

Parish of Urney and Castlefin

Parish Website: www.urneyandcastlefinparish.com E-mail Address: urneyparish@eircom.net

PP: Rev. Michael Porter,
St Columba's Church,
Doneyloop.
074 9146183.

PIR: Rev. Oliver Crilly,
St Mary's Church,
Castlefin.
074 9146251.

Palm Sunday (9th April)
Castlefin – 6.30pm; Doneyloop – 6.00pm.
Doneyloop – 9.30am; Castlefin - 11.30am.

Daily Mass This Week:

Doneyloop: Mon & Tues – 9am. Wed at 11 am – Funeral mass for the late Helene McCarthy.

Castlefin: Mon, Tues & Wed - 10am.

There will be no Stations of the Cross in St Columba's Church on Palm Sunday due to the Penitential Service in Strabane which Fr Porter and Fr Crilly will both attend.

Holy Week Ceremonies

Palm Sunday (Palms blessed at all Masses)

Doneyloop: 6.00pm 9.30am

Castlefin: 6.30pm 11.30am

Penitential Services (with visiting priests)

Immaculate Conception, Strabane: Sunday 5.00pm

St. Patrick's Church, Murlog: Monday 7.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Castlefin: Weds 7.30pm

Holy Thursday

Doneyloop & Castlefin:

Mass of the Lord's Supper 8.00pm

Doneyloop: Garden of Gethsemane Service 10.00pm

Castlefin: Prayer at Altar of Repose 10.00pm

Good Friday

Castlefin: Morning Prayer 10.00am

Doneyloop & Castlefin: The Lord's Passion 3.00pm

Doneyloop & Castlefin: Stations of the Cross 7.00pm

Holy Saturday

Solemn Celebration of the Easter Vigil

Doneyloop & Castlefin: 9.00pm

Easter Sunday

Doneyloop 10.00; Castlefin 10.00am.



Baptism: we welcome into God's Church through Baptism, **Noah Paul Rouse**, Greystone Ave., Castlederg and **Conall Liam Kennedy**, Deerpark Rd, Belfast



Sincere Sympathy to the families, relatives and friends of **Noel Coyle**, Whitehill and **Peggy McGhee**, Grahamsland, who were buried in the parish recently. May they rest in peace.

Trocaire; please return the envelopes for Trocaire to the church next weekend. If you have a Trocaire box, it would be appreciated if you would change the coins into the nearest notes.

World Meeting of Families - Special Collection

As you know, Pope Francis has chosen Ireland to host the World Meeting of Families in 2018 - an event which takes place every three years, somewhere in the world. Hosting a global event of this magnitude requires both meticulous planning and a huge financial commitment. The Irish Bishops have asked that one collection per year be taken up until 2018 throughout the country to help offset the costs involved. This year again, a second collection will be taken up after Communion at all Masses in the parish next weekend. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Finn Valley FM Community Radio will recommence broadcasting on Saturday 8th April, on the frequency of 95.8 FM. Telephone the station 074 91 43500. Text 086 32 57 900

Happy Faces Playgroup Clady will be hosting an Easter afternoon tea on Sunday 9th April in Clady Community Hall from 2-4pm. Everyone welcome. Kids can come in fancy dress, there will be an Easter egg hunt, face painting and coloring activities. There will also be a fantastic raffle on the day. We also still have a number of places available for Playschool admission for September 2017 – Forms are available from the playschool or by calling 02871 883416

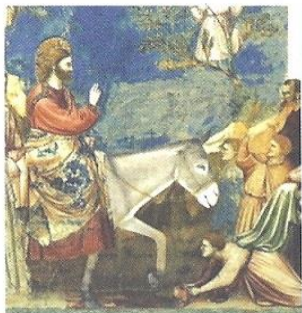
Meeting of Overseas Returned Volunteers & Lay Missionaries: The next meeting for overseas returned volunteers & lay missionaries will take place on Tuesday April 11 at 7.30pm at Bishop McKeown's house, 21A Bunrana Rd, Derry, next to St Columb's College. If you are interested and have not attended a previous meeting, you are most welcome to come along to this one. For more info email jim.farrell@amri.ie or phone/text + 353 83 8422468.

"They took branches of palm and went out to receive him, shouting: 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel.'" *John, 12:13*. The palm is a symbol of peace and on this Palm Sunday we pray for the millions of people around the world who are affected by conflict and have had to flee with their families to face an uncertain future.

