

Fáilte- Bienvenue- Willkommen- Benvenuto- Bienvenido- Witajcie- Welcome –
Bemvindo- Welkom- Velkomin- Vitejte- Karibu- Croeso- Valkommen- Tervetuloa



Donore Avenue Parish

ST. TERESA'S
PASTORAL PARCEL 12
FEBRUARY 2021

Saturday 20th February 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St Teresa's,

We are still in Level 5 restrictions in society in general due to the Covid 19 health pandemic. This will be reviewed on the 5th March by the government and let us see where we go from there in terms of meeting again in family and social gatherings, retail, business, the economy in general, and not least with public mass. In this Pastoral Parcel 12, we hear from Fr. Tom in the Netherlands and how he is getting on, "Coping with Covid – Take a breath", some helpful hints for our wellbeing at this time, and some information from the Tenters Centenary Committee. There is also the readings and reflections for the next three Sundays up to the 6th March, and some resources for Lent and the year of St Joseph, as well as all the parish mass intentions for the next three weeks and update on parish news. With these, there is a joke or two, some more questions and answers for the priests of the parish, a colouring page and word search, and an exercise in gratitude and kindness; along with another recipe to test and taste your cooking. We hope you enjoy it. Ring the parish 01 4542425 if you wish to discuss anything.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. TOM

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Teresa's,



The past couple of months have been quite hectic with a lot of moving around and starting ministry in a very different pastoral reality, while also having to deal with all the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Thank God everything has worked out. After I left Ireland on 1 December I spent 10 days of quarantine at my parents' house. The rest of December I spent with a local Marist community. On 1 January I began a new pastoral appointment in the Diocese of Rotterdam.

The Diocese of Rotterdam covers the province of South Holland; a predominantly urban area comprising cities such as Rotterdam, The Hague, Delft, Leiden and Gouda. The Bishop of Rotterdam has appointed me to a parish federation in Leidschendam-Voorburg and Rijswijk (in the suburban area of The Hague). The federation is made up by three parishes comprising four churches / faith communities. I work in a pastoral team with two other priests and a deacon. It is a very different pastoral reality than St. Teresa's. In Donore Avenue the parish team serves one church and faith community, while in my current parish federation we serve four. In the weekend I usually celebrate four Masses (two on Saturday evening, two on Sunday morning). Sometimes this means that I have to get into my car straight after Mass in order to be in time for the next Mass in another church, which might be 12 kilometer down the road. Each faith community has its own social dynamic, way of celebrating liturgy, specific gifts and needs. It takes time getting to know the different places and the people involved. I live in Voorburg, a lovely suburb of The Hague with a beautiful church. The Catholic Church in the Netherlands has a strong tradition of lay leadership. This means that each faith community is blessed to have a

strong team of lay volunteers that take a lot of responsibility and look after the churches and many aspects of the running of their faith community, which makes it manageable for the pastoral team to serve a larger area. Like Ireland, the Netherlands is struggling with COVID-19 and the government has put many restrictions in place. However, churches are allowed to continue public worship with restricted numbers and precautions in place.



I am delighted to be back in the Netherlands and to be ministering in this parish federation. I often think of Donore Avenue and the wonderful people that make up St. Teresa's Parish. It was a very special coincidence that the first child that I baptized here was from an Irish family living in the Netherlands. To me this marked the transition from Ireland back to the Netherlands. It is good to be back home but Ireland has become a part of me as well. Donore Avenue Parish holds a special place in my heart and will always remain part of my story as the place of my first appointment and ordination to the diaconate. When the pandemic is over I am sure I will be back over to visit. And if anyone from St. Teresa's ever makes it over here please drop in for a cuppa!

God bless,
Fr. Tom Kouijzer

TEST AND TASTE YOUR COOKING.....

Tea Brack

- 225g/8oz Self Raising Flour
 - 350g Packet Fruit Mix
 - 300ml/½ Pint Cold Tea
 - 125g/4oz Golden Caster Sugar
 - 1 Egg, beaten
 - Good Pinch Mixed Spice
1. Place fruit and tea in bowl and leave to soak overnight.
 2. Add sugar, egg, flour and mixed spice and mix well.
 3. Transfer to a greased and base lined 900g/2lb loaf tin or a 20cm/8" round cake tin.
 4. Bake in a preheated oven* 170°C/325°F/Gas 3 for approx 1 hour or until risen and firm to the touch.
 5. Cool on a wire tray. When cold wrap in greaseproof paper and keep for two days before cutting.

*As ovens vary it may take longer to cook than the hour specified.

