

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Fr. Mervyn Kenny - 043 3325112



Mass Times as follows:

Saturday (Vigil): 8pm; Sunday: 10.30am; Monday & Friday: 8pm.

Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am. No Mass on Wednesday.

Masses for the Dead:

Sat 9th April 8.00pm John & Elizabeth McArdle, Forthill.

Sun 10th April 10.30am Maura Donlon, Derryshanogue. Also Donlon & Carley D.F.M.

Sat 16th April 8.00pm Thomas Skelly, Ballagh.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues every Wednesday 4pm - 8pm.

Recitation of the Rosary continues Friday evening at 7.30pm.

Baptism: We welcome into the Christian community Jessica Grace Skelly, who was baptized last Saturday and we congratulate her parents Evan & Daniela.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday May 8th at 12 noon.

Trocaire fast boxes: If there are any outstanding, please return.

Recent Deaths: We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Mary Farrell, Lanesboro and Cornadow, Jim Casey, Forthill, and Ellen Dowler, Levey. May they rest in the peace of The Lord.

Lourdes Trip: Anyone wishing to go on the annual pilgrimage, please contact Elizabeth Clyne at 043 3325165.

Eddie Stones will attend St. Mary's Church Newtownforbes on Saturday 23rd April at 2pm.

Daffodil Day: Thanks to all who contributed to Daffodil Day, especially the Drama Group for their very generous donation of €1,673.

The Walking Group continues on Saturday mornings leaving 'The Hill' at 10am.

Reflection

Dorothy Mefford tells this story. One day she bought a potted gardenia and put it in her living room. She fertilized it and watered it faithfully. The leaves turned a rich green and the plant began to bud. But for some reason the buds died, one after the other. For six weeks Dorothy tended the plant, hoping that at least one bud would make it and burst into bloom. But none did. Discouraged, she put the gardenia outside. As she did, she regretted wasting so much time and money on it. In the days ahead Dorothy ran into a series of problems: a serious illness in the family, a financial problem, and a misunderstanding with a friend. The more she struggled with these problems, the worse they got. Nothing seemed to go right for her anymore. She began to indulge in self-pity. Then one day, when her depression hit an all-time low, she noticed a lovely fragrance filling the air. It was so lovely that she looked around to see where it was coming from. What she saw amazed her. The gardenia that she had given up on, and had placed outside had just produced a magnificent white flower. It was as large as it was fragrant. All the fertilizing, watering and care that she had given the plant in the house was not enough to make it bloom. What it needed was to be exposed to the fullness of the sun. She stopped and thought for a minute. Then it hit her. What was true of her gardenia was also true of her life. All her efforts to deal with her problems had not produced a solution. Those efforts on her part had been necessary, but they were not enough. Like the gardenia, something was missing. Something more was needed, she needed God, just as the gardenia needed the sun.

Moral: Dorothy Mefford's story of her gardenia and herself bears a striking resemblance to the story of Peter in today's gospel. Peter and his companions had laboured all night and had caught nothing. All their work had been useless. They had done everything they could, but it was not enough. Something was missing. Then Jesus entered the picture, and everything changed. Like the gardenia discovering the sun, and like Dorothy discovering God, Peter and his companions discovered the answer to their problems. They had been missing the most important ingredient of all.

They had been missing the help and the power of Jesus. So will I if I do not accept my total helplessness in the face of so much of life's challenges. Like the gardenia, sometimes, I need to put myself out in the sunshine and let it do its mysterious work.