

Saints of the Coming Week: Monday: St Gregory of Narek, abbot and doctor of the Church; **Wednesday:** St David of Mynyw, bishop; **Saturday:** St Casimir
Thank You for your generosity to the offertory collection last weekend.

Precious Life's March for Life takes place on Saturday 11th March at 2 pm at Custom House Square, Belfast. For a seat on the bus contact 90278484 or info@preciouslife.com

Give Blood, Save Lives Blood Transfusion Service will collect blood donations at Lisneal College, Crescent Link, BT47 5FQ, on Tues 7th March 3.45 pm - 8 pm. Call 08085 534 653.

Mary's Meals - Syria Earthquake Appeal We invite you to join us in prayer for those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and for the success of emergency response efforts. Mary's Meals has provided school meals in Syria since 2017 with our local partner, Dorcas, and we have now launched an emergency appeal to provide urgent support for children and vulnerable adults in and around Aleppo who are in desperate need. To find out more or to donate, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk or call us free on 0800 6981212.

A Lenten Reflection Day takes place at Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry on Saturday 4th March from 9.30 am - 5 pm. Kindfulness ... a gifted way of living my life. An opportunity for time aside to reflect on the Season of Lent and to open our minds and hearts afresh to celebrate Holy Week and Easter, led by Fr Damian Bresnahan SMA. Cost (including lunch) £35 / €40. Also **Dance of Life Retreat** Friday 17th March (5 pm) - Sunday 19th March (2 pm). In this retreat the opportunity to dance may bring a renewed awareness in your sense of self, connection with others and with God, led by Fr Damian Bresnahan and Sister Mary Taylor OLA. Cost: £220 /€250. Contact 02830821964 or admin@dromantineconference.com

A Tea Dance in aid of the Trócaire Earthquake Appeal takes place on Sunday 19th March at 10 pm at An Grianan Hotel, Burt. Adm: €10. Everyone welcome.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, PENNYBURN

Sunday 6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 9.45 am & 12.15 pm: 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; 6.00 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 7.15 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 9.00 am & 11.00 am: 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: mairiegormley@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

First Sunday of Lent - Year A - 26th February 2023

Parish Clergy

Fr Michael McCaughey, PP – 028 71262360 – stpatricks@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)

Embrace the Wilderness

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is also a time to enter into the "wilderness" and grapple with the mysteries of life in Christ. It presents us with a challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. Today's liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus' forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many humans before and since, is "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness of life to be "tested" there.



["Tested" is a more accurate translation of the Greek than is "tempted"].

In Matthew's account, the "devil" is the "tester" or "tempter", the instrument of God's testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus' relationship to God: "If you are the son of God...." The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God's empire or the empire "of the heavens" rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed "of God".

As we begin Lent, we are encouraged to embrace the richness of this time and the possibilities that lie within. The desert can be unappealing, we may feel a resistance to the challenge, but the potential is enormous. Going inward, praying, fasting, taking on, giving – all of these practices offer us opportunities for genuine spiritual growth. It is through this journey that we can deepen our relationship with the One who urges us on. We should not be afraid of the desert for, as the Gospel today tells us, it is the Spirit who leads us on this path.

'Lord, you are good and forgiving, loving to all who call on you, hear my prayer, listen when I call to you.' (Psalm 86)

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.*

During the Season of Lent we ask you to note that

Weekday Masses (followed by the Rosary) are celebrated as follows

St Patrick's, Pennyburn Monday - Friday: 7.30 am, 10 am; Sat: 10 am;

Wednesday: 7.30 am, 10.00 am & 6.00 pm* (please note change of time during Lent*)

St Brigid's, Carnhill Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9.15 am, 12.30 pm;

Thursday: 12.30 pm, 6.30 pm; Saturday: 11.00 am

St Joseph's, Galliagh Monday - Friday: 11 am

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'.

A Holy Hour takes place on the Tuesdays and Wednesdays of Lent from 11.30 am

- 12.30 pm in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. Everyone welcome.

Eucharistic Adoration takes place as follows:

Mondays after 11 am Mass until 11 pm in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh

Wednesdays 10.45 am - 5.45 pm in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn

Daily 8 am - 6 pm in the Kildare Room beside St Brigid's Parochial House, Carnhill.

