

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

14th 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

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

Sun 14th Feb	Mary & Ben Molloy, Sligo
Mon 15th Feb	Mick & Sinead Hanly
Tues 16th Feb	Anne Dunphy
Sat 20th Feb	Peter Foley
	Thomas & Margaret Fallon, Greaghmagrath

Pray for:

- + Thomas (T. P.) Farrell, Áras Bhríde resident, formerly of Aughacashel, Co. Leitrim, whose funeral took place on Wednesday in Drumkeerin, May he rest in peace.
- + Kathleen McHugh (née Clancy), Sligo, wife of John, formerly of Drumkeerin, whose funeral took place on Thursday. May she rest in peace. Our sympathies to her husband, John and family.

Pledge for Lent: If you would like to take this short-term temperance pledge for 6 weeks, join online at www.pioneerassociation.ie.

Knock Reflections for Lent: Every Thursday at 8:30pm online at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live.

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

Lent for Young People: A website set up by Living Youth Down and Connor Youth Commission has lots of useful resources to guide young people through the season of Lent. Please go to www.livingyouth.co.uk/lent-2021-resources and follow the links to activities for 11-14 and 15-18 year olds.

Ash Wednesday 2021: As we are unable to distribute the ashes in person this year, the Diocese of Kilmore has a webpage with an at home service to celebrate the start of Lent. Please visit <https://www.kilmorediocese.ie/ash-wednesday-2021-resource-for-families>.

Kilmore Youth Ministry: Is offering an online workshop for Lent 2021. Each week you would be emailed a piece of writing or scripture on the Monday and then have a group video or call on a Thursday to discuss it. Each week would have a different theme. You must be 16+ to sign up. Any questions please feel free to contact Francis Keane on 086 3977872.

The Deep End - 'Stretched out His hand': Jesus, in today's Gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of His hand. A leper was completely outcast from society due to the huge stigma surrounding the disease, which was highly contagious, but was also seen as a punishment from God in Jesus' time. Jesus is moved with pity for this man and reaches out to him. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. It is the religious hierarchy of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing (healing him), Jesus has done by 'stretching out His hand' in love.

A question for us from this Gospel today might be, who are those our society outcast? Who is alienated in our communities? What moves you with pity? What is that we need to reach out to at this time?

Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what He does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he wants to shout from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want His miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil His mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against Him will use encounters like this one to compile evidence against Him. For now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the Gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.

'There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.'

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti, 225

Jane Mellett