



LENT: A JOURNEY IN HOPE TOWARDS FULFILMENT

GREYSTONES AND KILQUADE PASTORAL AREA

You are invited to 'Come and See' (Jn. 1:39), to reflect on what it means to be a Eucharistic people looking towards the joy of Easter and the Risen Christ



Eucharistic Congress Bell 23rd to 28th February 2012

The bell was chosen as the symbol of the Congress in line with our Celtic traditions of using a bell as a call to prayer. It is accompanied by four icons specially written in Ireland for the Congress. They reflect the four movements of Eucharist: **Gathering, Word, Eucharist and Mission.**

You are invited to begin a pilgrimage accompanying the bell on its journey through our area and continuing that pilgrimage through Lent and into our Easter celebrations. On each day of the visit, we will focus, through a liturgy in one of the churches, on one of the four icons.

Thu. 23rd: **Carmelite Convent, Delgany 7.30pm Taizé Prayer Service**

Anticipating the journey and focus on the *Eucharist* icon

Fri. 24th: **Holy Spirit Oratory, Newcastle 7.30pm Rosary & Evening Prayer**

Praying the *Gathering* Icon

Sat. 25th: **St. Joseph's Church, Newtownmountkennedy 7.30pm**

Vigil Mass followed by praying the *Word* Icon

Sun. 26th: The Bell will be present at a number of the Sunday Masses:

8.30am Newtown, 10am, Blacklion, 12noon Kilquade

In the afternoon come to pray the *Eucharist* Icon in:

Holy Rosary Church, Greystones 3pm OR

St. Anthony's Church, Kilcoole 4.30pm

Mon. 27th: **St. Kilian's Church, Blacklion 7.30pm Taizé prayer with**

Eucharistic Adoration and Praying the *Mission* Icon

Everyday during Lent Daily Prayer Podcast

<http://www.pray-as-you-go.org>

A daily prayer podcast. Download it to your iPod, iPhone, Android or MP3 player to participate in a guided prayer session each day. The podcasts for the week can be downloaded in advance.

Join the Ignatian Prayer Adventure

<http://ignatianspirituality.com/>

The eight-week schedule makes it perfectly timed as a Lent and Easter retreat, but the adventure can be started at any time, on your schedule. Join in a flexible experience of daily prayer and reflection. Choose to commit to a regular period of prayer each day, or start with only one day a week. Bloggers Jim Manney, Paul Brian Campbell, SJ, and Vinita Hampton Wright will join you on this Ignatian journey with their own weekly reflections to further guide you. Use as much or as little of the material as helps you in your Ignatian adventure.

Congress Prayer

Lord Jesus,
You were sent by the Father
to gather together those who are scattered.
You came among us, doing good and bringing healing,
announcing the Word of salvation
and giving the Bread which lasts forever.
Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.

May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts,
enliven our hope and open our minds,
so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith
we may recognise you in the Scriptures
and in the breaking of bread.
May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body
and lead us to walk humbly on the earth,
in justice and love,
as witnesses of your resurrection.

In communion with Mary,
whom you gave to us as our Mother
at the foot of the cross,
through you
may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father
in the Holy Spirit and in the Church,
Now and forever.
Amen

See also parish websites: www.greystonesparish.ie and www.kilquadeparish.com

A SIMPLE LENTEN RETREAT

Each week during Lent there will be a leaflet available in the church with the Gospel reading for the following Sunday and some pointers for reflecting on the reading. The content for these are adapted from resources available through the Orlagh retreat centre.

www.orlagh.ie or www.tarsus.ie

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE - A FEW SIMPLE STEPS

1. Start with stillness and quietening down; then gently read the passage, noticing any feelings and associations from your own experience.
2. Read the passage again and spend time noticing what you don't readily understand.
3. Read the passage a third time - wondering how you yourself might pray the text over the next few days.
4. Over the next week, set aside times to come back more than once to the passage. You could read it all or part of it again, slowly. Perhaps there is a special word for you in this passage of Scripture?

Finally, come back to the text to conclude: a prayer of thanksgiving for the good news in the passage. End in quiet prayer.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: MARK 1:12-15 CONVERT AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS.

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. We are at a major turning point in the life of Jesus when he is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.

2. Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time with nothing positive about them. Later, with hindsight, we may see it as a necessary testing that was for our good. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life?
3. The arrest of John the Baptist was the occasion of the start of the public ministry of Jesus. When has some event outside of your control unexpectedly led you into some new and fruitful activity?
4. *Convert and believe the good news* was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God, others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?
5. There is immediacy about the call of Jesus: "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near". Recall when you had a realisation that now was the moment of opportunity – for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say yes?

CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of the covenant, O God of mystery,
as the forty days of deluge
swept away the world's corruption
and watered new beginnings
of righteousness and life,
so in the saving flood of baptism
your people are washed clean and born again.
Throughout these forty days, we beg you,
unseal for us the wellspring of your grace,
cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy,
and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again.
Grant this through your Son, Jesus Christ,
our liberator from sin,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,
for ever and ever. Amen.