

“Lent is a time for growth and revitalisation in our lives”

The Season Lent begins next week with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. The practice of putting ashes on our heads to mark repentance goes back to Old Testament times but it was Pope Gregory the Great around 600 AD who made it part of the Christian celebrations of the first day of Lent. Ashes are made of the palms from Palm Sunday which are then blessed and placed on the forehead in the form of a cross. Many of you will have received these blessed ashes last week on Ash Wednesday.

The word “Lent” itself comes from *lencten*, which refers to the new season of spring. So, it is a time for growth and revitalisation in our lives. It coincides with the Season of Spring which is breaking forth in our gardens and hedges. It's a time of hope and discovery, a time for growth and development. It encourages us to reach out beyond our boundaries and to cast out into the deep.

Jesus wanted to be like each one of us. He was in no need of forgiveness or repentance, but he chose to share the same journey with us. This Lent we are invited to share the joy of the Gospel message which is one of mercy and hope. Perhaps our mission is to bring light into the darkness and difficulties of people's lives and to share with them the hope of the Gospel.

It's important to remember that Lent is not only a time to *give up* its also a time to *give to*, whether that's additional time in prayer, going to daily mass when we can or helping those in need wherever we may find them.

Lent can sometimes be seen as a negative or challenging time, but I think we should focus on the opportunities for renewal and revitalisation that it brings to our lives.

Depending on our circumstances, there are many ways that we can renew ourselves and also to reach out to others in the coming weeks. We can allow more time for prayer perhaps at the beginning or end of each day or we can attend mass when we can For those parishioners who cannot attend in person, that all our masses are available on the webcams in our partnership of parishes.

We might also consider going on pilgrimage. The Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Saturday April 25th (more details to follow) and we also have our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes from September 13th-18th. More details from our parish office.

Pope Francis recommended that we offer our Lenten observance to Our Lady in a very special way:

“I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world” (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

I wish you all a prayerful, fruitful and reflective Season of Lent.

Deacon Gerard

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Peter O'Kelly – Carrick Court

Mabel Killen.

Tim Corcoran (Brother of Elizabeth Byrne)

John Purcell, Carrickhill Road

Saturday 7th February 6.30p.m.

Oliver Carey (Month's Mind) Patrick Guerin (A)

Patrick & Maureen O'Rourke (A)

Sunday, 8th February 10.30a.m.

Martin Rice (3rd A) Tim Corcoran (RD)

Sunday 12 Noon

John & Florrie Finnegan (A)

Madge & Paddy Martin (A)

Ann Heeney (Month's Mind)

Deirdre McDevitt (8th A) Éardann Mahon (RD)

Damien Murphy (A) Patrick Guerin

Brendan, Mary & Jack Scally

Darri Leahy (12th A) Rita Flanagan Freir



Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on **Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Rd, Northern Cross, Dublin, D17 Y924.**

This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance.

Relationship Care

**ACCORD Dublin/Relationship Care
Annual Collection
St Valentine's weekend, 14th/15th February**

Message from Archbishop Dermot Farrell

I am writing to ask you to support the annual ACCORD Dublin collection in your parish, which takes place on the weekend of 14th/15th February 2026.

Relationship Care is the new trading name for ACCORD Dublin, the diocesan agency for marriage and relationships, providing professional, accessible education and counselling support from childhood to adulthood to all in need across the Archdiocese of Dublin.

MASSES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18th

Morning: 10:00 a.m.

Evening: 6:30 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS 2026

We send a gentle reminder to Parents of children attending St. Marnock's and St. Helen's Junior and Senior Schools, who are receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in April and May, to complete the registration of their children for the Sacraments of their child on the Parish Website. The form is located on the front page of the Website at www.portmarnockparish.ie

PILGRIMAGES

PORTMARNOCK PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

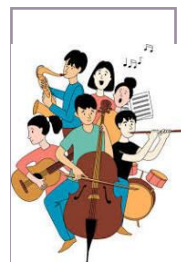
MEDUGORJE GROUP PILGRIMAGES

See *Parish/Pilgrimages-Tours* page on our Website for more details

Deacon Gerard's Weekly Article is available on the Parish Website

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Monthly Church Gate Collection will take place after all masses this weekend 14 & 15 February. Sincere thanks for your continued support and generosity.



The Folk Group would welcome Guitar & Keyboard Musicians to join them. The Folk Group leads the Liturgy at the Family Mass each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.. New members would be most welcome. Contact Tom @ 0876878157