



Mass Times as follows:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 8pm. Sunday: 10.30am. Monday & Tuesday: 8pm. Lent begins on Wednesday with the blessing & distribution of ashes. Masses at 7.00am & 8.00pm.

Thursday: 7.00am.

Masses for the Dead:

Sat 10th Feb 8.00pm Bridge Mulvihill, Loughfarm, (Month's Mind.)
Sun 11th Feb 10.30am Tom & Mary Ellen Delaney, Carrowbeg, (Anniv.)
Mon 12th Feb 8.00pm Michael Healy & D.F.M. Drumnee.
Tues 13th Feb 8.00pm Special Intention.
Wed 14th Feb 7.00am Ash Wednesday - St. Valentine's Day.
8.00pm Ash Wednesday - St. Valentine's Day.
Thurs 15th Feb 7.00am Special Intention.
Fri 16th Feb 8.00pm Station Mass.
Sat 17th Feb 8.00pm John Donlon, his Son Dermot & extended Donlon family.
Sun 18th Feb 10.30am

Pope Francis in preparation for the World Meeting of Families in August invites you to mark this Valentine's Day in a special way. St. Valentine's Cards and Gift Tokens can be picked up on the day at the church porches. Please take one home.

Eucharistic Adoration continues on Wednesday 3pm-9pm and Friday 8.30pm-9pm.

Rosary continues on Sat evening at 7.40pm.

Eucharistic Roster:

8.00pm Sat 17th Feb Dylan Mulvihill & Helen O'Shea.
10.30am Sun 18th Feb Dermot Healy & Anne Kenny.

Readers' Roster:

8.00pm Sat 17th Feb Michelle Donnelly.
10.30am Sun 18th Feb Gerry Farrell.

Reminder: Any outstanding monies for the Irish Catholic (€93.60) / Pioneer Magazine (€17) please place in an envelope with your name and drop it in my letterbox. Thank you.

Stations as follows:

Enquiries: 086 0603433.
Friday 16th Feb 8.00pm: Kathleen Delaney, Carrowbeg & Leab.
Thurs 22nd Feb 8.00pm: Yvonne & Jack Healy, Claris & Cross.
Friday 23rd Feb 8.00pm: Gabriel & Michael Flanagan, Curroole, Loughawn & Dermeanagh.
Friday 2nd March 8.00pm: Nora Nolan, Portanure.
Friday 9th March 8.00pm: Mary & Gerry Skelly, Derrydaragh.
Monday 12th March 8.00pm: Pat & Geraldine Green. Elfeet & Loughfarm.

Concern Christmas Appeal: Church gate collection: €725. Sponsorship cards €350. Donation €200. Total €1275. A sincere thanks to all who supported our fast and church gate collection.

St. Mary's N.S. invites all in the community to celebrate its 50 years with the Official Opening and Blessing of the new extension, by Bishop Francis Duffy. This commemorative event will take place on Tuesday 13th February at 12pm, in the new school Hall. A special invite is extended to all past pupils/parents, particularly those who were on the roll in 1967/1968. We would appreciate your assistance in extending this invitation to past pupils living outside of the parish.

Tuesday is the official opening of the New School extension and the 50th Anniversary of the opening of original School, I hope all that were on the Roll at that time and who are able to attend Tuesday will meet at the 'Hall at 11.30 am and we will retrace our footsteps up to the School as we did in 1968. This will enable us to be in attendance for proceedings to get under way that noon.

Liam Finnegan Tel: 086 2585656

Show Some Heart: The Irish Heart foundation are hosting a coffee morning in "The Hill" on Feb 14th from 11am - 2pm. Your support would be greatly appreciated. **The organisers of the recent charity cycle** and head/beard shave, in memory of Lily O'Connor (nee Skelly), in aid of the County Longford Hospice Homecare, would like to sincerely thank all of those who worked so hard to make the event a success, and a fantastic community event: To the local GAA club and The Local, who acted as our hosts; to those who provided and served refreshments; transported and nursed; stewarded; provided spot prizes; sold raffle tickets; all who sponsored our participants in both the cycle and head shave and made donations. A special word of thanks to the people who took part in the cycle, (just over 100 of them) and to the 8 brave souls who took part in the head/beard shave. The event would not have been possible without each and every one of you. We were very lucky to have John Bawle to act as MC and Ben Hussey, as barber - these gentlemen made the night most enjoyable. As a result the whole day raised just over €8,500 and a presentation will be made to Co Longford Hospice Homecare in the coming week.

Reflection: I once heard a story about a 5 monkeys in a cage. In the middle was a ladder with bananas on a platform at the top. Every time a monkey climbed the ladder, a man soaked the rest of the monkeys with cold water from a hose. After a while, every time a monkey went up the ladder, the others would pull him back down. As a result, within a short time, no monkey dared go up the ladder regardless of the temptation. The man then decided to substitute one of the monkeys. The first thing this new monkey did was to go up the ladder - enticed by the bananas. Immediately, the other monkeys chased him and pulled him down, even without being drenched. After a few attacks the new member learned not to climb the ladder even though he never knew why. A second monkey was substituted and the same thing occurred. Even the first substituted monkey participated in the roughing up of the of the second substitute. Similarly, the 3rd, 4th & 5th monkeys were substituted by new ones and the same thing happened. What was left was a group of 5 monkeys and even though they never received a cold shower they continued to attack any monkey who attempted to climb the ladder.

Moral: If it were possible to ask the monkeys why they would attack all those who attempted to go up the ladder ... the answer would be:

"I don't know! That's always been the way things are done around here." Does it sound familiar?

The point is: There may be a better way out there!

Albert Einstein once said: "Only 2 things are infinite: - *The Universe* ... and ... *human stupidity* ... and I'm not sure about the first one."

In the first reading from the Old Testament, we are reminded of a time when, if you became infected with leprosy, even your own would have to expel you from the family ... and send you to the leper colony, as in the film "Ben Hur".

The subtle message here is ... that there are many kinds of *modern leprosy* - not just physical ... but psychological, emotional and spiritual as well. If we become infected ... we will become a *persona non grata* very quickly too.

However, in the Gospel reading, we see how different Jesus is - He reaches out and touches him ... shocking and horrifying the onlookers. Even more subtle is the fact that *He* heals the leper ... He doesn't leave him as *he* is ... in other words, Jesus loves us ... but He does not want us to stay in our *sinful and sick state either*.

In short, Jesus Christ is clearly more relevant and needed than ever today.