



PARISH OF CASHEL NEWSLETTER  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
18th March 2018  
FR. MERLYN KENNY-043 3325112



**Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:**

Sat 17th Mar 8.00pm Kate, John & Mary Shanley, Derrygowna.  
Also Kathleen Gibney, Navan & D.F.M.

Sun 18th Mar 10.30am Mass for the people of the Parish.

Mon 19th Mar 8.00pm Michael & Mary Whitlow, Dermacar.

Tues 20th Mar 7.00am Special Intention.

Wed 21st Mar 7.00am Special Intention.

Thurs 22nd Mar 7.00am Special Intention.

Fri 23rd Mar 8.00pm Patrick & Annie Hanley, Ballagh.

Sat 24th Mar 8.00pm Johnny Bawl, Curoole.

Sun 25th Mar 10.30am **Palm Sunday** - Mary & J.P. Killian, Forthill.

Mon 26th Mar 8.00pm Brian Ganly, Portanure.

**Congratulations** to Aodhnaí Casey & Mark McDonnell who were married on Friday.

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

**Eucharistic Roster:**

8.00pm Sat 24th March Teresa Costello & Bernadette Farrell

10.30am Sun 25th March John Flood & Carmel Hopkins.

**Readers' Roster:**

8.00pm Sat 24th March Barbara Martin.

10.30am Sun 25th March Emily Farrell.

**Stations to come:**

Friday 6th April 8.00pm: Nora Nolan, Portanure.

**Confirmation:** The new date for Confirmation is Friday March 23rd at 12 Noon.

**Ardagh & Clonmacnois Youth Gathering** will take place in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre on Saturday 24th March. Brother Richard Hendrick OFM Cap and Fr Chris O'Donnell will attend this gathering

**World Meeting of Families 2018** is an all ticket affair for health and safety reasons and booking is through the website only: [worldmeeting2018.ie](http://worldmeeting2018.ie)

**Please support Daffodil Day** in 'The Hill' on Friday 23rd March 10am - 4pm.

**The Lourdes Assisted Pilgrims** annual collection amounted to €625. The organisers would like to thank everyone for their generous support. Monies should be submitted as soon as possible to Elizabeth Clyne 3325156.

**Please take a copy of the Pastoral Letter from Bishop Francis available at the door.**

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S WEEKEND TO ALL!**

**Reflection:** Once upon a time in the orient... there lived a rich merchant who had four wives.

He loved his fourth wife most of all. He adorned her with robes and jewels and treated her to delicacies. He took great care of her, and gave her nothing but the best he could offer.

He also loved the third wife very much. He was very proud of her and always wanted to show her off to his friends. However, the merchant always lived in great fear that she might run off with other men.

He loved his second wife very much too - a very considerate person, always patient, and was the merchant's most trusted confidante. Whenever the merchant faced some problems, he always turned to his second wife and she would always tide him through difficult times.

Now, the merchant's first wife was a very loyal partner - nice, kind, patient, and considerate. She made a great contribution in maintaining his wealth and business as well as taking care of the household. However, the merchant did not love the first wife, and although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her.

One day, the merchant fell ill.

After meeting with many of the greatest doctors in the land, he knew that he was going to die. He thought long and hard of his rich and luxurious life and told himself, 'Now I have four wives with me. But when I die, I'll be alone. How lonely I will be!'

So he went and met with his fourth wife. He said to her, 'I loved you most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I am dying, will you follow me and keep me company?'

'No way!' she replied. 'Now I need to go out and find myself another husband! And she walked away without another word. The answer cut like a sharp knife deep into the merchant's heart. He turned to his third wife. 'I have loved you so much for all my life,' he said. 'Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?'

'Not at all!' replied the 3rd wife. 'Life is so good over here! I am having so much fun, why should I spoil it? Now I have to go meet with my lawyers!' And the merchant's heart sank and turned cold.

The merchant then asked his second wife, 'I always turned to you for help and you've always helped me out. Now I need your help again. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?'

'I am sorry,' she said, 'but I cannot help you this time. I have so many other things to do. I can only go with you as far as your grave.' The answer came like a bolt of thunder and the merchant was devastated.

Then the merchant heard a voice say, 'I will never leave you. I will follow you wherever you go.'

He looked up and saw his first wife standing nearby. She was so thin and pale, and looked so weak standing there that she looked as if she suffered from malnutrition.

With his heart full of sorrow, the merchant cried and said, 'I should have taken so much better care of you while I could have!'

**Moral:** We are all 'the merchant.' We all have four 'wives.'

The fourth wife is our status, our possessions and wealth (or lack of it). When we die, they all go to others.

The third wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish towards making it beautiful and healthy, it will leave us when we die.

The second wife is our family, lovers, and friends. No matter how close they are to us when we're alive, they can only be with us up to the grave.

The first wife is our soul - often neglected in our pursuit of material wealth and sensual pleasures, while in truth it is the only thing that follows us wherever we go.

The time to love 'the first wife'...is now! This is the meaning of Lent and especially of verse 25.