THE PARISH TEAM:

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WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.donoreavenueparish.ie Email: info@donoreavenueparish.ie;

Facebook: [Teresa Parish Donore Avenue Parish](https://www.facebook.com/TeresaParishDonoreAvenueParish)

Twitter: [@donoreaveparish](https://twitter.com/donoreaveparish)

ST. TERESA'S PARISH, DONORE AVENUE

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 21 FEBRUARY

6.30 pm: Thomas, Christina, Philomena Maguire (A)

Other Anniv.: Mary Power (25th A)

10.00 am: Elizabeth Crowe (1st A)

11am: Tom Whelan (A)

12.30pm: Intentions of Ray Heffernan and Family

Monday 22nd The Chair of St Peter Apostle

10.00 am: Altar List of the Dead

7.30pm: Special Intention

Tuesday 23rd St Polycarp

10.00 am: For all who received Marist Christmas Cards

Wednesday 24th

10.00 am: Mass for the sick

Thursday 25th

10.00 am: Paul Warren (A)

Friday 26th

10.00 am: Elizabeth (Lily) Austin (MM)

Saturday 27th

10.00 am: Intentions of Kitty Monaghan

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 28 FEBRUARY

6.30 pm: Francis Murray (BDR RIP)

Other Anniv.:

10.00 am: Thomas McCann (MM)

11am: Tom Holt (27th A)

12.30pm: Jim Mullen (MM); Matt Mullen (1st A)

Monday 1st March St David

10.00 am: Austin McDonald RIP

7.30pm: For all who received Marist Christmas Cards

Tuesday 2nd

10.00 am: Altar List of the Dead

Wednesday 3rd

10.00 am: Mass for the sick

Thursday 4th

10.00 John Barry (Rec. Dec)

Friday 5th St Kieran

10.00 am:

Saturday 6th

10am: Mass cards for recently deceased

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 7 MARCH 2021

6.30 pm:

Other Anniv.:

10.00 am: Alec McAdam (A)

11.00 am:

12.30pm:

Monday 8th St. John of God

10.00 am:

7.30pm: For all who received Marist Christmas Cards

Tuesday 9th St. Frances of Rome

10.00 am:

Wednesday 10th

10.00 am: Mass for the Sick

Thursday 11th

10.00 am: Paddy, Joan & Veronica Frawley (A)

Friday 12th

10.00 am: Altar List of the Dead

Saturday 13th Anniversary of Election of Pope

Francis

10.00 am: Angela Rooney (6th A)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 14 MARCH 2021

6.30 pm:

Other Anniv.:

10.00 am:

11.00 am:

12.30pm:

COLLECTIONS 31 January 2021

First Collection 205 €

SHARE 110 €

ENVELOPES 1455 €

COLLECTIONS 7 February 2021

First Collection 235 €

SHARE 120 €

ENVELOPES 1151 €

COLLECTIONS 14 February 2021

First Collection 225 €

ACCORD 300 €

ENVELOPES 920 €

LENT IN ST. TERESA'S in 2021

The Government will review the current level of restrictions on the 5th March, but it is expected that they will extend them and that there may be **no public mass foreseeable until Easter!**

This is very hard on all of us. As faith community we continue to walk united using the means available to us.

Mass: All masses will be celebrated online. While the church is closed there is no additional evening mass except the usual Monday evening mass.

Stations of the Cross: We will pray the Stations via webcam on Fridays, 9.45am and will upload the short videos from last year on the *facebook* and website page.

Holy Hour (3-4pm) will continue as long as the church is closed. Readings from: *Treasures of Irish Christianity*, Dublin, 2021.

Trocaire: Boxes and envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Displays: We continually try to highlight the different liturgical days.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, and FUNERALS: Please contact the parish house for questions.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

The children in Scoil Treasa as well as the children in the parish based program continue preparation for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This is done on-line and in contact with the parish team. Celebration of these sacraments will hopefully be during the school year or the summer months.

RECENTLY DECEASED

+Austin McDonald, Sandford Gardens

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Please feel free to hand in questions for the next pastoral parcel!

ACCORD – Catholic Marriage Care Services

The annual collection for ACCORD is being taken up at present. There are envelopes at the back of the church for donations. Donations can also be made directly on their website or given to the parish and we will forward them on to ACCORD.

CHRISTMAS DUES 2020: 3230 Euro

A big thank you to all the donors in the name of the diocese!

PARISH WEBCAM

There is live streaming of church services in this church. It can be accessed on our website: www.donoreavenueparish.ie or through <https://www.mcnmedia.tv>

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **1 March** meeting of Parish Pastoral Council meeting on Zoom at 7.30pm
- **8 March**, Meeting Liturgy committee via Zoom at 7pm.
- **March – date yet undecided** – meeting on Zoom of parish Finance Committee.

ST PATRICKS DAY

This year we are delighted to celebrate our national feastday with a mass in Irish with Martin Daly SM. As of now I think we can presume it will be on-line through the webcam only but you never know!

