

The Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Here is a **fourth catechesis** in preparation for Lent. This Sunday used to be called **Quinquagesima Sunday** and marked fifty days until the Saturday of Easter Week, the conclusion of the **Easter Octave**. Remember the names of the last two Sundays, **Septuagesima** (70) and **Sexagesima** (60). This Sunday introduced the start of fasting. People went without meat. Eggs, butter and other fats could be consumed. This found its greatest expression on **Shrove Tuesday** more commonly called **Pancake Tuesday**. Fats and eggs were used up as people prepared for the **lengthy fasting of Lent** which begins this Wednesday, **Ash Wednesday**. The Monday and Tuesday of this week were called Shrove Monday and Shrove Tuesday from the English verb 'to shrive' meaning 'to clean energetically'. Confession was strongly encouraged on those days. **This Monday and Tuesday evening there will be opportunities for Confession.**

At the end of **Sunday Mass** we shall remove alleluias from the Church in keeping with the ancient practice called '**the burying of the Alleluias**'. This will be the last Sunday for the praying of Alleluias until the Easter Vigil.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent a time of renewal in preparation for the celebration of the **Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection in Holy Week**. Lent (from the word 'Lenten' meaning 'springtime') emphasises three traditional practices: **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. We are all encouraged to make an effort to somehow energise our spirit of discipleship. We will provide many additional opportunities for Prayer. We will support the work of **SCIAF** with a collection of Alms on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. We will also add the £500 from the Famine Box to that collection. We are encouraged to take on board some kind of Fasting particularly on Fridays. **Let us remember that Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence.**

Ash Wednesday celebrates that very unique liturgical action: to be marked with ash and hear the words '**remember man that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return**'. There is a stark reminder of our mortality and those Last Things called '**Eschaton**' in Greek: judgement, heaven, hell and purgatory. It is estimated that 150,000 people die each day. The words used by the priest at the graveside are very similar to the Ash Wednesday prayer. **All parishioners are encouraged to receive their Ashes and to observe the Fast.**

Would you consider **abstaining from alcohol** between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday? The **Short Term Pledge Prayer for Lent** can be collected in the porch

On **Monday 11th March at 7.00** all of our Ministers of Word and Sacrament are invited to get together to assist our efforts during our Lenten duties.

A **Saint Patrick's Night Dance** will take place in the hall on Saturday 23rd March. Proceeds of this will help our young people involved in the Pope Francis Award Scheme. **See the notice board for details.**

Friday of this week is a day of prayer and fasting for the **Victims of Abuse** within the Church. Special texts have been prepared. It would be very encouraging if as many parishioners as possible attended that Mass and seek the peace of God.

All of our **fire appliances** have been serviced for another year. The **outside lighting** has been examined and spent bulbs renewed where necessary. The **damaged boundary** wall is in the process of being repaired. The **outside plinth** for the **new statue** of St Teresa is being strengthened. Some additional brickwork may be installed to protect the new statue from the elements. All our **gutters** and **downspouts** have been cleared and repaired where necessary and last summer work took place to deter the infestation of pigeons around the property.

Attendance: 279, Collection: £748
Thank you to the parish for this generosity.

Prayer For The Week

As we enter into the Season of Lent we place ourselves totally into the hands of Almighty God who knew each of us before the dawn of time and who wishes to pour on us Grace upon Grace.

O God, you search me and you know me.

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.

*When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.*

You know my resting and my rising.

You discern my purpose from afar.

*And with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life and death, you are.*

*Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.*

*You are with me, beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future too.*

*Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.*

*For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.*

Response to the Psalm: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord

Lately Dead: Mary O'Dowd,

Months Mind: Jane McMahon,

Anniversary of: Mathew Morrissey, Thomas & Elizabeth Reilly,
Rose Tracy, Pearl Corrigan, Peter Molloy.



Administrator:
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The Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

| Weekly Schedule | Time | Intention |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 3rd Mar. <i>Eighth Sunday</i> | 10:00am 4:00pm | David Menzies and Peter Molloy Devotions and Benediction |
| Monday 4th Mar. <i>Shrove Monday</i> | 9:05am 9:30am 1:00pm 7:00pm | Short Morning Prayer Pearl Corrigan and Mathew Morrissey Mass at Carstairs Exposition and Confession |
| Tues 5th Mar. <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> | 9:05am 9:30am 7:00pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Lena Irvine and Michael Toolan Exposition and Confession |
| Wed 6th Mar. <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>The Season of Lent Begins</i> | 9:05am 9:30am 11:00am 7:00pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thomas & Elizabeth Reilly Distribution of Ashes in School Distribution of Ashes in Church |
| Thurs 7th Mar. | 9:05am 9:30am | Prayers Before The Cross Rose Tracy and Mrs O'Rourke |
| Friday 8th Mar. <i>St Duthac</i> | 9:05am 9:30am | Prayers for Victims of Abuse For those who have suffered abuse |
| Saturday 9th Mar. <i>St Frances of Rome</i> | 4:00pm 4:30pm | Holy Rosary Mary O'Dowd and Agnes Carruthers |

| | Readers | Eucharistic Ministers |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Saturday 9th Mar. | M MacNeil | M Connor, A M Lynn, M Green |
| Sunday 10th Mar. | Children's Liturgy | P Cullion, J Mullen, F Carrol |