home this Lent are available on the diocesan website www.clogherdiocese.ie Also available on the home page of the website are livestream connections to all parishes.

Online Talks for Lent – *Awaken Our Baptismal Calling in Parish Ministry.* The next of the online talks will be held on www.clogherdiocese.ie and on the Diocese of Clogher Facebook page on Wednesday 10th March at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Fr. Gareth Byrne of the Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education in Dublin City University on *Reimagining the link between Schools and Parish*. No booking necessary. Thanks to all those who tuned in to last Wednesday's talk on *Unleashing the Ministry of the Laity* – the 'sleeping giant'!

A Diocesan Way of The Cross Online led by Bishop Larry Duffy and people from communities of faith across the 7 Pastoral Areas of the Diocese of Clogher at 7.30pm on Friday 26th March on www.clogherdiocese.ie and on the Diocese of Clogher Facebook page.

The Graan Novena of Hope 2021: continues until 8th March 2021, via webcam at www.thegraan.com Novena and petitions leaflets will be available to download shortly. If you do have not the facility to go online, phone The Graan on 028 6632 2272, they will post the leaflets and petitions out to you allowing you to make the Novena in your own home.

Tarsus Scripture School for Lent/Easter 2021. Theme is **Easter: Weaving the Tapestry of Death and New Life.** Nine pre-recorded lectures, one webinar and one meditation (€30). For registration and further details, please go to www.tarsusscriptureschool.ie