

Stou(ace

SERIES: AGENDA FOR LENT

Season colour: **PURPLE**

In this series, **Gerard Moloney CSsR** explores the meaning of Lent and how to make the most of this holy season.

We all have moments that stand out as special, and that we never want to end.

I remember being on holiday on Cape Clear Island one summer, sitting with my mother, father and sister on a bench overlooking the harbour. It was a beautiful, sunny day; the sea was calm, and everything was so peaceful, and we felt so at one, that I experienced an incredible sense of joy. The four of us together with, for a little while, no concerns, no worries, no preoccupations. I didn't want it to end. It was a peak moment.

Peter, James and John have a peak moment in today's Gospel. Jesus takes them with him up a mountain to pray.

While there, something extraordinary happens. It's as if the three are caught up in a dream and, suddenly, they see Jesus in all his heavenly glory with Moses and Elijah, radiant, as he really is. It's such a wonderful experience the three disciples want it to last forever. It is a peak moment they will never forget.

GLIMPSE OF THE DIVINE

Every year the story of the transfiguration is read on the Second Sunday of Lent. It reminds us of two things.

First, that we all have, or are offered, peak moments from time to time – special experiences of love and wonder and awe and of closeness to God. Perhaps it is an encounter with nature, or the birth of a child, or a beautiful piece of music, or a moment of special intimacy with a loved one. Every Eucharist is also an

invitation to such a moment, to experience God-with-us in a special way. These peak experiences don't happen very often but that's what makes them special. They give us a glimpse of the divine.

GOD'S PROMISE

The transfiguration story is also a reminder and a promise offered to the disciples and to all of us. This story takes place immediately after Jesus' prediction of his death, and in the midst of the growing hostility of the authorities towards him. It was a troubling time for the disciples. The experience of the transfiguration is to give them a boost. It is to reassure them of who Jesus really is, and offer them a glimpse of what their destiny will be if they remain faithful to him. Jesus knew there would be difficult days ahead when the disciples' faith would be tested. The memory of the transfiguration would help to sustain them.

That's the promise made to us, too. We will have our peak experiences, but we will also have our trough experiences, our rough times. We can feel lost, alone, useless, hurt. Things can seem to be going against us. Our faith can wobble and our Lenten enthusiasm wane. The transfiguration story is told on this second Sunday of Lent to assure us and give us a lift. Even when we feel the absence of God, we are assured that God is with us, that God doesn't abandon us, and that we can be confident for the future. That mountaintop experience will be our lasting moment, too. ■



**PEAK
EXPERIENCE**



Today's readings

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Genesis 22:1-2.9-13.15-18

Romans 8:31-34

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus has already told the disciples that anyone who would be his disciple must take up their cross and be prepared to lose their very being, their innermost self. Peter, James and John are given a glimpse of Jesus' divine self, a manifestation of who Jesus really is. That is the true goal of the journey, beyond Calvary. Somehow the cross and resurrection – the event we understand as the Paschal Mystery – are crucial to the coming of God's kingdom in its fullness. The call to

listen to him points to the proper response to Jesus and his place in the paschal mystery.

We are setting out on a similar journey through Lent, and the liturgy provides us with a similar glimpse, much less dramatic, in which it puts before us the message of Jesus' true identity as the Son of God and the central place of the cross, not just in God's plan as it is presented, but in our own lives as well. The purpose of Lent is to bring us closer to God and to Jesus. The instruction, 'Listen to him', is addressed to us: we would do well to heed it.

Memories of special moments help us cope during difficult times. Our Lenten journey, like our Christian journey, can be challenging and even overwhelming, especially in the secular, busy world in which we live today. The story of the transfiguration offers us a timely incentive to keep on going by providing a glimpse of what our destiny will be as faithful followers of Jesus.



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
25th February 2018

To be asked to offer up your only Son was a terrible sacrifice. In the end Abraham was not asked to make it, but God Himself has offered it for us. It is from this sacramental gift that all our blessings come.

CHOOSE LIFE

"I say to all, have an absolute and holy respect for the sacredness of human life from the first moment of its conception".

