

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

(Ballygall, Ballymun Rd, Corpus Christi, Glasnevin & Iona Rd)

First Sunday of Lent Sunday 26th February.

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

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Sacristy/Parish Office: Phone 01 8369291 (Office Hours: 9.30am to 1.00pm Daily)

Mass Intentions Monday 27th Feb to Sunday 5th March.

Monday	7.25	Kieron Byrne	10.00	Billy Carter
Tuesday	7.25	Deceased members of the Murphy Family	10.00	James & Bridget O'Brien
Wednesday	7.25	Noel Oates	10.00	Daphne & Edward O'Donohoe
Thursday	7.25	Deceased members of the Watkins Family	10.00	Eileen, Fran & Paul Curry
Friday	7.25	Altar List of the Dead	10.00	Altar List of the Dead
Saturday	10.00	Available	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
	6.30pm	Tom & Margaret Smith, Frank Sheehy, James Pops Clinton,		
Sunday	10.00	Available		
	11.30	Available		

Recently Deceased

We remember the family and friends of recently deceased, Lily Durnin, Derek McDonald & May Dunne & Johnny Walsh.

Church Spring Clean-up

Volunteers Needed to help with a Spring Clean-up on Saturday 25th March. It will be for about 1 hour from 2 to 3pm and there will be a cup of tea afterwards.

Bereavement Support

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. Visit www.hospicefoundation.ie for more information.

Tap & Go Machine

During January the Tap and Go machines in Ballygall Parish collected €716.00. This is split 60% to the Common Fund and 40% to Share. The family offering boxes are being distributed at the moment. This is what supports the maintenance of the parish. Thank You!

TROCAIRE – APPEAL FOR THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY & SYRIA

Archbishop Farrell has given approval for a diocesan collection to be taken up in support of the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquakes. The Turkey/Syria Collection will take place on **25/26 February, the 1st Sunday of Lent** celebrations, and will replace the SHARE collection.

The collection will be channelled through Trócaire, who are working with partners in the affected area. They have the capability to ensure that any funds raised in Ireland will be managed appropriately to meet the needs of those most badly affected.

Emmanuel 2023

If you are looking for a wonderful night of uplifting music join in with the 60 schools, with over 2000 students (600+ per night) who are participating in the Emmanuel.

Join us on any of the three nights, **February 28/March 1/March 2 at 7.30pm**. Come with your music group/choir or friends for an inspirational night and some new ideas. Book now at 01 7007000 or www.helix.ie.

Recommended Reading for Lent

The Office of Mission & Ministry recommended reading for Lent is Aidan Donaldson's book *The Beatitudes of Pope Francis*. This would be a great way to journey through Lent, either through personal reflection or by gathering with others to share your thoughts, guided by the book. Its handy six chapters would provide enough manageable material for each week in Lent.

Become a Host family with DCU

DCU Language Services are seeking Host Families to accommodate International students in your area. The students come from around the World to learn English and live with an Irish Family. (To find out more. Please contact 01 7005552 or e-mail: hf@dcu.ie)

Trocaire Lenten Workshops – Tuesday, 28 Feb, 14 & 21 March

During Lent, Trocaire is organising online workshops @ 2.30 & 7.30pm.

Next Workshop, Tue 28th Feb: Learn more about Somalia and how Trócaire is working with local partners to provide essential humanitarian assistance and build a better future. For more details see <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/lent-2023/>

There is also lots more information on their website www.trocaire.org

A Prayer for Syria and Turkey

All our hearts are going out to the people of Syria and Turkey.

May the people of these lands have the courage and strength to live each day.

May they have all the supports, aid, love and compassion needed.

Syria is suffering so much pain and turmoil from war and conflict.

May leaders open all borders so that all resources can get through.

May generosity and God's blessings bring strength and hope to everyone who has been affected

May minds and hearts be moved to remember loved ones who have died, those who are injured and missing,

We hold them all in our hearts this day, Amen.

First Temptation

The first temptation was “to turn these stones into loaves of bread.” A hungry man sees bread everywhere. An Indian poet who used to write beautiful poems about the moon lost all his talent when he became impoverished. Now, whenever he looked at the moon, he saw nothing but chapatti.

Jesus was hungry, but he saw beyond his hunger; he could have become a provider of food for the hungry (a good man is not tempted by evil, but by limited goodness). He saw that feeding the hungry was not exactly what God was asking of him.

Second Temptation

The second temptation was to fame. Many false prophets attract notice by doing spectacular feats – becoming celebrities. Jesus countered this by saying, equivalently, “One doesn’t play games with God.”

Third Temptation

The third temptation was to power. As a Jew he knew what power did to people; every day of his life he saw the Roman Empire at work. He knew that after their death, the Roman emperors were ‘deified’ (proclaimed to be gods). To Jews, who had a profound sense of the unity of God, this practice was an abomination.

What Did Jesus Choose?

Jesus rejected all these possibilities. However, the gospel text doesn’t tell us at this point what Jesus in fact chose to do. It took the rest of his life to make that clear. He chose the way of love, which is the opposite of the three temptations: unlimited, unspectacular, and powerless.

Every young First Communion child is driven into the desert sooner or later, and has to face these temptations. The Church at large has to face them too, and be tested by them.

*“In the evening of life
you will be tested in love,”*

... wrote St John of the Cross. That is the hardest test of all. ■



Summary

Life is a crucible of experience in which everything that is not real is burnt away.

Jesus was hungry, but he saw beyond his own hunger

Question

List three fundamental temptations that you face today.

Prayer

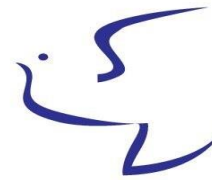
Jesus, help me to recognise the real temptations that preoccupy me.



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Sat 25 Feb Weekday : Sun 26 Feb Lent 1 : Mon 27 Feb Weekday : Tue 28 Feb Weekday : Wed 1 Mar St David : Thu 2 Mar Weekday : Fri 3 Mar Weekday : Sat 4 Mar St Casimir : Sun 5 Mar Lent 2.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Seasons; First Sunday of Lent, Year A; 26 Feb 2023

Temptations in the Desert

A First Communion child is like this: hands joined, white prayer-book, rosette, no front teeth – the very image of innocence. But this is only a moment, soon to pass. These children grow teeth, in every sense. They become teenagers and adults. Yet somehow, that early image persists, as if it represented some ideal state of humanity out of which they grow up and fall away from perfection. Whole civilisations have similar dreams of a past Golden Age, but it is never more than a dream.



“People who have not suffered, what do they know?”

... wrote Henry Suso in the 14th century. Suffering, in a broad sense, is just experience. In that sense, life *is* suffering. Life is a crucible of experience in which everything that is not real is burnt away. If Jesus was to be credibly human, he had to suffer like us. He was not an eternal First Communion child; he was ...

made perfect through suffering. (Heb 2:1)

The words of the Lord, the Psalm says, are “silver from the furnace, seven times refined” (Psalm 11); the Word made flesh was put to the test in the fiery Judean desert (“tempted”, in Scriptural language).

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to find out what he was made of. Mark’s gospel puts it more forcefully: “the Spirit drove him out into the desert” (Mk 1:12).