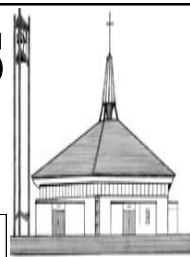


Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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7th March 2021



3rd Sunday of Lent

Pray for the happy repose of the soul of Patrick Maguire, New Buffalo, Illinois, Chicago and formerly of Aughakiltubrid, Cloone (brother of Evelyn McKeon, Cloone) and Brigid Patricia Hartley, (nee Sheridan) born on 6th September 1945 in Bundara who died on 24th February 2021 in Bury, England.

Masses

Aughavas: Sat. 6th Mar. 7.00 pm. Pro. Populo.
Cloone: Sun. 7th Mar. 10.00 am.
Cloone: Mon. 8th Mar. 10.00 am. Michael J, Eilish & John Solon and Deceased Members of the O’Kane family, Ballycastle.
Cloone: Wed. 10th Mar. 10.00 am. Molly & Thomas Keegan, Faughill.
Cloone: Thurs. 11th Mar. 8.00 pm. John Joe & Mary Donohoe, Esker.
Cloone: Fri. 12th Mar. 8.00 pm. Bridget McNamara, Camber.
Aughavas: Sat. 13th Mar. 7.00 pm.
Cloone: Sun. 14th Mar. 10.00 am.

Please note that all masses will be live streamed and without a congregation.

GOSPEL

The Gospel for the Third Sunday of Lent is taken from the Gospel of St John 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there.

Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.’

Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, ‘What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?’ Jesus answered, ‘Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up’. The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

A reflection on the Gospel for the 3rd Sunday of Lent.

The so-called clearing of the temple in all four gospels. In Matthew, Mark and Luke the event appears much closer to the events of Holy Week when Jesus is crucified suggesting there that this was the reason for His assassination.

Much earlier in John’s gospel. Throughout the whole of John’s gospel is a suggestion that Jesus is in fact setting up a new temple, a new worship, a new way of relating to God.

It is important to keep in mind the significance of the Temple for the Jew. The temple was the sign of God’s presence in the world. The theme of the temple was ‘God is present’. The temple held the story and the memory of the chosen people and the story of the God who specially chose them and set them apart. This is the same God who led them through the desert as cloud by day and flame by night, the God guiding and leading through Moses, the same God who provided especially for them in the manna, who enabled them walk through the sea on dry ground. This was the Great God whose presence the temple marked. So when Jesus goes in and overturns the money tables and lashes out at the money changers, He is undermining something that is at the very heart of every pious Jew and so it is viewed as an act of blasphemy, a deep insult. And then the suggestion that it would be destroyed and built then so quickly, three days? It is useful to remember that the time of the writing of John’s gospel was in fact after the time the temple was destroyed in 70AD. This moment is the backdrop for the whole gospel drama as it happens.

In clearing the temple and in speaking of its destruction Jesus is pointing to a new kind of worship and a new temple. Jesus, by his words and deeds is God definitively present among His people. As John puts it more poetically in the beginning of his gospel: In Jesus God has pitched his tent in order to live among his people; here ‘the word was made flesh and lived among us.’ The new temple. The new sacred space. The temple of his risen body ... destroyed in death and in three days raised in glory!

St Paul, of course, speaks of the human body as the temple, something we are reminded of at every funeral when we honour the bodies of those we love with the blessing of Holy Water and the rising sweet-smelling smoke of burning incense. With Jesus as the cornerstone we become the new temple, built of living stones. The altar of the Lord’s presence is our own lives, our families. May our prayer of Lent unmask God’s presence for us here!

MPACT supports families to work to-gether to understand how parental alcohol or other drug misuse has effected their lives. Free online programme. Next available starting date Tues. 23rd March. Contact Philip on 085 8759313. or email sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.org

The PLC Network is running webinars, podcasts and other educational workshops online over the coming months. 18th March—Communicating the Pro-Life message; 7th April—Leaders ideas & feedback; 21st April—Communicating the Pro-Life message; 5th May—Roadmap to lodging complaints & the BAI; 19th May—Communicating the Pro-Life message; 2nd June—Letters to the Editor—How to succeed; 16th June—Communicating the Pro-Life message. See www.prolifecampaign.ie/our-events for further updates.

“**Little Rascals**” **Cloone/Aughavas Community Playschool** are now taking bookings for new enrolments for September 2021. Early enrolments advisable. For enquiries and/or bookings, please contact Mary Moran (Playschool Leader) on 086 8382545.

Offertory Collection: Cloone € 1,925.00; Aughavas € 1,160.00.
(31st Jan—28th Feb.)