19 MARCH FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH 2020-2021
Year of St. Joseph – Patron of the Universal Church: You find more in this Pastoral Parcel.

25 MARCH ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD – First anniversary of the first lockdown. It was this day last year when churches were closed for public mass.

PASTORAL PARCEL 12 covers the time up to 13 March and includes the mass leaflet for each week, readings and reflections, so please keep the respective pages for the three weeks.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES are the **main source of income** for the parish. The boxes of envelopes for 2021 have arrived and are available from the parish house. Give us a ring and we will deliver them to your house. Please consider taking a box if you have not done so already.

READING AND HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy.

Pope Francis: THE DOUBLE DIRECTION OF LENT

We may think that we give glory to God only by our worship and prayer, or simply by following certain ethical norms. It is true that the primacy belongs to **our relationship with God**, but we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is **what we have done for others**. Prayer is most precious, for it nourishes a daily commitment to love. Our worship becomes pleasing to God when we devote ourselves to living generously, and allow God's gift, granted in prayer, to be shown in our concern for our brothers and sisters.

THE TENTERS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE:



TENTERS 100
Celebrating 100 years of a Liberties neighbourhood

Following on from the great occasion that was Mr Dick Tisdall's 100th Birthday, we would like to take this opportunity to tell you about another 100th birthday that will take place next year. 2022 marks the centenary of the building of the Fairbrother's Fields Housing Development, now known as the Tenters. This Tenters area was extended geographically in later years to incorporate adjoining streets.

Planning is already underway for a fitting Programme of Events, marking one of the most significant public housing initiatives in the emerging independent state. A small committee has been formed to coordinate a calendar of events and we are looking for volunteers with ideas, imagination and a little time on their hands to join the Tenters100 team.

The Fairbrother's Fields Housing Scheme was part of a citywide project first proposed in 1912 as a response to the housing shortage in the city. The impetus to accelerate the scheme was the tragic collapse of the Church Street tenements in 1913, which killed seven people, left 100 homeless and forced a Public Inquiry, which put the spotlight on the horrific housing conditions in Dublin.

The 1922 Fairbrother's Fields Scheme was regarded as a model of public housing: solidly built, three bedrooms, a parlour room and a decent garden – far removed from the squalor of the Corporation tenements where the majority of the new residents had been living previously.

The planning and execution along with the values which informed the development, have a direct relevance to the contemporary housing situation in Dublin 8. As part of the anniversary celebrations, we will be seeking to learn the lessons of history.

Bricks and mortar, even solid Dolphin's Barn brick, do not make a community however, and our focus will be on the people who made and continue to create the spirit of the Tenters.

The Tenters100 Facebook page "celebrating 100 years of a Liberties neighbourhood" is a platform for sharing photographs and memories, uniting old friends and forging new bonds of community solidarity.

Why not join the conversation? If you or your family have memories of growing up in the Tenters, photographers or memorabilia please contact us on tenters.100@gmail.com

School photographs, photos from family albums, personal reminiscences – all welcome

Tenters 100 Needs You:

We welcome volunteers and no, you don't have to sit on a committee to make your contribution. We especially want to hear from residents with IT, marketing, social media administrative and financial skills. Your anniversary ideas also welcomed:

tenters.100@gmail.com

"My Tenters" Initiative:

We want to record how local residents – young and old, long standing and recent arrivals to the Tenters, think about life in the Tenters.

You can record a message on your phone - max of 3 minutes, or send a brief written message....

What does the Tenters mean to you? What do you like best about the Tenters?

One word which sums up living in the Tenters?



SAINT JOSEPH

The year of Saint Joseph is called out for December 2020 to November 2021. The occasion is the 150th anniversary (1870) of Saint Joseph proclaimed as patron of the universal church.

Saint Joseph is a biblical name and figure...

- *A prominent name in the Old and the New Testament
- *The stepfather of Jesus, father of the brothers and sisters of Jesus, spouse of Mary

Saint Joseph is celebrated during the church year...

- *19 March Solemnity of Saint Joseph, since 10th century, officially since 1479.
- *1 May Joseph the Worker, since 1955 (International Workers Day!)
- *Wednesday before third Sunday after Easter (until 1955) Patron of the Universal Church (Pius XI, Vatican II)
- *Wednesday is the day of the week dedicated to Saint Joseph
- *March is the month dedicated to St. Joseph

Saint Joseph is regarded as the patron for...

- *Poland and Canada; all called Joseph, Josephine, Joe...; many religious congregations, parishes and schools.
- *Patron of carpenters, adoption parents, chastity, for a happy death

Devotion to Saint Joseph...

