

**THE
NUTS
& BOLTS**

WEBCAM in our parish churches can be accessed by WWW.CELSTRA.IE or MCN Media then choose the Church

Weekend Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Sat: 6.30pm: Christy Maughan (m.m.), Eamon McNally, Tommy Brennan, Denny Burke, Sean & Kathleen Collins, Bill & Alix Collins
Sun 8.30am: Roseanne & Joseph Ready, Maura Boothman, Special intention.
9.30am: Vincent O' Brien, special intention
11am: Kevin Hanratty, Pauline Johnson, Kathy McNamara, Rose & John Feeney
12.30pm: Sherlock and Dempsey families, Michael McHugh, Caroline Meade.
7pm: Clíodhna Úi Mhuineachain.

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church
Sat 6pm: Kathleen & May Keegan
Sun 11am: Pat Argue, Special intention

Weekdays; St. Brigid's Church

Tue 3 Mar 9.15am: Gerry Sweeney
Fri Adoration after 9.15am Mass

Planned Giving-amount was 1785.09.

Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving.
 Thanks also to the collectors and counters.

Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Mon 2nd Mar 10am: special intention Noreen O' Sullivan, Lilly Crowe
Tues 3rd Mar 10am: David Carroll, Marie Byrne
Wed 4th Mar 10am: Vincent O'Keeffe, special intention, Betty Doherty, Bill Behan
Thur 5th Mar 10am: George Nolan Jnr
Fri 6th Mar 10am: Altar List of the Dead **7pm** Altar list of the Dead, Biddy & Jack Nolan
Sat 7th Mar 10am: John & Kathleen Bligh

SPECIAL DAY OF REFLECTION FOR LENT 2020

SATURDAY MARCH 21ST 10 AM - 4PM

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES JESUS REALLY MAKE?

Lent is a great opportunity. In preparing for the great feast of Easter let us come closer to Jesus.
 This is a day of reflection led by Fr Joe McDonald which will help us renew our Lenten efforts, before the opportunity is gone for another year.
 As places are limited early booking through the Parish Office is advised.

Please Support our Weekly Parish Lotto

The prize fund is now at €3650.
 You pick four numbers between 1 - 30.
 One line just €2, 3 lines €5.
 This week 1st draw: 3, 4, 23, 29 2nd draw: 10, 9, 6, 17.
 3 consolation prize winners:
 C. Turley, A. O' Sullivan, J. Healy
 Prizes can be collected in the Sacristy at weekend Mass times.
 Prizes have to be collected within 30 days of the draw.
 Our next draw will take place on Monday afternoon.

FORMS OF FRIDAY PENANCE

The following are suggested as ways of fulfilling Friday penance:

- ◆ Abstaining from meat or some other food
- ◆ Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking
- ◆ Making a special effort at involvement in family prayer
- ◆ Making a special effort to participate in Mass on Fridays
- ◆ Visiting the Blessed Sacrament
- ◆ Making the Stations of the Cross
- ◆ Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy.
- ◆ Helping the poor, sick, old or lonely

Parish Office hours Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm. (Closed Wednesday)

Contact Details: 01 6288827 / 0858662255
Email: celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com
Parish website: www.celstra.ie
Sacristy: 6275942 (Mass times)

Mass Times: St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge
 Saturday (Vigil) 6.30 pm, Sunday: 8.30am, 9.30am, 11am, 12.30pm 7pm. Weekday Mass: 10am Holy Days: 10am, 7pm.
 Bank Holidays: 10am.
 Confessions: Saturday after 10am Mass

Mass Times St Brigid's Church, Straffan
 Saturday (Vigil) 6pm. Sunday 11am
 Weekday Mass 9.15am.
 Confession before Mass Saturday at 6pm

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LENT OR WEIGHT WATCHERS?

At the time of writing, a couple of days after Ash Wednesday, it has been reported that a parish in the West of Ireland offered 'drive-thru Ashes!!' I see the funny side to this and I understand it's appeal. It comes as no surprise that it has been described as 'cool' and 'moving with the times'. I get this but it's not the full story. I appreciate as you read this you will have either received your Ashes, or not. You may be surprised to hear that I feel very strongly about Ash Wednesday. Actually I believe we should think very carefully about receiving Ashes. Do we really think about what it means? For many there is a bit of it connected with being proud to be a Catholic. Of course this is a good thing, if it has real substance. For me having Ash on my forehead says two things: it says I am a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, and I know, and I am grateful, he suffered and died out of love for me, and the whole world. It also says that I am serious about Lent.

What does being serious about Lent mean? It means that I understand it is a very important period in the year for the community of faith to which you and I belong. It is the period of preparation leading up to Easter. During this period we are called to fast, pray and give alms to the poor. Unless we are going to do something for Lent the danger is that receiving the Ashes may be not much more than a hollow gesture. It is important to note what is said by the priest or minister as he or she gives the Ashes. 'Repent and believe the Good News' or 'Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel'. If we remember this a key question arises: does it make sense to put Ashes on a baby or a little toddler? What sin have they? For that matter is it appropriate to place Ashes on someone terminally ill? Is their suffering not enough for them? Surely we would not ask them to do penance? In other words it is good to consider the meaning and value of some of these important and beautiful things we have been doing for years.

The question of motivation is always a good one to reflect on. Once again sometimes we do something that may well may be a good thing to do, but we do it for the wrong reason. An example of this would be to treat Lent like an extension of Weight Watchers!!

When we consider the meaning of these things it is also good to check why we do them. For example why give up alcohol, or cut back on food? Clearly to control the amount of alcohol or food we take is a good thing in itself. However Lent is something different. If we want to be sure that our Lenten observance or promise is a good one then all we need to do is ask what or where am I focused on? If our focus is on losing weight or saving money from not buying alcohol, then clearly we are focused on ourselves. Our Lenten focus should be on Jesus.

In the past I often felt it was better to do something for Lent rather than give up something. Now I think it's probably good to have a mixture of both. Many people will for example try very hard to stop smoking. Clearly this is good for their health, but we can do more with this. For example, in the struggle to stop there is an opportunity to pray. This prayer can be offered for people who are sick or indeed the person who is struggling with the cigarettes could pray for themselves, perhaps for the gift of perseverance. Of course prayer can always be offered as atonement for our past sins.

During these coming weeks of Lent let us keep our attention on Jesus, and remember that he was tempted. Let us remember that his suffering is directly related to our sins. Therefore a key word to keep in front of us during Lent is conversion. Conversion is rarely an event or a one off, but rather a process. Indeed conversion can often start one thinking, but conversion is only complete when we have confessed, are truly sorry and are eager to start again. With this in mind don't forget on Spy Wednesday, this year, April 8th, Confession is available all day here in our parish. Sadly people often underestimate the power of this beautiful sacrament. Fraternally, JoeMcD

PIZZA & POETRY

Memory of My Father by Patrick Kavanagh

Every old man I see
 Reminds me of my father
 When he had fallen in love with death
 One time when sheaves were gathered.

That man I saw in Gardiner Street
 Stumble on the kerb was one,
 He stared at me half-eyed,
 I might have been his son.

And I remember the musician
 Faltering over his fiddle
 In Bayswater, London.
 He too set me the riddle.

Every old man I see
 In October-coloured weather
 Seems to say to me
 "I was once your father."

PRAYER CORNER

The Lenten season begins. It is a time to be with you, Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. These are not times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me. HENRI NOUEN

Our Faith Community of

St. Patrick & St. Brigid.

