CASTLEBAR PARISH NEWSLETTER

Website: www.castlebarparish.ie

email: castlebarparish@gmail.com

Sunday Mass Times

Parish Church: 7pm (Sat), 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm Ballyheane Church: 8.00pm (Sat.) Breaffy Church: 10am

PRIEST ON CALL: Tel. 094 9021844



Brendan Guthrie, Killadeer, Ballyheane.

John Lavelle, Moneen.

Sr. Áine O'Connor, Árd Bhríde.

Evelyn Kenny, Turlough Road.

Mary Cusick, Rathbawn Road.

Fred Marden, Charlestown & late of St. Bridget's Crescent.

Eileen Kerr nee O'Brien, Liverpool & late of Rahins, sister of Teresa Vahey, Castle Street.

Charlotte Warde, Islandeady, mother of Marion Armstrong, Sarnaught & Christina Foy, Tawnycoolawee, sister of Ann Geraghty, Castlebar.

'Stretched out his hand...'

Jesus, in today's Gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society due to the huge stigma surrounding the disease, which was highly contagious but was also seen as a punishment from God in Jesus' time. Jesus is moved with pity for this man and reaches out to him. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. It is the religious hierarchy of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing (healing him), Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love.

A question for us from this Gospel today might be, who are those our society outcast? Who is alienated in our communities? What moves you with pity? Who is it that we need to reach out to at this time?

Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he wants to shout from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will use encounters like this one to compile evidence against him. For now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the Gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.

'There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.' (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 225)

Jane Mellett, Intercom



Ash Wednesday

17th February

Ashes will be left in all Churches for collection.

Stations of the Cross at 7pm. View online at churchtv.ie/castlebar

Trócaire Collection

Thanks to all who contributed €18,610 to the Trócaire Collection last year. This would be very good in a normal year but is extraordinarily generous in the circumstances which prevailed at the time.

Crib Donations

€4000 donated to the Capuchin Day Centre (Bro Kevin) from Castlebar Parish.

Holy Hours (online) Every Friday and Sunday from 7pm – 8pm

Lectio Divina (online) Every Tuesday at 7pm from 16th February.



View at churchtv.ie/castlebar

The Mayo Stroke Support Group in association with Croí, will hold its next meeting virtually on Thurs. Feb. 25th from 11.30am – 1pm via Zoom. The topic for this meeting will be 'Cognitive Issues following stroke.' This free meeting is for stroke survivors and their partners, family members or carers. For information and to receive the Zoom link, please tel. Croí on 091-544310.