Wishing all the families in our Parish a very Blessed
Holy Week

Hosanna!

A decorative illustration of a palm branch with green leaves, positioned below the word 'Hosanna!'.



A Whole Life in a Week

Holy Week is all about how Jesus touches our lives by his presence, mercy, hope and finally, his joy. We journey through Holy Week as we journey through life, thinking about how Jesus experienced what we too experience in our moments of trial.

God is not found outside of our lives, but in the midst of what we are going through.

We have all spent time in a Garden of Gethsemane, alone and abandoned. We may even have been betrayed by those we love. But by taking up our cross every day we allow Jesus to enter our story.

The Final Cut

Eventually, every one of us will face death, that moment when we abandon all that is familiar to us. Into that moment will come Jesus; he will come into our story, and his love will bring a joy so new, unlike anything we have experienced before.

I remember speaking to a man who was dying of cancer, and his initial reaction was a feeling of anger against God. Then it turned to fear; but finally, when he gave himself over to the Lord, he entered into a world of peaceful calm and hope. His story is the story of Holy Week.

The Entire Week

Life has meaning because it does not end in a cold grave, any more than the story of Jesus ended on the cross on Good Friday. So we look at Holy Week in its entirety and not simply at the days from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. We look right through to Holy Saturday and into the joy of Easter.

Holy Saturday is the day most overlooked. It is the day of silence and doubt. Maybe in some way it is a true day of faith because it is the time when nothing makes sense – when we doubt whether there is a God or not, when we search for a reason to keep practicing our faith. That is the day of hope. In an age of so much scorn against Catholics, remaining faithful to Christ is an experience like Holy Saturday.

So we live this week fully, we live our lives in the sure hope that Jesus too lives, and that he is active in our lives even when he seems the most absent. This week gives us the courage to believe. ■

Summary

Holy Saturday is a day of silence and doubt, but it is also a day of faith.

We have all been in our own, private Gethsemane.

When nothing makes sense, when we doubt whether there is a God or not, when we search for a reason to keep practicing our faith, this is the day of hope.

Question

Can God be found in the midst of the pain we are going through?

Prayer

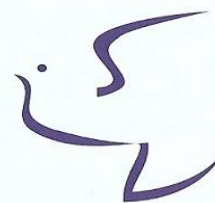
Lord, sustain me as I move through life, just as you moved through Holy Week.



Issued "Cum Permissu Superiorum" by Rollebon Press, Dominican Priory, Tallaght Village, Dublin 24; Tel: (+353-1) 404 8100 or (+353) 087 284 1341; Fax: (+353-1) 404 8192.; email: rollebonpress@eircom.net

Nihil Obstat: John Harris OP; Printed in Ireland; Some graphics © 123RF Stock Photo.Vol.39; No.20; Passion Sunday, Year A; 9 Apr 2017; Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66; Next Week: Resurrection.

Sat 8 Apr Weekday : Sun 9 Apr Passion Sunday : Mon 10 Apr Monday of Holy Week : Tue 11 Apr Tuesday of Holy Week, St Stanislaus : Wed 12 Apr Wednesday of Holy Week : Thu 13 Apr Holy Thursday : Fri 14 Apr Good Friday : Sat 15 Apr Holy Saturday : Sun 16 Apr Easter 1.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Seasons; Passion Sunday, Year A; 9 Apr 2017

THE EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK



Holy Week begins with the joy of Palm Sunday. But as the week progresses it moves through betrayal, pain, suffering and death until, on Easter Sunday, it reaches its culmination in renewed joy – a joy very different from the one with which it had begun.

The birth of a child brings great joy; but as a life progresses we have to come to terms with its sadness, sickness, darkness and finally death. From this perspective, we look to Jesus for our final redemption. Cardinal Desmond Connell wrote a pastoral letter in Lent 1996 where he led us to the heart of Holy Week:

"The lover (Jesus) seeks always and only the presence of the one he loves (you and me) so that they may be together. In different ways he contrives to be where he knows the loved one will pass. We must all pass by the way of suffering, and this is why Christ is already there. To be already on the Cross, because it is there that he knows he will meet us and be able to draw us to himself, such is the love revealed in Christ. Is not this the understanding and love that assures our hearts that there is meaning to life? Is not this the light in which we need have no fear to stand fully revealed as it shines from those innocent eyes on the Cross, not in order to condemn but in order to restore in forgiveness and peace?"