Everyone is welcome to come and spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

TROCAIRE Somalia has had no rain for four years. Climate change has led to the worst drought in forty years. Areas that once supported livestock and crops are now barren lands, incapable of supporting life. This Lent we hear about the Mahat family – Ambiyo, Mahat and their eight children – who have had to leave their home and village in search of food at an internally displaced persons' camp. Trócaire is supporting families like the Mahats through lifesaving food baskets, medical care and education for the children. 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.

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.

Time of Prayer and Reflection Thornhill Ministries welcome you on our Lenten journey to a short time of reflection (mindful prayer and the Word of God) on the Wednesdays of Lent, beginning Wednesday 1st March from 6.30 pm - 7.15 pm in the Emmaus Room in the grounds of Pennyburn church. Everyone is welcome to this time of prayer.

An Eco Journey Through Lent - Week 1 You are invited to spend 10 minutes a few times this week in a garden, park, by the sea and so on - without any technology. Let your senses really take in what nature has to offer, for example, by looking *into* a flower, not just at it. Then pray '*I thank you, Lord, for the wonder of my life, for the wonders of all your creation.*' (Psalm 139)

First Confessions We ask God's blessing on the children from the various schools in our parish who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. Please remember them in your prayers.

Adoration & Rosary in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill on Saturday 4th March after 11 am Mass, ending with Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3 pm. All welcome.

The Next Irish Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 5th March at 12.30 pm in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. Everyone welcome.

Monthly Mass in honour of St Pio will be celebrated on Monday 6th March at 7 pm in St Patrick's, Pennyburn. We ask God's blessing on all through the intercession of St Pio.

A Healing Night, led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, will take place on Friday 3rd March at 7 pm in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. Everyone welcome.



Requiescant in Pace Cecil Gorman, Moss Pk; Daisy McDaid, Inchview/Woodbrook
Anniversaries Colm & Eileen McCloskey, James McColgan, John Rankin, Michael Cassidy, Willie Meehan, Gretta Butler, Margaret Kennedy, Paul McMonagle, William Simms, Kay McMonagle, Charles Barnfield, Bridget Gilmour, Nana Maguire, Madge McMahan, Vincent Callaghan, William Mason, William Boyle, Darren O'Hagan, Margaret McCloskey, Kathleen Ferry, Declan Brennan, Jim Deehan, Joe McReynolds. May they rest in peace.

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.

Readings for 5th March, 2nd Sunday of Lent: **1st Reading:** Genesis 12:1-4; **Psalms:** 32: 4-5, 18-20, 22; **2nd Reading:** 2 Timothy 1:8-10; **Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9

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.

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.com. *We pray that those called to serve the Church as priests of the Derry Diocese will find their strength, not in bread alone, but in every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

Temperance Masses will be offered 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:** Tuesday 28th Feb at 7.30 pm; **St John the Baptist, Swatragh:** Saturday 11th March at 12 noon; **Sacred Heart, Carndonagh:** Tuesday 14th March at 7 pm; **Sacred Heart, Omagh:** Monday 20th March at 7.30 pm. All, especially Pioneers, are invited to attend.

Culmore Parish: Developing a Parish Vision Like many parishes in the Irish Church, Culmore Parish is taking time to reflect on how best to move forward as a faith community in a Church and society that is rapidly changing. The more visible changes recently in Culmore Parish are the loss of both a resident priest and the chapel at Thornhill. Such changes call for a new visioning around what it means to be a parish community today and discussion on ways that such visioning can become a reality, as outlined in Bishop McKeown's Diocesan Plan. In light of this, all those who live in Culmore Parish, or who look to it as their home parish, are invited to a series of sessions to begin a process of exploring how the parish can journey forward together in a creative and faith-filled way. Sessions will take place at Hollybush PS on Wednesday 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March from 7.30 pm - 9 pm. Includes input, discussion and prayerful reflection.

An Online Lenten Retreat, 'Reflecting on the Sunday gospels of Lent as Stepping Stones on our Journey to Easter', presented by Seán Goan, biblical scholar, takes place on the Sundays of Lent, consisting of 15 minute video reflections focusing on the Sunday Gospels of Lent. The first reflection will be available on 26th February. You must register with your email address. Visit <https://priorinstitute.com/events/2023-priority-lenten-retreat>. Contact enquiries@priorityinstitute.com or 003531 4048124.

Franciscan Friary, Rosstown Healing Service on Sunday 5th March. Rosary at 2.45 pm followed by Mass / Healing Service at 3 pm. Confessions 2 pm - 5 pm.

Rosary on the Coast will take place on Sunday 5th March at 3 pm at Lisfannon beach for world peace and the protection of unborn babies. All welcome.