

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday begins on next Wednesday, February 14th and is the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday always falls 46 days before Easter. We are encouraged to attend Mass on this day in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten Season. **Fasting and Abstinence Are Required.** The Church emphasizes the penitential nature of Ash Wednesday by calling us to fast and abstain from meat. Catholics who are over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means that they can eat only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in between. Catholics who are over the age of 14 are required to refrain from eating any meat, or any food made with meat, on Ash Wednesday.

Baptism

We welcome to the Christian Community:

Alex Jozef Haspala
Paddy Carter Rushe

Arya Caoimhe Cahalane
Shea Tomás O'Callaghan

Rest in Peace

We pray for the repose of the souls of:
Bridget O'Donoghue, Fairfield Terrace

There will be a second collection at all Masses this weekend for the Lourdes Invalid Fund.

Next Wednesday February 14th is Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses, which will be at 10am and 7.30pm in the Parish Church and 8.15pm in Darrara. Please note the time change for Darrara.

Prayer for Mother and Child

Lord Jesus, you are the source and the lover of life. Reawaken in us respect for every human life. Help us to see in each child the marvellous work of our Creator. Open our hearts to welcome every child as a unique and wonderful gift. Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives. May the life of a mother and her baby in the womb be equally cherished and respected. Help those who make our laws to uphold the uniqueness and sacredness of every human life, from the moment of conception to natural death. Together with Mary, Your Mother, in whose womb You took on our human nature, help us to choose life in every decision we take. We ask this in the joyful hope of eternal life with You, in the communion of the Blessed Trinity. Amen

CLONAKILTY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Church of the Immaculate Conception

Clonakilty

&

Sacred Heart Church, Darrara

Priest on Duty: 087-6828076

Sacristy: 8834441

Urgent Calls: 086-8760608

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

11th February 2018

First Reading: (Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46) The leper will dwell apart, making an abode outside the camp.

Second Reading: (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1) Do everything for the glory of God; be imitators of Christ.

Gospel: (Mark 1: 40-45) The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

Reflection

Today's Readings all centre round confession of sin; its forgiveness and its avoidance. A leper, as described in the extract from Mark's Gospel, would have been conditioned by the society of the time to avoid contact with healthy people-and to stay very much hidden in the background. This leper must have been just so courageous and so filled with faith to have approached Jesus asking for a cure. Despite being told only to have his cure communicated to a priest, he understandably could not contain himself and told about it to everyone possible. So many ill people then sought Jesus for a cure so that ironically Jesus Himself was forced go to a place outside the town where no one lived. The physical disease described here and in the First Reading from Leviticus could be paralleled with the effect sin has on a person. Most people on realising that they have erred, will tend to avoid contact with their victim or attempt especially to look them in the eye. It takes courage to 'own up' and face the consequences. A good confession and restitution, if necessary, will often bring about a blessing of amazing reconciliation with those we have wronged. In St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians he gives us even better advice- to love our neighbour and to model our lives on Christ for the glory of God.