

CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 18 th 2018

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon. 9.00am. Tues. 9.00am. Wed. 9.00am. Thurs. 9.00am. Fri. 9.00am.

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEKEND

Vigil: Agnes O'Brien. 10.30am Michael Byrne. / Patsy Collins (Nee Geelan).

ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEKEND

Vigil: No special intension. 10.30am: John Burke / J P McGlynn.

Last weekend Collection: €1437 .00. Thank you.

Next Weekend

Readers—Vigil: Margaret Kilbane	10.30am: Angela Reynolds
E.Ms. Vigil: Deidre Houlihan	10.30am: Michelle Ghee

Feast Days

Feb. 22nd Chair of St Peter (Apostle)

This ancient feast relates to early Roman custom at this time of the year of remembering the ancestors of the family, those who presided over the family fortunes. This celebrates Peter as Bishop of Rome.

Feb. 23rd St Polycarp

St Polycarp was a bishop and martyr in the early church.: martyred in 155.

Baptism

We welcomed Alexander Mark Mahon, Newtownforbes, and David Joseph Quinn, Drumure, into the christian community on Saturday. We pray God's blessing on the newly baptized and on their families.

Station Masses

Any family wishing to host a Station Mass during Lent or Easter Time (End of May) please contact Fr McGovern.

Medjugorge Pilgrimage: From May 9th- May 16th. Cost €560. For info. call Tommy at 087 6851691.

LENT 2018

Lent is a season when we try to take stock of ourselves. It is a time when the whole church is asked to go on a kind of **retreat**. When we think of a retreat, we tend to think of going away from the normal routine of life to a special place where there is a different routine.

In the gospel reading today we find Jesus doing just that. He is driven by the spirit into the desert. He remains there for forty days, which is the length of our Lenten season. For us, however, Lent is not a retreat in that sense. The arrival of Lent does not mean that the rhythm of our lives changes in any fundamental way. We cannot head out into the wilderness. **We have to live Lent in the midst of life.** Our Lenten **retreat** does not mean a retreat from life in the literal sense.

What it does mean is that we try to become more self-reflective. Because we are asked to reflect on ourselves in the light of the gospel, it might be better to say that Lent is a time when we are called to become more prayerful. There are forces outside of us and deep within us that are hostile to the values of the gospel. The first step in overcoming them is to face them as Jesus did.

In prayer, we invite the Lord to show us those areas of our lives that are not in keeping with the call of the gospel and we ask the Lord to help us to change for the better where that is needed.

Martin Hogan

Scoil Mhuire – Enrolment

Enrolment for **Junior Infants** for September takes place from **February 19th** to **March 9th** 2018. Please contact the school for an application form. School phone number is **043 3345220**: [email: newtownf.ias@eircom.net](mailto:newtownf.ias@eircom.net).

Trocaire

Trocaire is a very important part of the Lenten Season. Please take home a Trocaire Box from the church porch.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

The diocesan pilgrimage to **Lourdes** this year is from Sunday, **May 27th** to **Friday June 1st**. Last weekend's church gate collection came to **€350**. Thanks to all who helped to take up the collection.