Pope John Paul II, Ireland 1979

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference produce weekly newsletters called *Choose Life* to encourage discussion in families on the value of every human life. Issue Four is now available at www.elphindiocese.ie

FIRST FRIDAY is 2nd March Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm. Confessions will take place before the 8.00am, 10.30am and 7.00pm Masses.

MAKE YOUR OWN FASHION STATEMENT THIS LENT

Why not spring clean out your closet for charity this Lent and donate your unwanted clothing in aid of **Trocaire**. All donations can be left at the clearly marked collection point inside the Cathedral main entrance. All items must be clean, dry and reusable and may consist of the following: adults & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, curtains, bedding, & towels (no pillows or duvets) and soft toys. Please pick a label for your donation at the Cathedral entrance.

SLIGO / NORTH LEITRIM ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOS AREA will be holding a **Convention** in the Clayton Hotel, Sligo from 6.00pm on Friday 2nd March to 1.00pm on Sunday 4th March. For further information email: sligoleitrimaa@yahoo.ie

ACCORD ELPHIN is recruiting marriage care facilitators for the presentation of Pre-Marriage courses in the Sligo, Boyle and Roscommon areas. Full training provided. These are part voluntary and part paid positions. Details from Accord Sligo at 071 9145641.

"FINDING PEACE WITHIN" a one-day workshop on Saturday 3rd March from 10am to 4pm at **Solas Healing Sanctuary**, Curry. No matter what is going on in your life right now you can find peace, which is the pathway to happiness. Tea breaks and lunch provided. Spaces limited so booking is essential. For further details phone Maureen at 086 8511372.

BUNDORAN ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOLIDAY CENTRE is now taking bookings for Summer 2018. Full Board Accommodation for 6 nights, €220 per adult. Contact Georgina 087 2434528.

SUNDAY READINGS for 4th March: 1st Reading: Ex. 20:1-17; 2nd Reading: 1 Cor. 1:22-25; Gospel: Jn. 2:13-25.

BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT

SUNDAY 25th February at 9.00pm With a JACKPOT of €3,300 Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

PARISH OFFICE at St. Mary's Presbytery ☎ 071 9162670

Please note that the parish office will open to the public during the coming week at the following times:
Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 4pm & Friday 9.30am - 2pm.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

18th February **PARISH ENV: €1,534 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,650**
THANK YOU for your contribution.



LENT IN THE CATHEDRAL 2018

THEME: "STATIONS OF THE CROSS"

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – LENT 2018

On each Wednesday and Friday during Lent there will be a short meditation on the Way of the Cross. All are encouraged to attend.



BUSY PERSONS STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Wednesdays from 6.00pm to 6.15pm in Sligo Cathedral.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Fridays after the 10.30 a.m. Mass in Sligo Cathedral.

CATHEDRAL LENTEN SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP will meet at 7.30pm on the Thursdays in Lent (excluding Holy Thursday), continuing 1st March. Upstairs—Gillooly Hall. You are all welcome.

POPE FRANCIS ON THE FAMILY You are invited to sessions of guided discussion and reflection on family life in preparation for the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Summerhill College Library on Wednesdays 28 February, 7 March and 14 March 8pm – 9pm These sessions will be in an informal, friendly atmosphere, followed by a cuppa. Everyone is welcome - we are all family!

BISHOP KEVIN'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2018 "A Season of Transformation" can be read online at www.elphindiocese.ie

LENTEN SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUPS reflections available to download from www.elphindiocese.ie/ Lent Other prayer booklets available from Justin Harkin, contact justin@elphindiocese.ie / 087 6171526. Support also available for new groups.

THE WAY OF GENTLENESS a personal enrichment journey for Lent will take place in St Patrick's Church, Strandhill on Mondays February 26th and March 5th, 12th and 19th.

CHILDREN'S EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Venue: Cathedral Sligo. Date: The 1st Saturday, 3rd March from 3pm to 4pm. Rosary ,songs, Sunday Gospel Reading. Confession available. Parents to stay with children. For more information contact 087 2655762. All welcome.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018-NATIONAL COLLECTION

Please support the third National Collection for WMOF2018 which will be taken up in our parish this weekend - 24 & 25 February 2018. For all information about the upcoming World Meeting of Families 2018, check out their website www.worldmeeting2018.ie

NEW LOOK PARISH NEWSLETTER This is the last week of Soul Space and a new look Parish newsletter will debut next week.

