

**PLANNED GIVING:** Weekly Envelope Collection: €1,987. Your continued support is appreciated. Thanks also to the collectors.  
**RECEIPTS 2014:** Receipts have been issued to parishioners for the year ended 30/11/2014. If you have not received your receipt or if you require a receipt text your name, address to 085 7021882.

**MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-THIRD WORLD DAY OF THE SICK (11 FEBRUARY 2015)**

Sapientia Cordis "I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame" (Job 29:15)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I turn to all of you who are burdened by illness and are united in various ways to the flesh of the suffering Christ, as well as to you, professionals and volunteers in the field of health care. This year's theme invites us to reflect on a phrase from the Book of Job: "I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame" (Job 29:15). I would like to consider this phrase from - the wisdom of the heart.

**1.** It is a way of seeing things infused by the Holy Spirit in the minds and the hearts of those who are sensitive to the sufferings of their brothers and sisters and who can see in them the image of God. So let us take up the prayer of the Psalmist: "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Ps 90:12). This is a gift of God.

**2.** Wisdom of the heart means serving our brothers and sisters. Job's words: "I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame", point to the service which this just man, who enjoyed a certain authority and a position of importance amongst the elders of his city, offered to those in need. His moral grandeur found expression in the help he gave to the-poor who sought his help and in his care for orphans and widows (Job 29:12-13).

Today too, how many Christians show, not by their words but by lives rooted in a genuine faith, that they are "eyes to the blind" and "feet to the lame"! They are close to the sick in need of constant care and help in washing, dressing and eating. This service, especially when it is protracted, can become tiring and burdensome. It is relatively easy to help someone for a few days but it is difficult to look after a person for months or even years, in some cases when he or she is no longer capable of expressing gratitude. And yet, what a great path of sanctification this is! In those difficult moments we can rely in a special way on the closeness of the Lord, and we become a special means of support for the Church's mission.

**3.** Wisdom of the heart means being with our brothers and sisters. Time spent with the sick is holy time. It is a way of praising God who conforms us to the image of his Son, who "came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mt 20:28). Jesus himself said: "I am among you as one who serves" (Lk 22:27). With lively faith let us ask the Holy Spirit to grant us the grace to appreciate the value of our often unspoken willingness to spend time with these sisters and brothers who, thanks to our closeness and affection, feel more loved and comforted. How great a lie, on the other hand, lurks behind certain phrases which so insist on the importance of "quality of life" that they make people think that lives affected by grave illness are not worth living!

**4.** Wisdom of the heart means going forth from ourselves towards our brothers and sisters. Occasionally our world forgets the special value of time spent at the bedside of the sick, since we are in such a rush. For this reason, I would like once again to stress "the absolute priority of 'going forth from ourselves toward our brothers and sisters' as one of the two great commandments

**5.** Wisdom of the heart means showing solidarity with our brothers and sisters while not judging them. Charity takes time; Time to care for the sick and time to visit them. Time to be at their side like Job's friends: "And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great" (Job 2:13). True charity is a sharing which does not judge, which does not demand the conversion of others; it is free of that false humility which, deep down, seeks praise and is self-satisfied about whatever good it does.

Job's experience of suffering finds its genuine response only in the cross of Jesus, the supreme act of God's solidarity with us, completely free and abounding in mercy. This response of love to the drama of human pain, especially innocent suffering, remains for ever impressed on the body of the risen Christ; his glorious wounds are a scandal for faith but also the proof of faith (cf. Homily for the Canonization of John XXIII and John Paul II, 27 April 2014). People immersed in the mystery of suffering and pain, when they accept these in faith, can themselves become living witnesses of a faith capable of embracing suffering, even without being able to understand its full meaning.

**6.** I entrust this World Day of the Sick to the maternal protection of Mary, who conceived and gave birth to Wisdom incarnate: Jesus Christ, our Lord. O Mary, Seat of Wisdom, intercede as our Mother for all the sick and for those who care for them! Grant that, through our service of our suffering neighbours, and through the experience of suffering itself, we may receive and cultivate true wisdom of heart! With this prayer for all of you, I impart my Apostolic Blessing.

FRANCIS

**Weekend Mass Intentions:**

**St Brigid's Church**

**Saturday 6pm:** Kathleen Keegan

**Sunday 11am:** Kathleen Heffernan

**St. Patrick's Church:**

**Saturday 6.30pm:** Christy Lee (1st Anniv)

**Sunday**

**8.30am:** Patrick & Mary Bermingham

**9.30am:** Kathleen Kilgallon

**11am:** Marie Feehan

**12.30pm:** Thomas & Kathleen Cummins

**7pm:** Eamonn Gildea  
James & Maureen O'Connor & Jim.

**Are you between 18- 25?**  
 **Do these belong to you?**  
 Searching Spirit Music Hunger  
 Fun Travel Faith Friendship  
 Check this out ...

