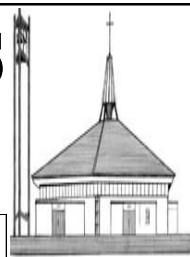




Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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21st March 2021



5th Sunday of Lent

Pray for the happy repose of the soul of Maisie Bohan (nee McWeeney), Drumhalla, Cloone whose funeral took place in Cloone on Monday last; Patrick Wall, Athenry, Co. Galway (*Husband of Karen Mc Govern, formerly of Mellican, Aughavas*) whose funeral took place in the Church of Saints Peter & Paul, Kiltullagh on Wed. 10th March followed by cremation in Shannon Crematorium; John Blessing (son of the late Con & Elizabeth Blessing, Sonnabeg) whose funeral took place in Celbridge and Madeline Bemister (nee Flynn, Cornagher) whose funeral takes place in London on Monday 22nd March.

Masses

Aughavas: Sat. 20th Mar.	7.00 pm.	Pro. Populo.
Cloone: Sun. 21st Mar.	10.00 am.	
Cloone: Mon. 22nd Mar.	10.00 am.	
Cloone: Tues. 23rd Mar.	10.00 am.	Michael, Mary & Pat Mollaghan, Camber. Hugh, Brigid & Seán Kiernan, Corriga.
Cloone: Thurs. 25th Mar.	10.00 am.	Mary Jo Curran, Corriga and her sister Brigie, Drumkeeran and their mother Bridget.
Cloone: Fri. 26th Mar.	8.00 pm.	Hugh Higgins, Drumadorn. James & Pauline Kilkenny, Tooma.
Aughavas: Sat. 27th Mar.	7.00 pm.	Cloone: Sun. 28th Mar. 10.00 am.

Spending time with the Scripture for the Fifth Sunday for Lent.

Lord, we thank you for putting us in the presence of your Word which you inspired in your prophets. May we approach this Word reverently, humbly and attentively. May we not despise this Word, but receive all it has to say to us. We know that our hearts are closed, often incapable of comprehending the simplicity of your Word. Send your Spirit to us so that receiving the Word in truth and simplicity, our lives may be transformed by it.

Let us not be resistant, Lord; may your Word penetrate us like a two edged sword; may our hearts be open to it; let not our eyes be closed, nor our minds wander, but may we give ourselves entirely to this listening. We ask this Father, in union with Mary who used to recite the psalms, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Carlo Maria Cardinal Martini S.J.)

A few notes to help us enter into the spirit of *Lectio Divina*

- Basically, it requires spending time with the Word, say 20 minutes.
- Open up the gospel of the day and first of all read it slowly (*lectio*).
- Then read the passage again and take time to reflect on whatever struck you (*meditatio*).
- Don't force it—a phrase or image will stay with you.
- Then having chewed the word a bit, respond by offering a prayer to God that arises in your heart (*oratio*).
- Then read the passage one final time and be still and rest (*contemplatio*)—be nothing,

be still.

- Allow the Lord to work!
- Put simply the fourfold task of *Lectio Divina* is to *read, reflect, respond, and rest.*

“Be careful in the way that you live, for your life may be the only gospel that your neighbour ever reads.”

The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent is taken from the Gospel of St John 12:20-30

A reflection on the Gospel for the 5th Sunday of Lent

The Greeks showed discretion. They wanted “to see” Jesus but they asked their friend Philip to introduce them, Philip from Bethsaida that place where the blind man “could see” after Jesus spittle his eyes and where Jesus fed the famished crowd -- with loads to spare

Am I with “the Greeks” in the story heart -restless wanting to see Jesus but still shy to meet him, needing a Philip to break the ice? Or am I Philip of Bethsaida who can help introduce people, to be a signpost for others to meet “my friend” Jesus. “Unless the grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies it remains only a single grain”. These lines of Jesus remind me of that beautiful word “surrender “. It is not the white flag surrender, of a prisoner of war. Rather it is the surrender of love. When we open our heart to another in total trust, confident that we will be held, understood, protected, minded and even forgiven—that grain of “self” dies and we blossom beautifully in the friendship of unconditional love. If it dies it yields a rich Harvest. A new baby has arrived. Baby Bobby has taken up a permanent space in the heart of his parents. They have sacrificed a certain freedom and independence. But this sacrifice of every loving parent transforms them into a most beautiful “surrender” that is the rich Harvest of unconditional love. This was Corona Lent. We didn't have to give up things. Lent was that daily sacrifice of being cut off from family, friends and grandchildren. It is the humdrum daily boredom of never meeting up or visit a bereaved friend or family member in hospital. The deprivation of touch is the greatest sacrifice. In this sacrifice the grain of seed dies. We sacrifice our freedom to keep others safe. Paradoxically we see Jesus and recognise Him behind every mask. We believe and we trust that this daily dying of the seed of self will “yield a rich Harvest”.

Walk, Cycle or Run with Bóthar na Naomh and Keeldra Lake Amenity fundraiser:

Bóthar na Naomh and Keeldra Lake Amenity Development Committees have come together to organize a virtual fundraiser continuing from now until Monday April 5th. The purpose of this initiative is to provide ongoing funds for the extensive development work done at both locations over the last few years. Bóthar na Naomh walking trail was developed in 2013. Since then, fishing points, boat slip and heritage features as well as a 2km Equestrian trail have been added while a Garden of Remembrance was completed in Cloone village in 2020. Keeldra lake amenity began development in 1966 with the provision of a swimming area and pier. In the 1980's an amenity area was developed with changing facilities, toilets and a picnic area. Since then, extensive renovation of all facilities has taken place. A 2.7KM walking trail around the lake has been provided, together with fishing stands, car park and seating. The organizing committee challenge you to select your target distance of 50, 75 or 100 kilometres to walk, cycle or run from now until Monday April 5th. They ask you to post pictures of your progress on Facebook at <https://m.facebook.com/Walk-Run-Cycle-for-Bothar-na-Naomh-Keeldra-Lake-Trails-101942401959819/> and to donate to their Go fund me account at <https://gofund.me/35d5ec62>.

Donations can also be left in Higgin's shop Cloone or at Keeldra lake amenity.