

Saints of the Coming Week: Tuesday: St Peter Damian, bishop and doctor of the Church; **Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday; **Thursday:** St Polycarp, bishop and martyr.

Thank You for your generosity to the offertory collection last weekend.

A Ladies' Lenten Retreat, conducted by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart, takes place from 24th - 26th February in Termonbacca. Cost £90. All welcome. Tel: 71262512.

Temperance Masses Masses will be offered in the following churches during the Lenten Season. They will highlight the virtue of Temperance, focusing on the Pioneer promises of moderation in all things, particularly in the use of alcohol. **St Mary's, Creggan:** Tues 28th Feb at 7.30 pm; **St John the Baptist, Swatragh:** Sat 11th March at 12 noon; **Church of the Sacred Heart, Carndonagh:** Tues 14th March at 7 pm; **Church of the Sacred Heart, Omagh:** Monday 20th March at 7.30 pm. All, especially Pioneers, are invited to attend.

Do Something Special this Lent! Many people choose to abstain from alcohol for the duration of Lent. Take this opportunity to help someone you know with an alcohol or drug problem by offering up your sacrifice as a prayer for their freedom and well being. Take the short term pledge and make a difference to someone's life. For information, contact one of the priests or visit www.pioneerassociation.ie.

Ard's Friary will host a residential retreat, 'Things that Matter', on the first weekend in Lent, 24th - 26th February, led by Philip McParland. Cost €175. To register, tel 074 91 38909 or email: info@ardsfriary.ie. For details email: philipmcparland@hotmail.com

Desert Father: A Lenten Programme for Men has been developed by an Irish priest to help men make this Lent different. The programme contains 4 pillars - prayer, penance, spiritual reading & charity. To find out more and join an online group, a zoom information meeting is scheduled for Sunday 19th Feb at 8.30 pm. Meeting ID 494 625 9738. Password 997298. Email desertfathers40@gmail.com for a copy of the programme.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, PENNYBURN

Sunday 6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 10.00 am & 12.00 noon: Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7.30 am: Mass, 10 am: Mass followed by Rosary

Wednesday 7.30 am: Mass; 10.00 am: Mass followed by Rosary; 7.00 pm: Mass

Saturday 10.00 am Mass

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH, CARNHILL

Sunday 6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 10.30 am & 12.30 pm: Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8.50 am: Rosary; 9.15 am: Mass

Thursday: 6.30 pm: Mass;

Saturday 10.30 am: Rosary; 11.00 am: Mass

Confessions after 11.am Mass on Saturdays

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GALLIAGH

Sunday 7.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 9.00 am & 11.00 am: Mass; 6.30 pm: Youth Mass

Monday - Friday 10.30 am: Rosary; 11.00 am: Mass

Thursday 7 pm: Holy Hour for the Unborn & Expectant Mothers (in Our Lady's Chapel).

Marriages 3 months' notice must be given to the parish before date of marriage.

Baptisms Please contact the Parish office by phone to book.

Safeguarding If you have any concerns with regard to safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church, please contact Maire Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at tel: +447596 500 793 or email: mairegormley@derrydiocese.org or PSNI (Police Service of N Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Western HSC Trust, +442871314090 (Ask for the Duty Social Worker).

Parish of the Three Patrons

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - 19th February 2023

Parish Clergy

Fr Michael McCaughey, PP – 028 71262360 – stpatericks@threepatrons.org

Fr Sean O'Donnell, CC – 028 71351261 – stbrigids@threepatrons.org

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal - 028 71419980 - facebook: [derryfranciscans](https://www.facebook.com/derryfranciscans)
www.threepatrons.org [threepatronsfacebook](https://www.facebook.com/threepatronsfacebook)

Change of Mass Times We take this opportunity to thank people for their ongoing support to the Parish of the Three Patrons, both those who live in our parish and those who attend Masses in any of our churches on a weekly and daily basis. We also acknowledge those who join us for Masses and prayer via the parish webcams. It is very heartening to observe the commitment of people to the Mass and also to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in private prayer.