Soul Space is available online at www.redcoms.org/my-account where one can register to get the forthcoming editions of Soul Space in both .pdf and .jpg formats.

KNOCK The First Saturdays Devotion is being hosted in Knock on 3rd March 2018. Starts at 11.00am with Rosary and meditation on the mysteries concluding with Holy Mass at 12noon and enrolment of the free brown scapulars. Everyone is invited to attend to benefit from Our Lady's heavenly promises.

FAITH RENEWAL EVENTS at Knock Shrine, details available on website: www.knockshrine.ie/upcoming-events and on social media @knockshrine
'MOTHERS PRAYERS' ANNUAL WEEKEND IN KNOCK 9th to 11th March 2018. For info phone 087 6184110 or Email: ireland@gmail.com

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 28th February **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10.30am Mass.
Saturday 3rd March **Confessions** from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

URSULINE NETWORK - Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28th February in the Convent (opposite Cathedral entrance) at 7.00pm. New members welcome.

NORTH WEST STROKE GROUP next meeting Wednesday, 28th February at 8pm at the Irish Wheelchair Association premises in Abbeyville, Sligo.

HSE RETIRED ASSOCIATION GROUP Monthly meeting takes place in St Michael's Family Life Centre on Thursday 1st March at 3pm. New members welcome.

P.T.A.A. SLIGO - Meeting in St. Mary's Presbytery at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 2nd March immediately after the 7pm Mass.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER in Calry Parish Church, The Mall, Sligo on Friday, 2nd March at 8.00pm. Theme for 2018: "All God's creation is very good". For over 80 years people of all Christian denominations have come together on the first Friday of March to pray. The 2018 service has been prepared by the Christian women of Suriname. All are most welcome.

WORKSHOP FOR PARISH CHOIRS All involved with Parish choirs are invited to a workshop with Ephrem Feeley, composer of A Joy for All the World (official hymn of WMOF2018) on Sat 3rd March 10.30am – 3.00pm in Star of the Kilbride Community Centre, Four Mile House, Co Roscommon. To book: Justin 087 6171526 or justin@elphindiocese.ie Cost €15.00 per person (incl hot lunch)

HOLY HILL HERMITAGE will have a Visiting Sunday on 4th March. Fr. Robert Bulbrook will celebrate Mass at noon, and everyone is invited for tea and a tour.

CREATIVE WRITING COURSES at Yeats Memorial Building, Sligo. begins Tuesday March 6 10.30am-12.30pm for 6 weeks and Wednesday March 7 6.30-8.30pm for 6 weeks. Places strictly limited. Ph:083 8561559.

MARIE VADIA powerful speaker and Intercessor for Healing. Maria will be at THE CLAYTON HOTEL, Sligo on Sunday 11th March 2018 from 9.00am to 5.30pm. Booking essential - please contact: 085 7765294 or 086 8383725.

GET YOUR CHILD'S CAR SEAT checked for free with the RSA on Thursday 15th March in Supervalu, Sligo Road, Carrick on Shannon. www.checkitfits.ie

EVENING OF SACRED MUSIC with the Ulster University Choir in the Cathedral on Friday 6th April 2018 starting at 8.00pm. All welcome.

SLIGO UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE Are you friendly, motivated, a good communicator and available 4 hours a week, if so why not help out at Sligo University Hospital. For further information., contact 071 9171111 Ext: 2609/4210/4302

anniversary & remembrances

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 26 th	MAI FLYNN	—
TUES 27 th	—	KEN MACKAY & deceased family members
WED 28 th	—	GRAY & GILBRIDE FAMILIES
THURS 1 st	—	JOHN & THERESA GREENE
FRI 2 nd	—	Month's Mind NORA MCSHARRY ✠
SAT 3 rd	HERBIE MCCAFFREY	Month's Mind PAULINE TORSNEY ✠

✠ **MONTH'S MIND MASS** for CATHERINE MULLINS will be celebrated at the 7.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 3rd March.

rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of:

KATHLEEN GORDON, Dartry View, Connaughton Road and TOMMY GALLAGHER, Doorly Park. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved family and friends.*