



**ST AGNES' PARISH  
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**  
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*Priests of the Parish*

Fr. J. Deasy P.P. Ph. 4550955  
Fr. J. Foster Ph. 4650714  
Fr. P. Coffey Ph. 4650707  
Fr. P. Brewster Ph. 4650716  
Fr. M. Kelly Ph. 4542308

Family Offering: €2,476  
Share: €2,520

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity

*Thought for Holy Week*

"Let us fix our eyes on the blood of Christ, poured out for our salvation: it has brought to the whole world the grace of repentance" - St Clement of Rome

**DECISION TIME**

Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the last week of Lent. We know the story, the cruelty, the suffering and the sorrow. In the words of Simone Weil, pain and suffering are a kind of false currency passed from hand to hand until they reach someone who receives them but does not pass them on.

There is an ancient Russian legend that puts it clearly

Once upon a time two thieves repented. They had been partners in thriving and in injustice, and they now sought to make restitution and do penance together. They were both given the same penance by the monk. Each was to carry a cross across the desert and arrive at the city to celebrate his conversion.

Both started out enthusiastically, shouldering their fifty pound crosses. The first day they struggled, sweating. The second and third days were torture; their water supply was getting low, the desert hotter and their crosses heavier. The desert stretched out endlessly, its horizon blurry, but they plodded on.

Late on the third day, while they rested, one decided to shorten his cross. It was still his cross, just substantially shorter. The other decided to thin his out, and he cut it lengthwise. It was still his cross but much thinner. Both were more manageable, and the next two or three days went much easier. Both of the men were almost out of water. Finally they came to water, but it was a rather wide canal that stretched for miles. They had been warned that this canal was filled with flesh-eating fish. They looked at their crosses, they could use them as bridges. The first laid his across the canal, but it was too short. He died in the desert. The other's was long enough, but when he put his weight on it, it broke and he fell into the water. The holy man who tells this story asks his listeners: "and your cross, are you changing it, shortening it, thinning it, making your life easier? What will happen when you need your cross to bridge the gulf?" This week is for answering the hard questions

*Sr Margaret*

**THAT EXTRA EFFORT**

Holy Week and the final week of Lent is upon us. It is not too late to make an extra effort during these days to prepare for the Passion and death of Jesus Christ, so as to celebrate His Resurrection on Easter Day. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we have our usual four daily Masses and you will find our list of services for Holy Week at the exit doors of the Church and on the notice-boards. You may have already received a copy delivered to your home.

Do invite other members of your family to take part in the ceremonies of Holy Week. Our Liturgy Group make every effort to help us all to capture the spirit of the week ahead. I wish to thank them for their work.

*Fr John*

**St Joseph's Young Priests Society**

The next meeting will be on Thursday morning the 16th April, as Holy Thursday falls on the 9th of April. It is in the Parish Centre **after** the 10.00am mass. **All Welcome to attend.**



**Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

The Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 7th - 12th September. It will be led by Fr. Michael. The cost, including coach to and from Dublin Airport is €725. Booking has now opened at the Parish Office.



**Celebrating Marriage Jubilees**

Our Annual Mass to celebrate jubilees will take place Sunday April 26th at 12.00 Noon. If you are celebrating anytime this year a special anniversary you are welcome along.

As always please contact the Parish Office in advance so that we will know how many couples to expect. It is always a special occasion in the life of the Parish. The Parish Office number is 01-455 5368

**Fr Peter Coffey**

As you know Fr Peter has been struggling with a hip problem for some years. He never lost his sense of humour. I am pleased to tell our Parishioners that he is over his operation and in good care as he makes a full recovery. We wish him well—please keep him in your prayers.



**Amazing Grace**

- 1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found: Was blind but now I see.
- 2 Twas grace that taught my heart to fear. And grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear: The hour I first believed
- 3 Thro' many dangers, toils and snares I have already come, 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.