- Taizé (France) *late June this year?*
- WYD with Pope Francis (Poland) *July next year?*

**We want to go. Do you want to come?**

Info @ Josie # 087 903 3818  
Fr Kevin at kevinoherty@eircom.net

**Weekday Mass Intentions**

**Mon 9th 10am** Annie, Dick Bolger, Paddy & Peggy Bolger, Brendan Hannigan  
**7pm** Johnny Murphy

**Tues 10th 10am** Annie, Patrick, Brigid & John White  
**7pm** Patrick Dempsey

**Wed 11th 10am** May Kirby, John O'Connor  
**7pm** Joseph Thornton

**Thur 12th 10am** Michael, Mary & Declan Martin  
**7pm** Kitty & Mick Carton,  
Fidelma Concannon

**Fri 13th 10am** Fr. Patrick Carmody  
**7pm** Michael & Elizabeth Rogan

**Sat 14th 10am** Fidelma Concannon

**Synod of Bishops 2015:** The Archbishop of Armagh and Dublin will be taking part.

Pope Francis is open to hearing your views, experiences and ideas about how we as a Church can reach out to support and strengthen family life and marriage in these times.

As he says we have "one year to mature, with true spiritual discernment, the proposed ideas and to find concrete solutions to so many difficulties and innumerable challenges the families must confront". (18/10/2014)

We are inviting, anyone who is interested, to come together and to share perspectives, and possible initiatives and ideas, to the **Kildrough Lounge upstairs on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.**

**Advanced Notice:** The parish will have a special Memorial Mass for Fr. Patrick Carmody who was Parish Priest here for 23 years. The date of the Mass will be Monday 23rd February at 7pm. This will give an opportunity for parishioners to gather together to give thanks to God for his Priestly service and to pray for him. The main Celebrant will be Bishop Eamonn Walsh.

**WELLSPRINGS CENTRE LENTEN/NEIGHBOURHOOD RETREAT**

Tuesday nights 7.30 – 9.15. Feb 17th, 24th; March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st : 14th April. Retreatants meet once a week for the seven weeks of Lent. Cost €30€ - 8 weeks or €4 a night, concessions can be arranged. Please book for the retreat at wellspringscentre@gmail.com

**Advance notice:**

**The 'Do This In Memory' Mass** for the Children preparing for First Holy Communion will take place the weekend of the 14th/ 15th Feb. The Masses in St. Patrick's Church are the 6.30pm, 9.30am, 11am. The Mass in St. Brigid's Church, Straffan is the Sunday 11am. We will keep them in our prayers as they continue on their journey. Next weekend 14th /15th Feb the **Share Collection** will be replaced by a special collection for Accord Marriage Counselling and Marriage Preparation

**'Together is Better' Mother and Toddler Group:** The Mother (Father) & Toddler (Baby) group meet on Wednesday's at the new time of 10am in the St. Eustace's Centre. Fun and supportive group. All welcome.

**Confirmation Programme 2015/2016** Children who are in 5th classes from Scoil Bríd, Scoil Ná Mainistreach, St Patrick's N.S. and Scoil Naomh Bríd Straffan who are journeying towards the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2016 will celebrate their Enrolment on Monday 16th February @ 8pm in St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge.

The Enrolment date for Scoil Mochua is on the 2nd March at 8pm.

**Celbridge and Straffan Mother's Prayer Group**

The next meeting of the parish mother's prayer group takes place on Tuesday Feb 10th at 8pm-9pm in St Brigid's Church, Straffan. Mothers of all ages are very welcome. We will pray for our children, the children of the parish and children worldwide. We hope to see you there! Organised by the Legion of Mary. For further information: 0857777122.

**Straffan GAA Club**

To find out about GAA Club Development progress and plans for 2015, an information day will take place Sunday 8th Feb, in the K. Club, Legacy Suite, Smurfit Club House at 3pm. Refreshments & entertainment for children.

**Ballyvaloo Retreat** Fr. Brian will lead a retreat, open to all parishioners. The retreat will take place in Ballyvaloo Retreat House, Co. Wexford beginning Friday 20th March and finishing Sunday afternoon 22nd. The cost is €170. Limited to 20 places. A golden opportunity for reflection and inspiration during Lent in a tranquil setting along the sea shore in Wexford. Please leave your name and deposit of €50 in the Sacristy and sign the relevant sheet. For information contact Parish Office.