

**PLANNED GIVING:** 2158.43. We sincerely appreciate your generosity to the Planned Giving Collection which is the only collection used for the maintenance of the parish. Thanks also to the collectors.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS, FOR THE 24th WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2016 (Extract)**

Entrusting Oneself to the Merciful Jesus like Mary: "Do whatever he tells you" (In 2:5)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The twenty-fourth World Day of the Sick offers me an opportunity to draw particularly close to you, dear friends who are ill, and to those who care for you.

This year, since the Day of the Sick will be solemnly celebrated in the Holy Land, I wish to propose a meditation on the Gospel account of the wedding feast of Cana (In 2: 1-11), where Jesus performed his first miracle through the intervention of his Mother. The theme chosen - Entrusting Oneself to the Merciful Jesus like Mary: "Do whatever he tells you" (In 2:5) is quite fitting in light of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The main Eucharistic celebration of the Day will take place on 11 February 2016, the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, in Nazareth itself, where "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (In 1:14). In Nazareth, Jesus began his salvific mission, applying to himself the words of the Prophet Isaiah, as we are told by the Evangelist Luke: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord" (Lk 4: 18-19).

Illness, above all grave illness, always places human existence in crisis and brings with it questions that dig deep. Our first response may at times be one of rebellion:-Why has this happened to me. We can feel desperate, thinking that all is lost, that things no longer have meaning ...

In these situations, faith in God is on the one hand tested, yet at the same time can reveal all of its positive resources. Not because faith makes illness, pain, or the questions which they raise, disappear, but because it offers a key by which we can discover the deepest meaning of what we are experiencing; a key that helps us to see how illness can be the way to draw nearer to Jesus who walks at our side, weighed down by the Cross. And this key is given to us by Mary, our Mother, who has known this way at first hand.

On this World Day of the Sick let us ask Jesus in his mercy, through the intercession of Mary, his Mother and ours, to grant to all of us this same readiness to be serve those in need, and, in particular, our infirm brothers and sisters. At times this service can be tiring and burdensome, yet we are certain that the Lord will surely turn our human efforts into, something divine. We too can be hands, arms and hearts which help God to perform his miracles, so often hidden. We 'too, whether healthy or sick, can offer up our toil and sufferings like the water which filled the jars at the wedding feast of Cana and was turned into the finest wine. By quietly helping those who suffer, as in illness itself, we take our daily cross upon our shoulders and follow the Master (cf. Lk 9:23). Even though the experience of suffering will always remain a mystery, Jesus helps us to reveal its meaning.

If we can learn to obey the words of Mary, who says: "Do whatever he tells you", Jesus will always change the water of our lives into precious wine. Thus this World Day of the Sick, solemnly celebrated in the Holy Land, will help fulfil the hope which I expressed in the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy: 'I trust that this Jubilee year celebrating the mercy of God will foster an encounter with [Judaism and Islam] and with other noble religious traditions; may it open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it eliminate every form of closedmindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination' (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 23). Every hospital and nursing home can be a visible sign and setting in which to promote the culture of encounter and peace, where the experience of illness and suffering, along with professional and fraternal assistance, helps to overcome every limitation and division.

For this we are set an example by the two Religious Sisters who were canonized last May: Saint Marie-Alphonsine Danil Ghattas and Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified Baouardy, both daughters of the Holy Land. The first was a witness to meekness and unity, who bore clear witness to the importance of being responsible for one another other, living in service to one another. The second, a humble and illiterate woman, was docile to the Holy Spirit and became an instrument of encounter with the Muslim world.

To all those who assist the sick and the suffering I express my confident hope that they will draw inspiration from Mary, the Mother of Mercy, "May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness" (ibid" 24), allow it to dwell in our hearts and express it in our actions! Let us entrust to the Virgin Mary our trials and tribulations, together with our joys and consolations. Let us beg her to turn her eyes of mercy towards us, especially in times of pain, and make us worthy of beholding, today and always, the merciful face of her Son Jesus!

