

Straffan Church Progress Report

1. Thanks to all who attended the very positive meeting on Feb 1st at the Community Hall.
2. Thanks to Frank O' Rourke T.D. who set the wheels in motion for me to meet the engineer from the Council. This was very positive and some immediate actions such as raising the level of the footpath will be done a.s.a.p. Other measures to prevent flooding are also under active consideration.
3. The Church has now been de-contaminated and work is underway to allow us back into our Church. I am expecting we will be back in the Church by the March 3rd. The plasterwork is been repaired, new flooring put down, painting done and the Altar and Tabernacle re-centred.
4. Fr. Brian will co-ordinate fund raising activities with people who have volunteered and I know we will all support their efforts. Fr. Paul P.P.

During Lent we will have a weekly gathering with members of our local Church of Ireland community to share together and deepen our common discipleship of Christ.

Two sessions each Tuesday - one at 10.45am repeated at 7.30pm. Location will be the Eustace Centre (underneath the Parochial House).

Our topic will be 'Deepening Faith' exploring the Gospel of Mark.

If you would like to attend please write your name on the clipboard on the table at the back of the church.

Each session will be no more than 90 minutes.

You are invited to participate in a Lenten Sacrifice for Life 2018 for the intention of Saving the 8th Amendment to our Constitution, which currently protects unborn children from abortion. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday - 14th of February - and continues for 40 days (excluding Sundays) to Holy Saturday which falls on 31st March. In addition to your normal Lenten Sacrifice you are invited to choose, each day, one of the following practices, for the duration of Lent, for the particular intention of Saving the 8th Amendment to our Constitution:

- Attend a weekday Mass
- A period of Eucharistic Adoration
- In a day abstain from the internet, (this excludes access required by your job).
- Recite one decade of the Rosary
- Read and meditate on the Gospel of the day for 15 minutes.
- Give money/alms to the poor, to pro-life, or some other worthy charity.
- Fast from food or abstain from meat for a day.

February: Month of Call to Service

Jesus encourages us all to use our talents. Fear and a strange inverted pride prevent many people from laying hold on the 'talents' and 'gifts of the Holy Spirit' that are poured into their laps.

To be baptised is to be called into service. This service is something we do for the benefit of others; it's a giving of self.

The Parish Pastoral Council has nominated February as a "Call to Service" month.

If everyone in our parish took on 1 service to others what vitality we would have.

Please consider and respond to one of the options offered. Step out of the boat of complacency in faith and not be afraid.

The blue sheet enclosed and around our Church suggests some options, indeed you might suggest others we have not highlighted.

PLANNED GIVING: Weekly envelope collection €1508.08. Thanks for your contributions and thanks also to the collectors.

Official Family Prayer for World Meeting of Families 2018

God, Our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,
One family, in the Spirit of your love.
Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind,
gentle and generous,
welcoming to those in need.
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care,
Especially those for whom we no pray:
[We pause and remember family members and others by name]

Increase our faith,
Strengthen our hope,
Keep us safe in your love,
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.
This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Lenten Program: We set off on a 40 day journey to prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. On Ash Wednesday we are signed by the cross with ashes to remind each of us that time is short, eternity is long and to seize the days; begin the journey free to live as companions of Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday is the 14th February, a day of fast and abstinence. Mass at 10am and 7pm. Straffan at 9.15pm in the Community Hall.

Through our 'Trocaire' offerings we help push back the tide of human misery that is harming human flourishing and making the divine love real.

Ash Wednesday Masses 10am and 7pm
Evening Mass on Friday evenings at 7pm during Lent.

Stations of the Cross each Friday after the 10am Mass and the 7pm evening Mass.

Trocaire Boxes are available at the back of the Church.

Renovations Appeal

ST. BRIGID'S, STRAFFAN

Now €29,758 Total cost €306,000

- Envelopes and standing order forms can be found at the back of St. Patricks Church. If you can have any questions or suggestions please feel welcome to contact the parish at celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com or call 01-6288827.
- Thank you to all you have donated, loaned or signed up to the direct debit in the last number of weeks.

ST. PATRICK'S, CELBRIDGE

Now €38,529 Total cost €235,000

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm: Tom Kenny, Laura Auzon

Sunday 12pm: Bridget Ashe (1st anniv)
Ita Purcell (1st anniv)

St. Patrick's Church

Saturday 6.30pm: Dermot Stack (m.m.),
Fidelma Concannon, Phyllis Rungay

Sunday 8.30am: Edward Dwyer
9.30am: Special intention, Peter Clerkin
11am: Special intention

12.30pm: John McGauran (1st anniv)
Johnny & Kathleen Murphy

7pm: Christopher, Bridget & Donagh Holt,
baby Tiarnán Brabazon Carton

Part - Time Paid Position

The parish wished to employ a suitable person to a joint management role for the Parish Confirmation Program with Rachel Fagan.

The person would liaise with parents and candidates and parish schools. They would manage the Confirmation mobile phone.

- ⇒ Co-ordinate the 4 Masses which are part of the program.
- ⇒ Communicate with candidates and parents
- ⇒ Co-ordinate the service projects - Flexibility & availability to work an odd evening is required.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role or applying please send your contact details to the parish office.

Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Mon 12th 10am: Joan Byrne, Mary Creaney (1st anniv),
Patrick, Bridget & John White

Tues 13th 10am: Michael, Mary & Declan Martin, Peter Byrne,
Mary Conlon

Wed 14th 10am: Vincent Morris, Cathy O'Neill Ford, Detta Martin

Thur 15th 10am: Elizabeth & Michael Rogan, Brendan Burke

Fri 16th 10am: Kathleen Burke, Paul Smith **7pm:** Special intention

Sat 17th 10am: Detta Martin

Pope Francis "Every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus".

Christ, bears the face of the Lord,
who even before he was born, and
then just after birth, experienced
the world's rejection.

And every elderly person ... even if
he is ill or at the end of his days,
bears the face of Christ.
They cannot be discarded, as the 'culture of waste' suggests!"



Weekly Hour of Prayer for Life every Thurs 7.30pm-8.30pm.

After 45mins of silent prayer we pray the Night prayer of the Church & finish with Benediction.

Advance Notice:

1. The next 'Do This In Memory Of Me' Masses for the children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion will take place the weekend of the 17th / 18th February 2018.

2. The annual collection of Accord, the Diocesan agency for marriage and family will be made at all Masses of the 17th / 18th February.

The collection for Accord will replace the Share Collection.

Weekly Parish Lotto

The profit from our Parish Lotto will go to developing our Parish and its outreach.

The prize fund is now **€10,500** and will increase weekly until won. The lotto envelopes are available at the back of the Church in St. Patricks and in the collection bags at the week-end Masses in Straffan.

One line (you pick four numbers between 0-30) at just €2, 3 lines cost €5.

This weeks numbers are: First Jackpot: 13,4,16,5 Second Jackpot: 24, 7, 20,3

No winners of our 1st or 2nd Jackpot but our 3 consolation prize winners: Nancy Walsh, Tom Managan, Maura Clyne

Prizes can only be collected in the Sacristy during weekend Mass times. Prizes have to be collected within 30 days of the draw.

Our next draw will take place on Monday evening. Please have your lotto envelopes submitted before 10.30am on Mondays

