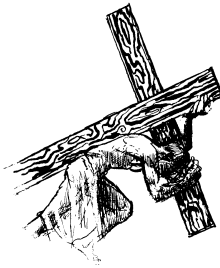


Getting Ready for Holy Week & Easter

We are fast approaching Holy Week and Easter. To help us to prepare for and celebrate these great feasts, there will be an evening of quiet prayer, reflection and sharing on the Journey from **Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday**.



This gathering will allow us to take some time out from our busy activities and to spend some time together reflecting on the meaning and importance of these days in our lives today. **Tues. 20th March at 7.30 in the DeMazenod Centre.** This is open to everyone in the parish.

Parish Communication Group



Thanks again to our communications group who worked so hard in getting our parish information booklet put together and printed. They are now working on the *Parish Website*. They have already had several meetings are working away on getting everything in place before it is launched.

Eventually the newsletter will be available on the website, allowing those from the parish who no longer live here to keep in touch and up to date with what is going on in our parish community. Again, many thanks to our communication group for all their hard work.

50th International EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2012 10th—17th June

There will be an information evening on **Thursday, 22nd March at 7.30p.m.** in the Annexe, Mary Immaculate. This will be an opportunity to learn about the different events taking place and booking details.



'The Eucharist & Social Justice' is the title of a talk which will be given by Ethna Regan on **Monday 26th March at 7.30p.m.** also in the Annexe, **House of Retreat**, Tyrconnell Road.

St. Michael's Parish Served by *The Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

18th March 2012: 4th Sunday of Lent *Celebrating the Feast of St. Patrick: 17th March*



As we move through Lent and take another step towards Holy Week, we also Celebrate, Remember and Honour St. Patrick, our patron saint. Patrick travelled around the country proclaiming the gospel and announcing the Kingdom of God. Those who heard this new message greeted it quickly and warmly as it contained many of their own native beliefs and values. The gospel message Patrick brought spread quickly and took root among the people and it made a deep and lasting impression on them. As we remember and celebrate Patrick and his life, we also honour those who have shared and passed on their faith with us; parents, teachers, neighbours and members of our parish community. We pray that today, we too, through the example of our daily lives, will continue to celebrate our faith and share it with joy and conviction.

*Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, king of my heart,
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ above me, never to part*



Holy Week & Easter Liturgies

A group of parishioners are helping in the preparation of these services. If there is anyone who would not normally be involved in these preparations and would like contribute in any way, please leave your name with Pat in the Parish Office. The next Liturgy Meeting is on **Thurs. 29th March at 7.30pm in the DeMazenod Centre. All Welcome.**

GO PLAY TODAY—Tokens

Free sports equipment is available to clubs that collect 250 tokens from the Irish Independent or Sunday Independent between Sun. 26th February & Saturday 7th April. If you are buying either of these newspapers, Fr Carolan would welcome the tokens.

They will be used to get equipment for the Oblate Basketball Club



Weekly Collections

4th March

1st €514 2nd €345
Family Offering €836

11th March

1st €548 2nd €318
Family Offering €810

Proceeds of the 1st collection go towards the priests day to day expenses. The 2nd is the Diocesan Share collection.

Proceeds of the Family Offering go towards the upkeep of the church i.e. heating, lighting, maintenance etc.

If you wish to contribute to the Family Offering by *Standing Order*, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued generosity support.



Holy Communion

Recently, the boys and girls in 2nd. Class celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It was an important experience for them and their families. Thanks to their parents and their teachers for all their support, help and encouragement in preparing the children for this important step towards their Holy Communion.



On Thurs. 1st March, World Book Day, award winning Irish children's author, **Benji Bennett**, visited Our Lady of Lourdes School, to read and sign some of his most famous books for the children. He gave the children writing tips as his visit coincided with the school's recent commitment to take part in the **Write to Read Literacy Project**. It was a memorable day for the staff and the children as it encouraged the children to read and write. For information on Benji and his books, see, www.adamscloud.com



OLIVER TWIST

Our Lady of Lourdes primary school are putting on a production of '**Oliver**', the musical, on March 28/29th in the BERA Hall. Tickets are €10 for adults and €5 for children. Tickets are available in the school and Aimee Shiels will be selling tickets after 11am Mass on Sun. 18th March. Come along and support this great evening of singing, dancing and acting. Perfect Mother's Day present!



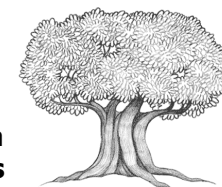
National Tree Week 4th—11th March

INVITATION to Sponsor a tree

Nusa Kambangan is a small island in Indonesia. In recent times, most of its forests have been destroyed by illegal logging, resulting in great hardship to its people and the loss of many of its wildlife species. Fr Charlie Burrows OMI is leading a re-forestation programme which is creating employment for the farming population in Indonesia. (This project was the subject of a recent RTE documentary)

For just €5, you can help this programme by sponsoring a tree on the island. **Cards will be on sale from this weekend in the church.** This would make an ideal gift for a special occasion in the life of a family member or friend.

'the clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness'



MOTHER'S DAY



This Sunday, we celebrate *Mothers Day*. We thank God for all the Mothers in our Parish. We ask God to continue Bless and Protect our Mothers for who they are and for all they with and for us in our Families.

The Family of Paddy Moore, who died recently, would like to say a sincere **Thank You** everyone in the parish who offered their prayer, support and sent Mass cards. Your support is much appreciated. Mass will be celebrated for your intentions. **Thank You**