- *Prayer, litany, Novena
- *Church altar, statue and image
- *The Holy Family
- *Pope John Paul II, *Remptoris Custos (Guardian of the Redeemer, 1989)*
- *Pope Francis, devotion to the 'Sleeping St. Joseph'; Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde (With a father's heart)*

Saint Joseph is known for...

- *His dreams which he understood as messages from God 2021
- *His decision to trust Mary and accept her and her child
- *His care for the Holy Family
- *There is no word kept in the NT but his life, role and deeds
- *He is not named in the later events of Jesus' life and so many think he had died by then

Saint Joseph in our church...

- *Side altar dedicated to Saint Joseph, holding the child Jesus
- *Central windows show the Holy Family

Prayer (Pope Francis, Patris Corde)

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen*

LENT 2021

Again and Again!

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we weep again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "*Again?! Will we never learn?*" And yet, in the midst of the chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "*I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to restoration.*" Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

This theme of *Again and Again* provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us.

In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need the 46 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples. Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.

We encourage you to read through these weekly reflections on the Sundays of Lent at your own pace, following the rhythm that works best for you. May they strengthen you, and help to shape you into a more faithful disciple.

REMEMBER WHEN?

By Rev. Sarah Are

God never begins letters with the words,
"I hope this finds you well,"
For those words imply distance.
Instead, God begins God's letters to you
with the words,
"Remember when?"
Beloved child,
Remember when we dipped our toes into
the water?
Remember when we dove right in?
Remember when the ice cream dripped
down our hands
And the cicadas sang their song,
And the seasons changed,
And the days were long?

Remember when we fell in love and the
world was new?
Remember when our heart was broken?
Remember the tears?
Remember the long nights?
Remember when we laughed again and
the sound surprised us?
Remember when we marched in the
street?
Remember when we cast our vote?
Remember when we believed in hope?
Remember when?
I do.
That's what God's letters say.
So on this day, and every day to come,
Remember: God is meeting you.
If you look back, you might remember
when.

The first sunday in lent, Again & Again, God meets

Mark 1:9-15 | Genesis 9:8-17

God meets Jesus at the water before he is tempted in the wilderness— this is important. First and foremost, God claims us. God meets us in the liminal space, at the water's edge, at the threshold of something new, and names us Beloved. God's covenant with all of creation reminds us that God meets us where we are—in the midst of our reluctance, doubt, eagerness, or weariness—and proclaims we are good.



The second sunday in lent again & again, we are called to listen



Mark 8:31-9:8¹ | Psalm 22:23-31

Like the disciples, we are often stuck in the pattern of messing up over and over again. We cling to power, we climb the ladder, we memorialize Christ's teachings rather than embodying them. However, we can't be trapped by shame, guilt, ignorance, or inaction. Humility is required for transformation. Again and again, we are called to listen—to God and to others.

The third sunday in lent again & again, we are shown the way

John 2:13-22 | 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

According to John, Jesus begins his ministry by showing more than telling. In the temple, Jesus disrupts and overturns the systems of corruption and profiteering taking place, but ultimately points us to the promise of restoration. Paul reminds the Corinthians (and us) that God's wisdom is more expansive than we can imagine. We are shown the way, even if God's "way" feels foolish, counter-cultural, disruptive, or uncomfortable.



Coping with Covid ~ Take a Breath! By Geraldine Conlon, Psychotherapist MIACP

Managing to live amidst Covid 19 is very challenging, it brings anxieties, frustrations, stress. Working as a counsellor and psychotherapist, I have found that one of the most effective, simple and readily available tools we have is 'our breath'. Yet it is also one of most underused and undervalued coping skills.

I'm sure at some stage, you have been told by a well meaning individual to "just take a deep breath!" when you have been upset, anxious or frustrated. Your initial reaction might have been understandably cynical, 'Oh sure, that's going to solve everything!' *but what if it could help?*

We inhale and exhale approximately 25,000 times a day. Some of these breaths are more shallow than others, frequently engaging only the top of our lungs, leaving the bottom of our lungs similar to a deflated balloon. This type of shallow breathing is linked directly with having irrational thoughts, physical tension, and emotions of anxiety and stress. *Umm, Okay, so maybe there is something helpful in 'taking a deep breath'?*

'Deep breathing' might sound like something we do anyway *"easy peasy!"* but in fact it takes daily practice. When we breathe deep into the bottom of our lungs, causing them to inflate, we enable the correct ratio of oxygen to carbon dioxide to be present, helping the mind to think more logically, release anxiety and for the body to let of stress and tension, bringing a greater sense of inner calmness. *Okay, enough of the biology lesson... I'm ready to breathe deeply!*

So, lets practice, following the guidelines below:



1. In a quiet place, if you feel comfortable and balanced on your feet, stand. If not, sit on a kitchen chair. Gently close your eyes.



