



# Parish News

## Sunday 21st FEBRUARY

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### The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness ...

The gospel for the First Sunday of Lent is always the story of the temptation in the wilderness, and in Mark the account is particularly brief. That said, it is remarkable what the evangelist can pack into just three verses. In the scene just prior to this, Jesus has heard the voice of God telling him that he is the beloved son and in the strength of this affirmation we now see Jesus 'driven' out into the wilderness. One of the characteristics of Mark is a sense of urgency throughout the narrative. Things move quickly as the mystery of the kingdom present in the person of Jesus unfolds. We are told that in the wilderness for forty days Jesus was tempted but we are not told how. However, the language echoes the Old Testament story of the chosen people and their desert experience of testing. Jesus in his life, death and resurrection confronts and is victorious over the power of evil. After his testing he returns and begins his ministry with one simple appeal: *'Repent and believe the good news.'* This appeal sets the tone for our observance of Lent as we make ourselves available to God through our mini desert experience.



The challenge that is put to us not just this week but every time we gather is to believe the good news. We are not being told to perform heroic deeds of self-sacrifice or to overcome and master our sinfulness; no, we are being challenged to really hear and believe that through baptism we have become children of God and that God says to each of us: 'You are my beloved.' It is hard to really accept this and there are many voices that try to convince us that it is not the truth. So Lent is a wonderful opportunity to rediscover our worth and the wonder of coming to life in Christ. The readings today challenge us not to focus on storm clouds but to see in the rainbow the beautiful faithfulness of God. Let that be the focus of all we undertake during this season of repentance...

The focus of Lent is not on what we give up but on what we are given. We focus our minds on the self-giving love of Jesus which we will celebrate in Holy Week. We allow ourselves to believe in this love. Often it's difficult to believe in the tender love of God. This conquers all else in the world; it is given in the mercy and compassion of God.

Lent pours the grace of forgiveness into our world, needed individually and as a people. We need to know that God is bigger than any of our sins, wars, violence and hatred. God wants his kingdom to come now. Lent is our time of saying 'yes' to a partnership with God in saving the world from the effects of evil and sin.

Maybe we can ask what our Lent does for others than just what we are doing for Lent. It is a time of renewal, then it shows in love, forgiveness and care of others in our lives.



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**DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?**

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.

Hope amidst isolation  
VICARIATO DE ORIENTE

**Trócaire** are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) and donations can be made to the Lent campaign in the following ways:

1. By collecting a Trócaire box which are available at the church doors.
2. Online at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)
3. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI) or 1850 408 408 (ROI)

The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.



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**The Forty Hours Adoration** begins this Sunday, 21st February after the 12:30pm Mass in **St Eugene's Cathedral**.

We invite you to come along and spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer for yourselves for your loved ones and for your neighbours.

**Covid Conversations** with Bishop McKeown. 6 guests over 6 weeks on the following topics Medical Profession - Homelessness - Young People - Pastoral Ministry - Music industry -Poverty. Starts tuesday 23rd February - streaming from cathedral hall.

**Knock Shrine** to host special online faith discussions during Lent under the title 'Living Christian Faith – Lenten Conversations'. The conversations will explore a different theme each week and guest speakers will discuss some of the important questions we all face in living out our faith. The talks will be streamed at 8:30pm each Thursday during Lent, beginning Thursday, 18th February at [www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live](http://www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live) or on Facebook@knockshrine.

**The Bible and the Mass.** journey through scripture – Where is The Mass in the Bible. An excellent video based program - 10 part series presented by Scott Hahn and the Saint Paul Centre. [St Paul Centre](#)

**Taurus Scripture School** presents TSS for Lent and Easter 2021 -  
Easter: Weaving the Tapestry of Death and New Life  
9 pre-recorded lectures; 1 webinar; 1 meditation (€30)

**Diocesan Catechetical Centre** - We have provided a variety of resources for prayer and faith projects children can engage in at home, during this period of coronavirus confinement

**Wellbeing talks:** St Eugene's Cathedral will be hosting a series of well-being talks via Zoom during Lent. The topics include recognising and strengthening resilience, tips for a better sleep, anxiety, managing setbacks and getting a good night's sleep. If you are interested in participating in these talks please contact em-met.thompson@derrydiocese.org or contact the parish office.

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### Streamed Mass Schedule

#### Weekend Masses

Vigils 7:00pm Vigil  
8:00pm (Hospital Mass)  
Sundays : 10:00am 11:15am and 12:00pm

Weekdays 09:15am 10:00am and 11:00am  
Saturday 10:00am 11:00am



Our online masses can be accessed here [ONLINE](#)



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### Rest in Peace

#### Deaths:

Olive Doherty, Beechwood Pk, Strathfoyle

#### Anniversaries:

Barney Phillips, Bella Baxter, Davy Baxter, Maureen Baxter, John Gill, Jack McLucas, Joe McClean, Peter Doherty, Kathleen Deeney, Mary Bradley, Lily Nicholas, John McMenamin, Eileen Kelly, Elizabeth Diamond, Dessie Smith, Caolan McCrossan

### A Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

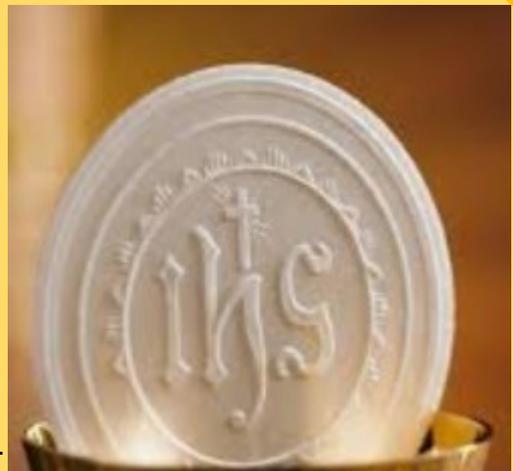
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



### Contact Details

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| Rev. Sean O'Donnell    | 028-7134 2303 sean.odonnell@derrydiocese.org     |
| Rev. Malachy Gallagher | 028-7134 2303 malachy.gallagher@derrydiocese.org |
| Rev. Roni Zacharias    | 028-7134 2303 Roni@watersideparish.net           |

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