

INISTIOGE PARISH

St Colmcille's, Inistioge | St Brendan's, Clodiagh | The Assumption, The Rower

WEEKEND MASSES

Vigil: The Rower 7.30 p.m. (Suspended)

Sunday: Clodiagh 9.30 a.m.; Inistioge 11.30 a.m. (Suspended)

WEEKDAY MASSES

The Rower: Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 a.m. (Suspended)

Inistioge: Wednesday & Friday 9.30 a.m. (Suspended)

Second Sunday of Lent - 28th February 2021

Bishops encourage support of vaccine programmes against Covid-19

Last December the Irish Catholic Bishops in a statement said that "safe and effective vaccination is an essential aspect of the prevention of disease". They encouraged Catholics to support the programme of vaccination "not only for their own good, but for the protection of life and the health of those who are vulnerable and for the common good of humanity".

The development and provision of the vaccines is already providing reassurance for those who are most vulnerable to the virus and will help us to return to normality in terms of work, education, religious practice, and sporting and leisure activities as soon as possible.

We note that many people both North and South have already received the vaccine and we particularly welcome the fact that all residents and staff of nursing care facilities have been vaccinated at this stage.

At present the group prioritised in the Republic of Ireland to receive the vaccine in the coming weeks are those over 70 years of age while in Northern Ireland it is those over 65 years of age along with others who are clinically vulnerable.

We encourage all parishes and Church personnel to promote this programme and to encourage elderly parishioners, relatives and neighbours to avail of the opportunity to protect their health and the health of the whole community.

Trustworthy and updated information on vaccines is available on:

<https://www2.hse.ie/covid-19-vaccine/> in the Republic of Ireland.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

Seán Roche, Garrandarragh. Private funeral 11.00am Monday in Inistioge. Interment in Cappagh Cemetery.

Anniversaries:

Johnny Cottrell, Coolshane; Francis & Bridget Prendergast, Ballyshane; Bridie & Liam Coyne, Westport.

Dying with Dignity?

A Reflection

Join us for a virtual gathering to explore the Dying with Dignity Bill with Moral Theologian Rev. Dr. Michael Shortall (Maynooth) who will lead us in a short reflection on this controversial bill facing the Irish people.

To sign up simply email afd@ossory.ie for the link for this gathering on Monday, 1st March at 7.30pm.

Thank You

The level of generosity and good will is very evident and appreciated from all who return your envelopes and donations during 'lockdown'. Thanks also to those who take and use the 'Offertory' envelopes too.

CHY3 Certificates

Again we remind you that some **Recurring CHY3 Certs** must be renewed. So, we ask those who received these Certs to return them so that we can apply for the claim now.

Address: Kilcross, Inistioge, County Kilkenny, R95 P5P0.

Email: Inistioge@ossory.ie

Website: inistiogeparish.ie

Office Hours: Thurs. 9.00a.m. - 3.00p.m. **Newsletter Deadline:** Thursday 9.00 a.m.

Secretary: Deirdre O'Keeffe;

Office: 056 775 8541.

Parish Priest: Fr Frank Purcell 086 601 0001

SAFEGUARDING:

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN CONTACT

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Mr Cathal Cullen, 087 100 0232 or Ms Rose Brophy, 087 331 4330; email: dlp@ossory.ie

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Liam Mulholland; Rebecca Ryan & Regina Bolger.

cf. Full Safeguarding details: www.ossory.ie

Roman Catholic Diocese and Parishes of Ossory - Regd. Charity No. 20015831

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

The Stations of the Cross (also known as the Way of the Cross) is a traditional devotion in honour of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

In a sense, the Stations form a mini-pilgrimage leading us through the events of the final hours of Jesus' life on earth.

Praying the Stations of the Cross is not intended so much as leading people to dwell on Jesus' suffering, but instead as a renewal of baptism, leading us down into the grave with Christ so as to rise with him and encourage a renewed way of living with love and openness to all.

Numerous versions of the Stations of the Cross are available for parishes to pray. From devotions that focus on the scriptures to those that reflect on issues such as poverty or sexual abuse in the church.

Some have been developed with particular groups in mind, including children, youth, women, immigrants, racism or the elderly. Importantly, when selecting a devotion, keep in mind the types of people who may be present. Choose images carefully so as not to cause undue distress to those who may be present.

In praying the Stations of the Cross we meditate on fourteen traditional events in the passion of Jesus. Each station is visited as the prayers are made.

The stations are:

1. Jesus condemned to death
2. Jesus carries his cross
3. Jesus falls the first time
4. Jesus meets his Blessed Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls a Second time
8. Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls a Third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Begin each Station with a reverent genuflection and words like:

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

Consider at each Station how Jesus Christ coped with the event; why he did so; who he did it for; try to relate the Station to the world today; and how our own lives fit into the picture.

Conclude each Station with a prayer like: *Jesus meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine.* OR, *Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.*

Transfiguration in children

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

Our Transfiguration

Jesus heard at the Transfiguration that he was beloved! We all want to know that someone would say they love us. We are all the time God's favoured ones – it's ourselves that miss out on it. We live in the big wide world of God's love. Together we are loved as Peter, James and John were loved in community. We are the light of Tabor Mountain for each other. All are loved. The one I like and don't like! Love killed at Calvary rose again. Love cannot die. We can transfigure or disfigure each other. We can bring out the light and the hope and the joy in our belonging to God! We can transfigure a school, a parish, a community any group by first of all our being loved by God and letting love go out.

Lenten Penance (before these COVID days!)

This guy walks into a pub and orders three beers. The barman raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers. This continued every day till barman asked him politely, "People are wondering why you order three beers?" The man replies, "You see, I have two brothers, and one in America, and the other in Australia. We promised each other we'd always order an extra two beers whenever we drank."

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. As this continued for several days, the barman approached him with tears in his eyes and said, "we all want to offer condolences on the death of your brother. You know, the two beers and all that ..." But the man replies with a big smile, "You'll be happy to know that my two brothers are alive and well."

It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drink for Lent. But now I'm just sticking to my side of the bargain and drinking for the other two as promised!"