

Our Mother of Divine Grace Church, Ballygall (1964 – 2024, 60 years as a Parish)

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

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

1st Sunday in Lent 18th February 2024

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

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

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Mass Intentions Monday 19th Feb to Sunday 25th Feb 2024

Monday	7.25	Jim Brand	10.0 0	Margie Walsh
Tuesday	7.25	James Ryan	10.0 0	Monica O'Donoghue
ASH Wednesday	7.25	Seamus & Brid Moore	10.0 0	Mary Murphy
Thursday	7.25	Special Intention	10.0 0	Joan Seery
Friday	7.25	Pearl Garland	10.0 0	Michael Murphy
Saturday	10.00	Special Intention .	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
	6.30pm	Months Mind Remembrance Mass James Joseph Bourke, Fidelma Meighan, Bernadette Costello, Patrick Kearns, Frances Tobin, Marie Ryan, Sean Eustace, Peggy O'Neill, Patrick Devoy.		
Sunday	10.00	Kieron Byrne, Mary Anne Clavin Preparation Mass for First Holy Communion.		
	11.30	Margaret Maher, Clare Creamer Barry, Mary Murphy, Patrick Lawlor, John Bogan, Dermot & Kathleen Nolan, Mary Costello, Monica McGrath.		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased Tom Bowe & Kathleen Hogan.

Ballygall Parish celebrates its 60th Anniversary 1964 - 2024

A meeting to begin preparations for this great event will take place this **Thursday 22nd February at 7.30pm** in the meeting room to the rear of the church. You are invited to attend to share ideas and suggestions to make it an event worthy of the parish and its people. Prayer, memories of past events, dreams for the future, how we as a parish could mark this milestone were topics discussed. We need your help in making this a worthy celebration of our great parish. Come along you are all welcome.



The Annual Collection for ACCORD Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses this weekend of 17 & 18 February 2024.

The Sisters from the St. Elizabeth Convent in Minsk, Belarus will be holding a small craft sale after masses this weekend to support the work in their rehab centre for homeless families and for their orphanage.

Daring to Hope

Daring to Hope—Irish Religious Sisters Embracing the Unknown 1923-2023, was launched by Caoimhe de Barra, CEO of Trocaire, who gave an inspiring introduction to this photographic exhibition. She noted that over the years many Religious 'broke the glass ceilings' for many women that followed. Throughout the past 100 years, Irish Religious Sisters with dedicated colleagues, responded to the call of the Gospel. The story of their courageous response to wide ranging social needs at home and abroad, is told through photos, provided by many religious congregations and societies. This exhibition will be in the Church of the Most Precious Blood, Cabra West from the 21st to the 25th February 2024.

For details please contact

Lenten Gatherings

Each Monday during Lent after 10 o'clock Mass there will be an opportunity to reflect on the Gospel and pray for our parish.

Trócaire

This year the Lenten campaign focuses on Malawi; this African country is one of the least developed countries in the world. It is common, for a family to have to walk one hour to obtain fresh water. Please support Trocaire to help develop sustainable access to clean, safe and reliable water supplies. Trocaire Boxes are available in the porches, If you can, please donate online or over the phone. Donations can be made online at <https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation>.

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Our acceptance of God and of his plan for us also allows us to be patient with ourselves. When we try to place ourselves into God's plans, we stop relying only on ourselves. With prayer, we become more aware of God's presence and we accept our own limits. We don't have to do everything ourselves, because we realise that we can't do everything anyway.

Growing in Grace

Slowly, we learn how to trust God. This is particularly true when we come face-to-face with our own moral weaknesses. Without patience, we feel the terrible burden of trying to sort out our lives all by ourselves. Finally, we come to accept that our growth in the moral life is a gradual coming to life, a growing in grace. Jesus taught the parable of the seed that grows without the farmer knowing how,

The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. (Mk 4:28)

This is how we ourselves grow morally, once we have allowed the Lord into our lives and have opened ourselves up to the Holy Spirit. Our battle with sin becomes less my struggle and more my openness to being led by the Spirit as she brings new life.

Freedom From Control

Being patient with God and with ourselves also helps us to interact with others more patiently. Because we have accepted our own journey, we learn to be more accepting of the journey of others. They may not be where we think they should be, but we see in the life of grace that their journey is personal to them, and we have to let them take it, in the way they themselves have decided.

Patience stops me from trying to control other people on my terms. Not only do I learn to walk the extra mile with them, I may also give them the freedom to take another path. Such wisdom does not happen all at once, we need to go the full course, we need to allow every season bring its own fruit. ■

Summary

Our acceptance of God's plan for us allows us to be patient with ourselves.

Our battle with sin becomes less a struggle, and more an openness to being led by the Spirit.

It needs an act of deep humility not to tell God what to do.

For any human relationship to grow, there has to be patience.

Question

How does patience stop me from controlling others?

Prayer

Lord, help me to rely on you more than on myself.



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Sat 17 Feb Founders of the Servites/St Fintan : Sun 18 Feb Lent 1 : Mon 19 Feb Weekday : Tue 20 Feb Weekday : Wed 21 Feb St Peter Damian : Thu 22 Feb The Chair of St Peter : Fri 23 Feb St Polycarp : Sat 24 Feb Weekday : Sun 25 Feb Lent 2.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Seasons; First Sunday of Lent, Year B; 18 Feb 2024



This Sunday we begin the 40 days of Lent. As we go through the season we are reminded that life takes time. We live in a modern world of instant information, quick dinners and immediate gratification. But the spiritual life is not lived in an instant, it takes time, and the Lenten season teaches us to be patient. Don't begin Lent by hoping it will be over soon.

It has always amazed me that the first thing St Paul says about love in his famous 'hymn on love' in his "First Letter to the Corinthians" is that love is patient (1Cor 13:1ff).

Of course, any married couple will immediately recognise the connection. If a marriage is to survive, together with fidelity comes the need for patience. Indeed, for any human relationship to grow and deepen there has to be patience.

If our relationship with God is to flourish, then there has to be patience. I remember once asking a woman whose son had died tragically why she hadn't given up on God. She simply said to me "Romans 8:28". I asked her what that said and she immediately quoted the verse to me:

We know that all things work together for the good of them that love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

That level of courage results from a lot of pain and suffering, and it comes only from a deep relationship with God. It involves allowing God to work in his own time and in his own way. It needs an act of deep humility not to tell God what to do, and how to do it. Instead we develop a patient reliance on the Lord, we allow Him to act in our lives.

Space for God

Lent teaches us that we need to have patience with God, knowing that we are truly in his hands, and not demand that God give us immediate results. We allow God's plan to unfold, in His own time, within the story of our lives.