

“LOVE LIFE LIVE LENT” a five-week course for Lent in collaboration with our friends from St Patricks Powerscourt

Love Life Live Lent is a different way of approaching Lent, one which focuses on taking up positive actions for the good of all. Often Lent has been about giving up things – traditionally some sorts of food, but these days more likely chocolate or alcohol. We give up things with a view to focus more closely on our relationship with God.

While there are elements of ‘giving up’ in the daily actions, the focus of the actions is on generosity and being ‘life-giving’.

Week1: Wednesday 21 February The Wedding at Cana 'Love Life'

Week 2: Wednesday 28th February The Bethesda Pool 'Letting Go'

Week 3: Wednesday 6th March Feeling Good or Washing Feet? 'What's in it for me?'

Week 4: Wednesday 13th March Feeding 5000 What's in it for them?'

Week 5: Wednesday 20th March Man Born Blind 'Taking Action' Making a difference.

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If you would like to attend but cannot be available in the morning, we will happily repeat this in the evening. Contact 0868182241



CREATING A LITURGICAL/COMMUNITY SPACE

Over the last few years several suggestions have been made, through the parish pastoral council, as to how we could create a gathering space in St Mary's, for community and liturgical events in the parish. One of the suggestions had been to remove some benches from the back of the church and create a designated and attractive space for this purpose. As time passed, and it was obvious that the number attending was continuing to fall, the decision was made to go ahead with the project.

The next step was to identify how many benches we would need to move to create enough space. That decision was made for us, as there are only four benches in the church without plaques. We now propose to move these, and make full use of the space it will give.

The plan, once the benches are removed, is to create a space, which will be clearly visible as a designated for meeting, welcoming, and praying together in a more intimate setting. We will pay particular attention to the quality of furnishings and how the space will be marked out. It should be a great asset to the community.

Gatherings for tea/coffees, to a smaller more intimate space for the celebration of daily Eucharist will be an option. We envisage using this space for invited speakers and guests to engage the community in prayer in so many different shapes and forms. It will be a Godsend for the ongoing faith development of sacramental families.

This is an option that a number of other churches in the Dublin diocese have opted for very successfully. We plan to hold a meeting soon so that interested parties can express their views.



TAKE NOTE PLEASE

There is no community prayer gathering (with St Patrick's Powerscourt) this coming Wednesday, 7th February. Our next meeting will be 21st of February for the “Love Life, Live Lent” course.

PARISH LINK

February 3rd/4th

Mass Intentions 3rd/4th/February.

St. Mary's 6pm:
St. Kevin's 9am: Liam Quinn (A), Edward & Mia Opdibeck (A)
St. Patrick's 10am:
St. Mochohog's: Jeremiah Cahill (A), Owen Molloy Snr (A)
St. Mary's: 11am: Michael Barrett (MM)

Mass Intentions: 10th/11th February

St. Mary's 6pm: Tony Carroll (2nd A)
St. Patrick's 10am: Ellen O'Gorman (2nd A)
St. Mochohog's 10am: Maureen Kearns (MM), Sinead Behan (A)
Mary McKeown (A)
St. Mary's 11am: Brigid Acres (A)



AN INTERESTING TALK COMING UP



Brian White is giving a fascinating talk on the history of Enniskerry at the Enniskerry Library on Friday 16th February at 11am. Not to be missed!



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

I am thinking of addictions, which enslave us and make us constantly dissatisfied, and which devour our energies, goods, and relationships. Another chain I am thinking of is dominant trends that encourage the pursuit of impossible perfectionisms, consumerism, and hedonism, which commodify people and spoil relationships. And yet more chains: there are temptations and conditionings that undermine self-esteem, that undermine peacefulness, and the ability to choose and love life. Another chain is fear, which makes us look to the future with pessimism, and dissatisfaction, which always blames others. Then there is a very ugly chain, which is the idolatry of power, which generates conflicts and resorts to weapons that kill or uses economic injustice and thought manipulation.

Many are our chains, there truly are many in our lives.

Once more, by the power of His Spirit, the Lord wants to say today: "Be gone, leave that heart in peace, do not divide the world, do not divide our families and communities; let them live serenely so that the fruits of my Spirit may flourish there, not yours- this is what Jesus says. Let love, joy, meekness reign among them, and instead of violence and shouts of hatred, let there be freedom and peace.

Let us ask ourselves: Do I really want to be freed from those chains that shackle my heart? And, am I capable of saying "no" to the temptations of evil before they creep into my soul? Finally, do I invoke Jesus, allowing Him to act in me, to heal me from within?



KNOCK PILGRIMAGE – SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 27th APRIL. COFFEE ON THE WAY DOWN

DINNER ON THE WAY BACK
INTERESTED?

PLEASE CONTACT ST MARYS PARISH OFFICE 012760030

Sadie O Connell 0876955154. Or Aideen 0868182241 for further details