2. Place one hand loosely upon your chest, and the other hand loosely upon your stomach, just over your belly button.



3. A) Breathe **slowly** through your nose for a count of 3, notice the hand on your stomach moving ever so slightly to begin.
B) Hold the breath for a count of 2.
C) **Slowly** exhale through your mouth for the count of 5 noticing the hand on your stomach fall back to its starting position.

Remember: *Breathing deeply if you are not used to doing it, is similar to exercising. It takes time, so if at first your hand on your stomach doesn't move as you inhale and exhale, practice makes perfect!*

To start and finish the day off on a relaxed note, try this exercise, before you get out of bed in the morning and last thing at night when you get into bed.

During the day, practice while waiting on the kettle to boil, during the TV ad break, while on hold during a phone call. The more you practice, the more effective 'taking a deep breath' will be when you really need it. Soon, you will be the envy of many, as you breath your way through difficult times!

Breathing Prayer:

A gentle and kind Nun, once taught me this exercise when I was young. I hope it gives you as much comfort as it does me. Enjoy

As you breath in, silently say the words, *"I am never alone,*
As you breath out, silently say the words, *God is always with me."*

—“An Easy mind has an Easy breath” ~Author unknown—

The following questions were sent in by Ciarán McCarthy to Fr David.

Questions

What do you do on your days off? On my day off, I travel to Wexford to be with my mother and to give my sister a day to do other things. This gives me a break from the normal routine of the work in the parish and it gives Alois & John (and Tom before) (and also Sam) a break from me, which is equally important!. On free days when not going to Wexford, I love the freedom of long walks – for exercise, for thought, for just that sense of physical, mental & emotional wellbeing. Along rivers, forests, hills, sea coast. I also enjoy, doing physical manual stuff, like cutting the grass, general maintenance around the house, church and grounds – which takes me out of my head.

Who does the cooking in the parish house?

Maria cooks from Monday to Friday and leaves something for Sunday. When Maria is not in, we all take it in turns to have a go. We don't starve! – something from the freezer, chop a few vegetables, take-away. Some follow instructions and recipes. I tend to experiment and just throw things together and see what results. Some work, some don't. Then, it strikes me: food is a very significant part of all our lives. How often we think about it. Do something about. Shop. Snack. Prepare. Eat. Talk about it. Talk about who is doing it. Who is shopping? What is needed? What's next? Have we enough? Too much. Weight – put on / weight loss / diet. Food as the energy for life. The engine of life? Another question is: who feeds the cats and the birds since Tom returned to the Netherlands? They are well looked after by John and Alois.

What made you decide to become a priest?

Short answer – wanted to see what it was all about.

Obvious answer: I went to school with the Marists in Chanel, got to know them . At moments in my life at that time I was helped by some of them. At some stage I thought about joining and then tried it, like it and stayed.

Usual answer: I entered to see what it was like, to try it out, on the basis that I could always leave.

Hidden answer – I don't have a clue why. I don't know how God works.

Longer answer: I entered the Marist Fathers in 1976. The "decide" bit of your question, in one sense comes twelve years later in 1988 at the time of ordination to priesthood in Dundalk. In reality of course smaller yet significant decisions were being taken in all the years leading up to that.

Just as with couples intending to marry, where it is essential that their individual decision to marry is a free choice without pressure of any kind. So too with the decision to be ordained. The freedom to choose, free from any pressure – physical, emotional, psychological and indeed spiritual is central. You can't make a free decision, if there is any pressure or coercion, internally or externally.

So over the years of training, as well as being for study and ministry preparation, this time is also one of reflection with those in charge, concerning my freedom to choose and to make such a decision, as well as our common judgment as to my capacity to live the life.

So what made me decide to become a priest? Ultimately it is Gods call, and it took a number of years for me to work out my response. And I make the same decision everyday since. It is not a once off decision. In a real sense the Marist Fathers is my home. It took a while for me to decide –but it is where I found my path in life.

There is more that could be said. The stories behind a life. The stories behind a decision. But enough for now! Thanks for asking Ciarán.

Children's Corner

The following questions were handed in from children of the parish sacramental program run by Sam. However, the questions were addressed to the priests of the parish. Fr. Alois

1 Why did you want to become a priest?

Every priest would give you a different answer because this is very personal. What do you want to be in life? I looked around and I saw many priests who led a life that impressed me (others did not...). At some point I felt drawn to try it. I did and I tried longer. I am still trying to be a good priest. It is not always easy. To be a priest brings you close to people, in good times and in bad times and as a priest you can do something for them. I also find an answer to the really big questions: Why am I here? What will be after death? Is there someone to help those people who have no luck in this life?