With this prayer for all of you, I send my Apostolic Blessing. (Full letter available at the back of the Church)

**Weekend Mass Intentions:**

**St. Brigid' Church**

**6pm: Thomas & Maureen Donovan**

**11am: Kathleen Heffernan**

**St. Patrick's Church:**

**Saturday**

**6.30pm:** Madeline Darlington (m.m.)

**Sunday**

**8.30am:** Mollie & Andrew Clarke

**9.30am:** Frances Fitzharris

**11am:** Brendan Mahon  
Kathleen Gaffney

**12.30pm:** Peter Kelly  
Anne Melia (1st anniv)

**7pm:** Francis & Patricia Lee &  
deceased family members

**ATTENTION - Parishioners attending Mass  
at ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH**

Please DO NOT park at the bus stop or on the corner as the Bus Eireann bus cannot manoeuvre round the corner. There have repeated requests to comply with the parking regulations and now there is a real danger of losing this Bus Eireann service. This would have serious consequences for the local bus user.

**Rosters for 6th / 7th February 2016  
Ministers of the Word (Readers)**

**6.30pm:** C. Ramos                      **8.30am:** M. Donovan

**9.30am:** R. Kavanagh                **11am:** C. Kelly Wright

**12.30pm:** M. Macapaz              **7pm:** J. Bermingham

**Eucharistic Ministers**

**6.30pm:** J. Wynne, C. Wynne

**8.30pm:** B. McGee, N. Buckley

**9.30am:** A. Menton, A. Byrne, M. Waters

**11am:** M. Blessing, J. Murphy, G. O'Callaghan

**12.30pm:** D. Harkness, A. Condell, M. O'Shea, B. Ryan

**7pm:** M. O' Fiannachta, H. Van Der May, W. Lynch

**ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2016** will take place in the following schools on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th February from 10.00am – 1.00pm. Scoil Bríd, Scoil Ná Mainistreach, Scoil Mochua, St. Patrick's N.S.

Please bring the following documentation with you: Child's Birth Certificate, Child's Baptismal Certificate, Child's P.P.S. No. Current Utility Bill. Baptismal Certs: If your child was baptised in our Parish and you require a Baptismal Certificate please text parents' names, name of child and child's date of birth to 085-8662255. Certificates will be available for collection 3 working days after text request from the Parish Office in the Parochial House on Main Street from 10.00am – 12.00pm Mon - Fri

Enrolment Day for incoming Junior Infants for **Straffan NS** will be on Thursday, 4th Feb from 9.30 to 11.00am in the school hall.

**Weekday Mass Intentions**

**Mon 1st 10am:** Luke Fitzgerald                      **7pm:** Theresa Murphy

**Tues 2nd 10am:** Paddy Cummins                      **7pm:** Ann Hayden

**Wed 3rd 10am:** In thanksgiving                      **7pm:** Richard Byrne, John & Annie Sheeran

**Thur 4th 10am:** Imelda O'Connell                      **7pm:** Sheila Shanahan, Maura Doyle

**Fri 5th 10am:** Altar List of the Dead                      **7pm:** Altar List of the Dead

**Sat 6th 10am:** Special intention                      **5pm** Noel Doolan (m.m.)

**Priests Roster for the Masses Weekend 6th / 7th February 2016**

**St. Patrick's.** - Vigil **6.30pm:** Fr. Paul                      **Sunday: 8.30am:** Fr. Paul  
**9.30am:** Fr. Kevin                      **11am:** Fr. Paul                      **12.30pm:** Fr. Paul                      **7pm:** Fr. Paul  
**St. Brigid's.** - **Saturday 6pm:** Fr. Kevin                      **Sunday 11am:** Fr. Kevin

**The Apostle Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

We may not understand the mystery of suffering and of illness. We may not be expert and trained nurses and carers. Yes, there are today still diseases that are incurable and which bring great suffering. But there is no person suffering who cannot be cared for. No sick person should ever be left alone or forgotten or abandoned because of our taboos or our fears or our indifference. The Church must become ever more that community which witnesses to the face that the care of Jesus is still present in the midst of our humanity.                      Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Open Invitation - Tea Lane Graveyard Committee  
will launch a Pop Up Exhibition at 3 pm

**At Tea Lane Graveyard Celbridge**

Sunday 31st January

Tea Lane Graveyard is the burial ground of William "Speaker" Connolly, Henry Grattan jnr MP and the Dongans, former owners of Castletown Est.

Your presence would be greatly appreciated.

Take my hand, O Blessed Mother, hold it firmly, lest I fall.

I am nervous when I'm walking, so today I humbly call.

Guide me over every crossing, watch me when I'm on the stairs.

Help me with my undertaking, lessen many of my cares.

When the evening falls upon me, and I fear to be alone, take my hand O Blessed Mother, once again please lead me home. Amen