**Receive O Father in Thy Love**

- 1 Receive O Father in thy love, These humble gifts of bread and wine: That with ourselves we offer thee, Returning gifts already thine.
- 2 Behold this host and chalice, Lord, To thee on high the gifts we raise: Through them may we our honour pay, Our adoration and our praise.

**The Holy Places**

As is our custom here in St Agnes, we will hold a special collection at Mass (7:00pm) on Holy Thursday evening. The upkeep of the places and buildings associated with the life and death of Jesus are difficult to maintain. Especially since there are so few Christians living there to support their upkeep. I know you will give with your usual generosity.

**Starting Point**

This year we intend to have the Pascal Fire at the entrance to the Parish Centre, so we ask our Parishioners attending the 9pm Easter Vigil to gather in the area in front of the Parish Centre where the Pascal or Easter Candle will be lit and follow the procession to enter the Church by the front door.

**MESSAGE FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

All Eucharistic Ministers or Ministers of Holy Communion which we understand is now the proper title are invited to renew their commitment to their ministry in the Church and to the sick at the 7:00pm Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. We hope you can be there if possible.



**Have you got your Stone?**

I have my stone (more are available at the top of the Church). You are asked to bring your stone to the Church on Easter Day and place it in the Easter Garden. The idea is to express our letting go of our burdens and sins and handing them over to the Risen Lord

**Monastic Experience - Weekend for Women 17th -19th April 2009**

Single women interested in finding out more about monastic vocation are invited to join in our life of prayer, liturgy and work for the weekend. Preferred age 25- 45 years (Places limited)

Please contact: Sr Gabrielle, Monastery of St Alphonsus, St Alphonsus Rd, Dublin 9, Ireland; Mobile: 086 8164179 or Email [gabrielle.fox@redemptorists.ie](mailto:gabrielle.fox@redemptorists.ie) . Website: [www.rednuns.faithweb.com](http://www.rednuns.faithweb.com)

The annual Way of The Cross takes place on Good Friday at 12.30pm at the Wellington Monument going to the Papal Cross. It will be led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

**GOAL Needs Your Help**

Millions of people in the developing world are forced to use filthy water every day, leaving them extremely vulnerable to illness and disease. GOAL is working to provide the poorest of the poor with clean water and sanitary living conditions.

With your help of just €6 a month we can continue this life saving work. To set up a regular donation call 01-2809779 or visit [www.goal.ie](http://www.goal.ie)

**ALZHEIMER SOCIETY CONCERT**

A concert in support of the Alzheimer Society will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral on April 22nd. Tickets cost €20. For more information please phone 01 2073836

**SUNSHINE HOUSE**

The church gate collection this weekend is in aid of the Sunshine House Fund, which provides a holiday for children in Balbriggan during the summer. It is a work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, and they ask for your support this weekend

**Recently Deceased**

Carmel Fleming, Windmill PK  
Patrick Daly, Kildare PK

We express our deepest sympathies to their families at this time.

May They Rest in Peace. Amen..

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday 4th April 2009**

7:00pm Shared Mass

**Sunday 5th April 2009**

9:00am John O'Connor {20<sup>th</sup> A}

10:00am Paul Smith {18<sup>th</sup> A}

11:00am Joseph, Bridgid, Aileen & Rita Traynor

12:00pm Edward & Mary Carpenter {Anniv.}

1:00pm Gerry Fitzgerald {A}

7:00pm Thomas Grennan {A}

May Their Souls and the Souls of All The Faithful Departed Rest In Peace. Amen

**St Agnes Parish - Readers Roster**

**Saturday 11/04/09**

9.00pm Jean Cleary

**Sunday 12/04/09**

9.00am Vera Brennan

10.00am Family Mass

11.00am M Finnegan & K Kennedy

12.00pm Pat Corrigan

1.00pm Liam Buckley

7.00pm Helina O'Reilly

If you cannot make your reading, please contact John Green.

**CHANGE OF DAY**

In our Parish Programme for Lent and Easter we advertised a Penitential Service to be held on Wednesday next in Mourne Road Church. It will now be held on this Monday at 7:30pm. All are welcome to our neighbouring Parish.