2 Why do you wear a different colour for different Masses?

Well observed! Yes, that is different during the year. It helps to tell everyone which feast day or time in the year of the church we celebrate. White is for feast days and beautiful moments like Christmas, Easter, wedding, baptism. Violet is for Advent Season – a colour between light and dark, for the time in between: until Jesus will come again. Purple is for Lent (has begun last Wednesday!) – a time of fasting and preparation. Red – the colour of blood for those who gave their blood, their life for their faith. Green – for the normal time with no special feast day. Green – a colour for life and healing.

3 Have you ever made any mistakes as a priest?

Not any, many... You can get the colour wrong for the mass. You can forget the birthday of someone in the parish. Priests also go to confession because they also sin. I find it helpful to know that I am not the only one who makes mistakes. I find it helpful if people understand and forgive. And I know that a mistake, even a big one, is not the end of the story. God says: Change, begin anew!

4 Who came up with the idea to write stories about Jesus' miracles?

First of all, those who were blessed with the miracle. The Bible tells us, they were so excited that they told everyone else. And I can well imagine that. Someone who was very sick for a very long time – and now he is healed. Wow! These experiences were so wonderful that eventually people wrote them down to share them with others. This is what Jesus can do for us! The evangelists, then, included these stories into the full story of what Jesus did for us when they wrote their gospel.

5 Can priests play video games?

Personally, I cannot play video games – I do not like them, I do not know how to play them, and they are not my hobby. I do not think it would be forbidden. But it is the same as for everyone else: If the game is about violence only or against the dignity of people or if it becomes an addiction – then: NO!

6 My pet dog Bilbo, died last October. Do animals go to heaven?

Many people have lost a pet and yes, what about them now? The Bible begins with the world how God created it and would like it to be: a garden, where God, people and animals live peacefully. The Bible says, at the end it will be as at the beginning – a new heaven and a new earth will come. So I would answer, yes, there is a place for pets in this new heaven.

Eating in Ireland in the Sixties

Pasta had not been invented. Curry was a surname. A takeaway was a mathematical problem. Pizza had something to do with leaning towers.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas. All chips were plain, the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.

A Chinese chipper was a foreign carpenter. Rice was a milk pudding and never part of our dinner. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate. Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking. Tea was made in a teapot, using tealeaves never green. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh. Only bachelors made beans.

Fish didn't have fingers in those days. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.

None of us ever had heart of yogurt. Healthy food consisted of anything edible. People who didn't eat potatoes were considered crazy.

Indian restaurants were only found in India. Cooking outside was called camping. Seaweed was not a recognised food. 'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold. Prunes were medicinal. Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin. We had only ever seen a picture of one.

Water came out of a tap and if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock.

JOKES

Children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, "Take only one, God is watching!"

Moving through the line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A boy wrote a note, "Take all you want. God is watching only the apples!"

I was surprised to see a painting of me in the National Portrait Gallery. Then I realised it was a mirror.

Father Murphy walks into a bar and says to the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to heaven?" The man said, "I do, Father". The priest said, "Then stand over there against the wall." Then the priest asked the second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?" "Certainly, Father," was the man's reply. "Then stand over there against the wall," said the priest.

Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Brien and said, "Do you want to go to heaven?" O'Brien said, "No, I don't Father." The priest said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?"

O'Brien said, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

For the Kids
First Sunday of Lent
Hidden Temptations: Word Search Puzzle

Inside this magic square are ten temptations you might face today. Can you find them and cross them out of your life?

Word list:

PRIDE	ENVY	GREED	POPULARITY	CHEATING
VANITY	GOSSIP	DRUGS	SMOKING	ALCOHOL

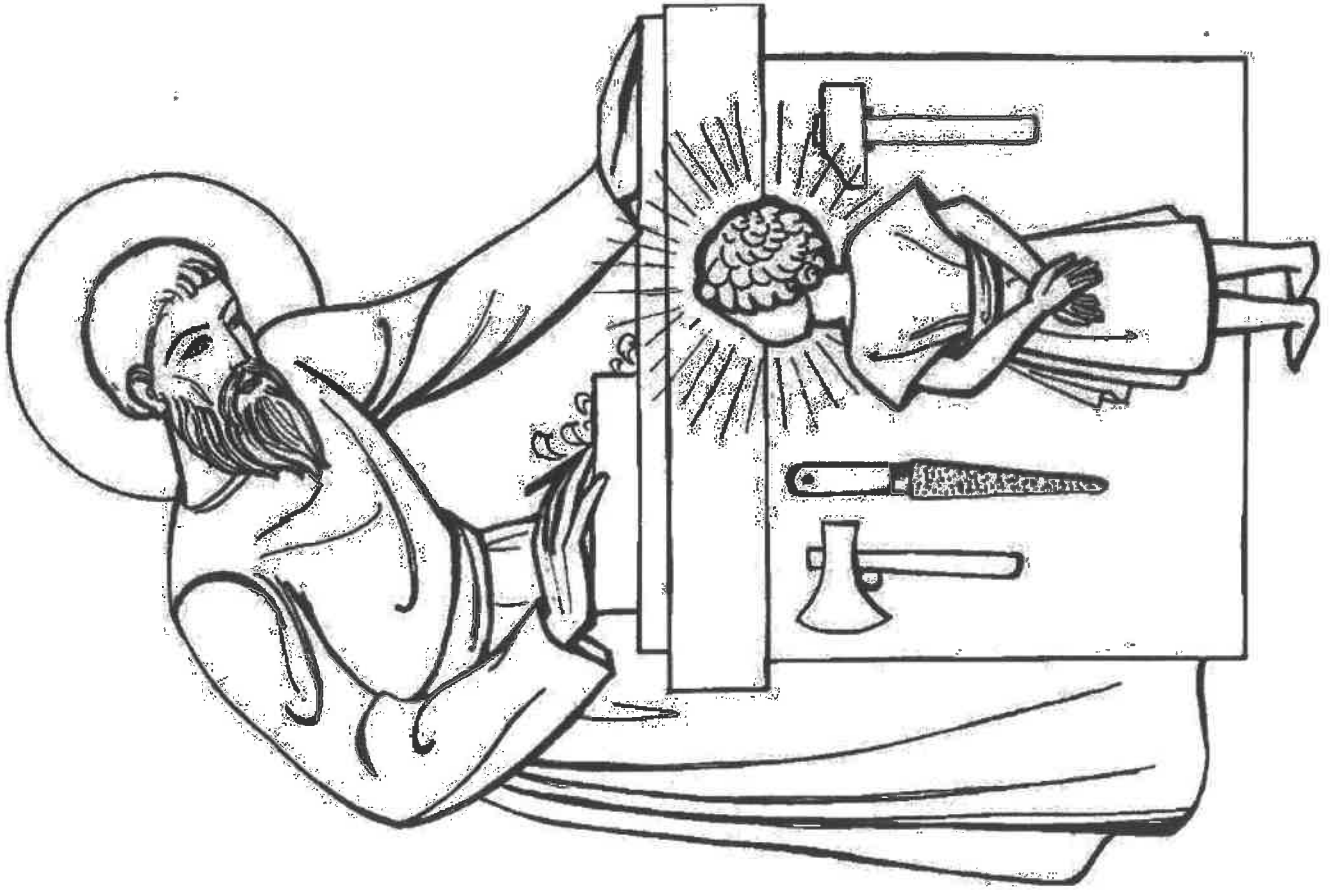
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 APOPULARITY
 EIRLORTLKHD
 VZCIECOCWSE
 GREEDHLIAMT
 OERIOENVYOR
 SUOCLAYRAKM
 SNLORTNAEIJ
 IAUXMIYSPNA
 PQYTINAVNGN
 CGMJSGURDFB



OSCAR SQUARE - BILLY MOONEY 1996

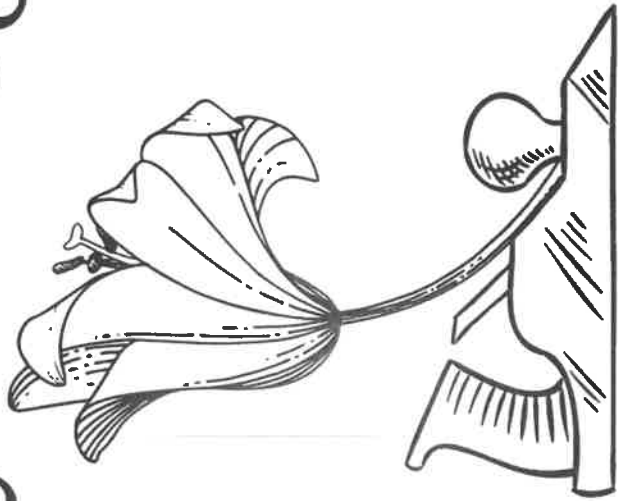


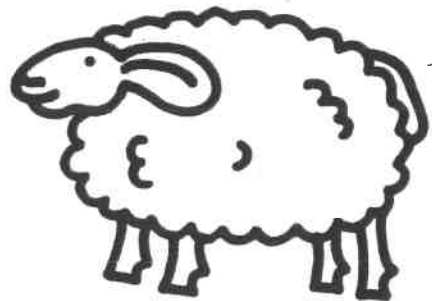
Spring and summer are on the way.....