Two diocesan priests serve the parish and we try to do so as best as possible. We also thank the Franciscan Friars for their presence among us while respectful of their own community and pastoral commitments. So too, we acknowledge the employed staff of our parish and we are blessed with many good volunteers. We are very grateful. We ask people to note that from next weekend, the First Sunday of Lent, we introduce a slight change of Mass times.

Pennyburn: Vigil: 6.00 pm; Sunday: 9.45 am* and 12.15 pm *

Carnhill: Vigil: 6.00 pm; Sunday: 10.30 am and 12.30 pm

Galliagh: Vigil: 7.15 pm*; Sunday 9.00 am and 11.00 am

(Irish Mass on first and third Sunday of each month at 12.30 pm. Please note, there will no longer be a Sunday evening Mass).

We ask for your understanding in this regard. Through time, we will also review our daily Mass schedule. Again, we thank you for your prayerful presence as we journey together in faith.

Fr Michael McCaughey, PP & Fr Sean O'Donnell, CC

Requiescant in Pace *Rory Quigley*, Bracken Pk; *Daniel McCartney*, Bunrana Rd; *Dympna Harron*, Duncreggan Rd. **Anniversaries** Brigid Quigley, Jim Cartin, Sadie Doherty, Brigid Orr, Gerry McLaughlin, John Lynch, Noel Henderson, Susan Kelly, Brendan O'Connor, Hugh Brady, Rene Rousseau, Michelle Gray, Moya Healy, Margaret Breslin, Gerard Doherty, Mary Farren, Fr Peter Byrne.

Readings for 26th February, 1st Sunday of Lent: 1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7; **Psalm:** 50(51):3-6,12-14,17; **2nd Reading:** Romans 5:12-19; **Gospel:** Matthew 4:1-11

The Next Irish Mass will be celebrated today (Sunday) at 12.30 pm in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. Everyone welcome.

A Holy Hour for the Unborn & Expectant Mothers will take place on Thursday at 7 pm in Our Lady's Chapel, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. All welcome.

Be Still - Men's Prayer and Friendship Group meets every Thursday from 8 pm - 9.15 pm in Our Lady's Chapel, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. All welcome.

Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Mondays after 11 am Mass until 11 pm in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh; on Wednesdays from 10.45 am - 5.45 pm in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn and daily from 8 am - 6 pm in the Kildare Room beside St Brigid's Parochial House, Carnhill. Everyone is welcome.

An Online Lenten Retreat takes place each Sunday of Lent. There is no charge, but you must register. Visit <https://priorinstitute.com/events/2023-priory-lenten-retreat>. Contact enquiries@priorinstitute.com or 003531 4048124.

Thoughts on the Gospel In today's gospel, the continuation of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus invites his followers to go far beyond the strict application of the law and to embrace a new way of thinking about and acting towards those who have injured them or us.



Relinquishing your right to compensation is one thing. Giving more of your property to one who has stolen from you is quite another. Do we take this teaching literally or do we simply embrace the spirit of non-retaliation that seems to be at the heart of this teaching? Last week's gospel reminded us that there is to be no place for uncontrolled anger or murderous thoughts in our hearts. Both that teaching and this seem to be about taking responsibility for how we live. Harboursing anger can have disastrous consequences for oneself and others. It tends to become a state of being and to skew our capacity for right judgement. What we do with what comes our way is for us to decide. Jesus makes it clear that we have choices in the face of life's struggles. The disciple is called to assume personal responsibility and refuse the way of retaliation.

The final example that Jesus offers in the Sermon on the Mount is the most confronting of all: there are to be no limitations on love. Loving one's enemies is quite a challenge, on a personal as well as a global level. We learn the hard way that we cannot change others. We can only change our attitudes and approaches to those who harm us in any way. Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy, wrote that her sisters "should never let the sun go down on their anger". Praying quite deliberately for those who give us a hard time or cause us grief is by far the most effective way of retaining our own peace of mind and of expelling retaliatory thoughts. It is a matter of gently bringing these people to mind, of breathing in the loving kindness of God that suffuses the universe and of breathing it out to them. Such prayer enables us to think of them in kindly ways and act towards them without rancour, even when these sentiments are not reciprocated. *Veronica Lawson, RSM*

Lord, help me to forgive and, when I cannot, to be patient with myself as you are with me.



Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. The ashes are a reminder that our bodies and all material things will return to dust. 'Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return.' Ashes are received on the forehead in the shape of a cross to indicate that we are taking on the cross of penance through acts of self-denial, or works of charity, or a resolution to be more prayerful in this time of preparation for Easter. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all Masses in our parish. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. We pray that Lent will be a journey of renewal for families, for the community, and for the world. Pope Francis, the Vicar of Christ in the Chair of St Peter, says that 'Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to 'make his dwelling' among us (cf. Jn 14:23).

Masses on Ash Wednesday will be celebrated as follows:

St Patrick's, Pennyburn: 7.30 am, 10.00 am & 6.00 pm

St Brigid's, Carnhill: 9.30 am, 12.30 pm & 6.30 pm

St Joseph's, Galliagh: 11.00 am & 7.15 pm.

Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors & Victims of Sexual Abuse takes place on Friday 24th February, the first Friday of Lent. The Day of Prayer is an initiative of Pope Francis, first marked in Ireland in 2017. Blessed candles will be lit in parishes across the country to symbolise repentance; light in the darkness and hope.

Rosary on the Coast will take place today (Sunday) at 3 pm at Benone Strand for world peace and the protection of unborn babies. All welcome.

Many people take on the practice of attending daily Mass over Lent, praying the Stations of the Cross, fasting at certain times, doing something to help the poor, sick or lonely, or giving a contribution to Trócaire in response to that call, 'to pray, to fast and to give alms'. During the Lenten Season we ask you to note that



Weekday Masses (followed by the Rosary) are celebrated as follow:

St Patrick's, Pennyburn Monday - Friday: 7.30 am, 10.00 am; Saturday: 10.00 am

St Brigid's, Carnhill Monday - Friday: 9.15 am, 12.30 pm; Saturday: 11.00 am

St Joseph's, Galliagh Monday - Friday: 11 am (Saturday time to be confirmed)

Stations of the Cross and Morning Prayer will take place during the Season of Lent. Times to be announced.

Lenten Eucharistic Healing Service St Brigid's, Carnhill: Sundays of Lent at 6 pm. 'Come to me all who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest'

TROCAIRE Trócaire As the Season of Lent begins, Trócaire asks for your support to Working for a Just World help fund this year's lifesaving programme. Theme: 'Hold Fast to Love and Justice' (*Hosea 12:6*). This Lent we learn about Somalia and how conflict and climate change have led to an unprecedented food crisis in an already vulnerable part of the world, which has left almost half of the population experiencing acute food shortages and unbearable hunger. You can support this vital work by taking home a Trócaire box and using it in your home, using the donation envelope in your pack or by going online at www.trocaire.org. Visit: <https://www.trocaire.org/lentencampaign2023>

Lenten Prayer Cards You are invited to join in prayer each day of Lent, praying for various areas, schools, ministries, etc associated with Three Patrons' Parish.

Each day of Lent, everyone is encouraged to pray the Diocesan Lenten Prayer.

Daily Lenten Prayer *Loving Father, to prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world, Your Son, Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, Amen.*

Diocesan Vocations "It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit and then you will be my disciples." Are you being called to love the Lord and His people as a diocesan priest? If you are considering such a vocation, contact your local priest or Fr Pat O'Hagan: pgoh2111@gmail.com or National Vocations Office info@vocations. *This week-end's psalm reminds us that 'The Lord is compassion and love' and readings challenge us to reflect the perfect love of God in our relationships with one another. For those called to preach this message of love as priests of the diocese of Derry, we pray to the Lord.*

Temperance Sunday On this Day of Prayer for Temperance, we pray for all those who struggle with addiction to alcohol or drugs or any other form of addiction. We remember families and all those who offer support.

Prayer for Temperance *Temper my desires, O Lord, and turn my focus towards you. Deliver me from the tendency to go to extremes that strain both body and soul. Help me to be content with what I have instead of constantly seeking more. May I come to recognise the grace of moderation that brings both contentment and appreciation. Let temperance grow in me and lead me to discover other virtues that bring deeper union with you. In your sacred name, I pray. Amen.*