

# PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

## First Sunday in Lent

21st February 2021

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

Neighbouring Priests: Fr T Mannion 964 3014 - Fr P Casey 916 4143 -

Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

### Masses - Season of Lent

During lockdown all Mass intentions will be included in private Masses.

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Tues 23rd Feb</b> | Seamus Horan, Tawnylea       |
| <b>Fri 26th Feb</b>  | Thomas, Eileen & Jim McKenna |
| <b>Sun 28th Feb</b>  | Gerry Padden (MM)            |

#### Pray for:

- + Leshia (Elizabeth) Simpson (née McHugh), formerly of Glassdrummon Mór, Drumkeeran; who died on Sat 26 Sept 2020 at Heartlands Hospital. May she rest in peace. She is survived by her Husband, Philip and her seven children and eleven grandchildren. Our sympathies to them.
- + John P. McMorrow, Strandhill Road, Sligo, and formerly of Gubaderra. Died on Wed 17 Feb in St. Phelim's Nursing Home, Dromahair. Funeral Mass in Sligo Cathedral on Sat 20 Feb.

**Lent 2021:** For information in Lent please visit [www.kilmorediocese.ie](http://www.kilmorediocese.ie).

**Newsletter:** To view our newsletter online, as very few are collected from the 3 churches, visit the parish website at [www.inishmagrath.com](http://www.inishmagrath.com) there are also prayers and information throughout the year on our own website.

**Knock Reflections for Lent:** Every Thursday at 8:30pm online at [www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live](http://www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live).

**Online Masses:** To access Masses in Churches around the Diocese, log on to the Diocesan website, [www.kilmorediocese.ie](http://www.kilmorediocese.ie) and follow the links provided. Or go to [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) or [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv).

**Trócaire:** Please help financially in the work of Trócaire this Lent. The charity is focusing on South Sudan this year. Let us live more simply during Lent so that others may simply live. You can put away a contribution each week and then at the Easter Season put the total in the envelope provided and leave it in at the Parochial House. Thank you.

[www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/resources](http://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/resources)

**Church Envelopes for 2021:** You can collect your envelopes at the Parochial House if you wish, thanks. Thanks too, to all who have contributed to the collections for 2020.

**Guided Holy Hour:** A guided Holy hour will run every Wednesday in Lent from 8:00pm to 9:00pm by webcam from Dromahair Church. Family prayer time - [www.churchtv.ie/dromahair](http://www.churchtv.ie/dromahair).

#### The Deep End - Wilderness

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to embrace the wilderness. The past year has given us experience of wilderness as our world battled a pandemic. Many people are afraid, isolated, alone and uncertain of what the future will bring. Humanity is adrift in what seems like a desert moment. However, wilderness can bring opportunity. It can be a time for deep reflection, where we take stock of what is most important to us, a chance to let go of things that are really not important and focus on where we are being called to be. During this past year, what opportunity did this wilderness offer you?

Lent is also a time where people give up something, focus on weight loss or getting fit, take on a course, try to better themselves in some way. And these can be good things, but Lent is so much more than that. It is a retreat time, a time to make room for something deeper. It is a spring clean sort of time, an opportunity to ask, 'what needs clearing out in my life so that I can make more room for God?' 'What changes am I being called to embrace?' Without change we cannot grow, and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. Lent offers us the opportunity to make space for something new, to let go of that which is keeping us from living life to the full.

The Gospel today is short. Jesus is sent into the wilderness, into the desert, and we too are invited into a desert time.

Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space. It is true that we might encounter our demons there, but we should not be afraid because as the Gospel tells us clearly today, this is a Spirit led desert. God is with us. Let us try to embrace this wilderness. How we make use of this time determines what will be.

*'You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover will be yourself.'* (Alan Alda)

**Jane Mellett**