



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

Sat 30th Mar 8.00pm	Annie Healy, Pollagh. (Month's Mind.)
Sun 31st Mar 10.30am	John Farrell, Derrahaun. (Month's Mind.)
Mon 1st April 8.00pm	Joe & Lizzie Cosgrave & Bridie Kelly, Derrydarragh.
Tues 2nd April 7.00am	Special Intention.
Wed 3rd April 7.00am	Special Intention.
Thur 4th April 7.00am	Special Intention.
Fri 5th April 8.00pm	Mattie Reid, Portanure & Valleymount. (Month's Mind.)
Sat 6th April 8.00pm	Bridget (Beasie) Mulvihill, The Village. (1st Anniv.)
Sun 7th April 10.30am	Maura Donlon.
	Also D.F.M. of the Donlon & Carley Families, Derryshannogue.
Mon 8th April 8.00pm	Michael Costello & D.F.M. Pollagh.

**Mission Outreach:** Each year a different missionary Religious Order come to visit our diocese to speak about their work. Next weekend we welcome the Holy Ghost Mission Appeal. Eucharistic Adoration continues on Wednesday 3pm-9pm and Friday 8.30-9pm.

**First Friday Calls** will be made on Thursday & Friday of this week.

<b>Eucharistic Roster</b>	8.00pm	Sat 6th April	Theresa Costello & Bernadette Farrell.
	10.30am	Sun 7th April	Oliver Costello & Teresa Farrell.
<b>Readers' Roster</b>	8.00pm	Sat 6th April	Luke Mulvihill.
	10.30am	Sun 7th April	Nora Nolan.

**Newtowncashel ICA:** Our next meeting will take place on April 2nd at 8pm in The Hill. This is our AGM so all members are asked to attend and new members are always welcome. Good luck to Brid Sweeney, Catherine Gallagher and Breege Kenny who represent Longford in An Grianan this weekend at the national quiz. See our Facebook page for more information.

**The Diocesan Safeguarding Conference** takes place on Tuesday April 2nd at 8pm in St. Mel's College, Longford. Tea/Coffee @ 7.30pm. The theme for the conference is Safeguarding: An ongoing challenge and a vital ministry in the Church in Ireland. Teresa Devlin, CEO of the National Safeguarding Board for the Catholic Church in Ireland is the guest speaker. All are welcome.

#### Reflection:

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, the many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us. It behoves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

April 30, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation for a National Day of Fasting and Prayer.

I bet you thought this quote was about 2019 ... I know I did at first.

You may have heard the story of two friends who met for dinner in a restaurant. Each requested a file of sole, and after a few minutes the waiter came back with their order. Two pieces of fish, a large and a small, were on the same platter. One of the men proceeded to serve his friend. Placing the small piece on a plate, he handed it across the table.

"Well, you certainly do have nerve!" exclaimed his friend. "What's troubling you?" asked the other.

"Look what you've done," he answered. "You've given me the little piece and kept the big one for yourself."

"How would you have done it?" the man asked. His friend replied, "If I were serving, I would have given you the big piece."

"Well," replied the man, "I've got it, haven't I?" At this, they both laughed.

One cold winter's day a crowd of people stood in front of a pet shop window and watched a litter of puppies snuggling up to each other. One woman laughed and said, "What a delightful picture of brotherhood! Look at how those puppies are keeping each other warm!" A man next to her replied, "No, ma'am, they're not keeping each other warm - they're keeping themselves warm."

**Moral:** Selfishness is part of our sinful nature. The evolutionary theorists say the same thing.

On the other hand ... Thomas A. Edison was working on a crazy contraption called a 'light bulb' and it took a whole team of men 24 straight hours to put just one together. The story goes that when Edison was finished with one light bulb, he gave it to a young boy helper, who nervously carried it up the stairs. Step by step he cautiously watched his hands, obviously frightened of dropping such a priceless piece of work.

You've probably guessed what happened by now; the poor young fellow dropped the bulb at the top of the stairs. It took the entire team of men twenty-four more hours to make another bulb. Finally, tired and ready for a break, Edison was ready to have his bulb carried up the stairs. He gave it to the same young boy who dropped the first one. That's true forgiveness.

- James Newton, Uncommon Friends:

And likewise ... There was once a small boy who was consistently late coming home from school. His parents warned him one day that he must be home on time that afternoon, but nevertheless he arrived later than ever. His mother met him at the door and said nothing. At dinner that night, the boy looked at his plate. There was a slice of bread and a glass of water. He looked at his father's full plate and then at his father, but his father remained silent. The boy was crushed. The father waited for the full impact to sink in, then quietly took the boy's plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own plate of meat and potatoes, put it in front of the boy, and smiled at his son. When that boy grew to be a man, he said, "All my life I've known what God is like by what my father did that night."

#### Moral:

That's what Lent is all about ... our attempts to overcome the cravings of the body and to let the noble part of the soul come to the fore. All the great mystics in all the major religions tell us that there is no other way to make oneself a nobler, more compassionate person than by means of giving more time to prayer and sacrifices. Christianity offers the greatest assistance of all - the power of the ultimate sacrifice ... Jesus on the Cross and the ultimate prayer The Mass.