Year of Saint Joseph

8th December 2020 - 8th December 2021





Third Sunday of Lent

Anger in the temple

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said, 'My father's house is a house of prayer.' So when he came to the temple in Jerusalem and saw how people had pushed God to one side and allowed money and business to become more important, he was very angry.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song together.

SORRY

Let us close our eyes and speak quietly to Jesus, asking his forgiveness for any mistakes we have made or things we have done wrong. (Allow a few moments for quiet reflection.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4:
Praise the Lord

GOSPEL (cf John 2:13-22)

Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. He found the temple in Jerusalem full of people selling animals, and amongst them sat the money changers. He was very angry and overturned the tables of the money changers, scattering their coins everywhere.

Angrily he chased the animals and the merchants out of the temple shouting at them, 'Take all of these things away and stop making my father's house into a market place!'

The temple priests tried to stop Jesus and asked, 'What right do you have to act like this?'

Jesus answered, 'Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days.'

'This temple took forty six years to build! How could you rebuild it in three days?' they exclaimed.

The temple which Jesus spoke of was his own body, and after his resurrection from the dead, his disciples would understand what Jesus had said that day.

DISCUSSION

Why did the Jewish people go to the temple? – They gathered there to pray and to offer sacrifices in God's honour.

What did Jesus find in the Temple?

Why do you think that the money changers, and the animals were there? – The animals were sold to those who wished to offer them as

sacrifices to God. Ordinary money with the picture of Caesar on it could not be used in the temple. Instead special temple coins were used to buy animals, and to pay the temple taxes. The money changers' job was to exchange the Roman coins for the temple coins.

Why was Jesus so angry? – His father's house had become a market place, filled with people buying and selling, instead of being a place of prayer and respect.

What did Jesus say he could do, which made people believe that he was mad? – Jesus told them that if the temple was destroyed, he could rebuild it in three days. They thought that he spoke of the temple itself, which had taken forty six years to build. Jesus meant the 'temple' of his own body, which would be destroyed by death on the cross, but would be raised to life again after three days.

How should we act in the house of God? – The house of God is a place of prayer where we can be close to God in a special way. When we visit someone else's home we are well behaved and remember our manners, so too we should respect God's house when we go to church.

ACTIVITY

On a large sheet of paper, draw a temple background. Photocopy the animal and stall pictures enough times so that they can be cut out to make a busy temple scene. Add the angry figure of Jesus.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray for the family which has gathered here today in God's house to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection.

Thinking ahead. (see discussion points for the Fifth Sunday of Lent)

Either: Sprinkle some cress seeds onto some damp cotton wool or kitchen roll. Put the seeds in a light place and keep them damp. Tiny shoots will soon appear. Keep some of the dry seeds to show the children.

or: Soak some broad beans in water for 24 hours. Put about 2.5cm (1inch) of water in a jam jar and line it with damp kitchen roll. Put the beans between the glass and the paper about half way down the jar. Place in a light place and watch the roots and shoots begin to appear.



DEAR GOD

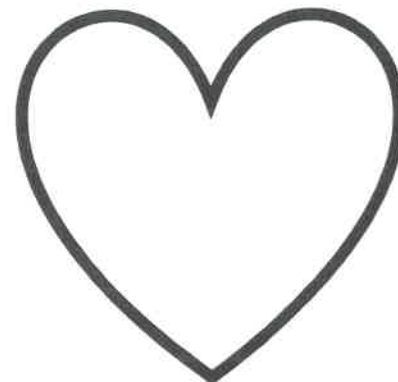
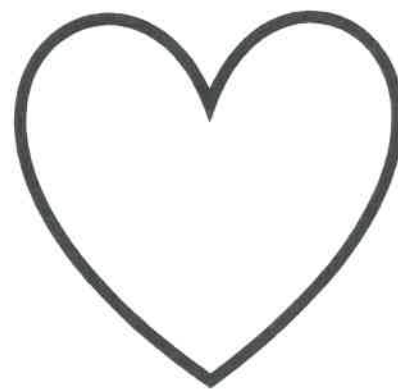
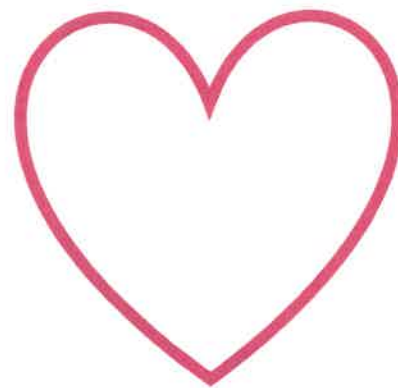
I AM



GRATEFUL



FOR...



KINDNESS IS THE MARK WE LEAVE ON THE WORLD

Now is the perfect time to show kindness. Write the random acts of kindness that you have completed in the speech bubbles!

