



“Jesus too had to struggle with temptation”

The practice of putting ashes on the head 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. 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. It is 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. And may we be inspired by the example of Jesus in today’s Gospel who was able to resist temptation and was not to be distracted by the temptations of the world. In our Gospel today, we are reminded that Jesus too had to struggle with temptation. It is worth noting that Jesus refutes the temptations by quoting words from scripture. The accounts of the temptation of Jesus are found in the first three Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The time that Jesus spent in the desert reminds of our own need for prayer and reflection during Lent. Thomas Merton said: *“We all need enough silence and solitude in our lives to enable the deep inner voice of our true self to be heard at least occasionally.”* Jesus uses the word of God in order to push back against evil. This is something that we can do as well. When we are confronted with difficult or challenging situations, we can seek guidance and consolation from the words of the bible. Many of us will have our favourite or frequently quoted passages. For example, I often find myself returning to the Beatitudes which I think so well reflect the qualities of the person of Jesus. Lent is a very good time to reflect on and pray with the scriptures. Perhaps we can find a few minutes at the beginning or end of each day to do this. As we pray especially this Lent for peace, let us remember our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine who are continuing to

suffer so much this time as a result of the Russian invasion. May the Lord sustain them at this very difficult time and may they know his presence in their many challenges. Please keep the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) candidates from throughout the Archdiocese, who are taking part in the Rite of Election in the Pro Cathedral this (Sunday) afternoon with Archbishop Farrell, in your prayers as they prepare to receive the sacraments at the coming Easter Vigil.
Deacon Gerard

TROCAIRE: This year, Trócaire’s Lenten campaign, rooted in Pope Francis’s encyclical letter **Laudato Si**, focuses on Guatemala, a country which is one of the least responsible for causing the climate crisis, yet is bearing the brunt of the consequences. We tell this story through, Ilma, Julio and their family. Find out more at trocaire.org Trocaire boxes and accompanying materials are available in the church or Parish office.



POPE FRANCIS has a special place in the hearts of the people of Ireland, and this closeness was especially evident during his visit in August 2018. Let us continue to pray in a special way for the health and recovery of the Holy Father.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS
Recently Deceased
Anne Kenny, Woodlands
John (Jack) Byrne, Briar Walk
Clare Irwin, Blackberry Lane
Patrick Canning, Woodlands

Saturday 8th March 6.30pm
Mary McHenry, [A]; Ciarán May, [12th A];
Robert Clancy, [1st A]; Bill & Marguerite Aston, [A].

Sunday, 9th March
10.30a.m. Claire Bourke, [3rd A];
Margaret & Pat Slattery, [A].

12 noon Samantha Hickey Lloyd [Months Mind]
Rosaleen Smith, [A]; John Donnelly, [4th A];
John Emmett, [1st A]; Lil McDermott, [A];
Margaret Kelly, [1st A]; The Byrne Family, [A];
Mairead Farrell, [A]; Catherine Harris, [A];
Annie Byrne, [A]; Margaret & Bill Flawn, [A].

COLLECTIONS

Sunday, 9th March 2025

Common Fund € 1256

Share € 980

Sincere thanks for your support.



OUR PARISH REQUIEM CHOIR

would like to welcome new members. Please speak to a choir member at the doors of the church after each Mass this weekend, and give them your contact details if you're interested. Ask them any questions you may have about joining the Choir. The Choir exists to support bereaved Families by singing at Funerals as a volunteer ministry of the Parish. At a time of bereavement Families should request the services of the Choir through the undertaker and the Funeral Team.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST PENANCE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION



Meeting for all Parents/Guardians of Candidates for First Penance and First Holy Communion will be held in St. Anne's Church on

Thursday, 13th March at 7.30pm

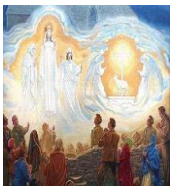


Meeting for all Parents/Guardians of Candidates for Confirmation will be held on

Thursday, 20th March at 7.30pm.

We look forward to meeting with Parents/ Guardians or a representative of the family on each evening.

DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE KNOCK 2025



Saturday 26th April Leaving St. Anne's Church at 7.30am. Stopping at the Grenville Arms each way. Dinner included €55.00. Deposit of €25 to Parish Office or Pauline Geoghegan at 087 6293744

THE PORTMARNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

will take place in Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links on Tuesday 11th March at 8.00pm. All welcome.

Portmarnock Parish
LOURDES
4 NIGHTS DEPARTING FROM DUBLIN
Spiritual Director
Canon John Flaherty

3* Hôtel San Sauveur
17th - 21st June 2025
€820 pps

FLIGHTS - TRANSFERS - HOTEL - GUIDE
Contact: Pauline Geoghegan at 087 6293744

THE 45TH ANNUAL MALAHIDE YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

competition will take place this year on Saturday and Sunday March 29th & 30th. The competition takes place in St. Andrew's School on Church Road. We would like to invite musicians from Portmarnock, Malahide and Kinsealy to take part. Entries are now open.
<https://www.malahideyoungmusicianfestival.com>

BALDOYLE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE IS OFFERING A SENIOR ALERT SCHEME

to help adults aged 65 and older stay safe and connected in emergencies. This service is free for the first year (If you have a landline). For more information please contact us at 01 832-6115 senioralerts@bfrs.ie



PORTMARNOCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Update re Major School Building Project which has now successfully progressed to Stage 3: Tender Action, following the Department of Education's full approval of our Stage 2(b) Detailed Design submission toward delivering a modern, state-of-the-art learning environment for students and staff. The tender process will now commence, bringing the project one step closer to seeing this long-anticipated vision become a reality. The Principal thanks past and present members of the Board of Management, staff, parents, and students, whose unwavering commitment and patience, and updates will be given as the project progresses to the next exciting phase.



NEW PORTMARNOCK ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP

**First Meeting of New Active Retirement Group
Wednesday, 12th March at 3.40p.m.**

**Venue: The Arch Club
[Rear of St. Anne's Church, Strand Road]**