

## ST PATRICK'S AND ST BRIGID'S GLENARIFFE



**First Sunday of Lent      26 02 2023**



**Lent is a time for polishing up basic Christian skills:**

**Prayer: on one's own and with the group;**

**Fasting: practicing simplicity of lifestyle with the group;**

**Almsgiving: making with other Christians a real contribution to making the world a better place for all God's children.**

Although the civil regulations may have relaxed the church regulations remain unchanged due to the return of Covid in the community. To help limit the spread of the virus face coverings should be worn during mass. Hands should be sanitized on entry to the church. Please follow the one-way system.

**No Mass on Monday**

**Tuesday: Requiem Mass for Daniel Buckley, Coast Rd, Cushendall, at 12.00Noon**

**WEEKDAY MASSES\_ Wednesday, 10am SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**

**Thursday, 10am & Friday 7.30pm**

**WALK WITH ME Lent reflection for each day of the season**

**LENTEN TEMPORARY PLEDGE.**

**“With the help of God’s grace, I promise to abstain from all alcoholic drink during the period of Lent.”**

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 there will be a witness surgery in St Mary’s Parochial Hall in Cushendall. The surgery is to allow anyone who believes they can assist the inquest into the death of Sergeant Joseph Campbell to make contact with our team. Staff from the **LEGACY INQUEST UNIT** will be available to speak to anyone who believes they can assist this inquest on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 11.00am – 3.00pm at the Parish Centre in Cushendall.

Alternatively, staff from the Legacy Inquest Unit can be contacted at Legacy Inquest Unit, 23-27 Oxford St., Belfast Tel 02890446820 ( See: Noticeboard)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Ann Sheppard, Padraig McDonnell, Margaret Reddington, John McKay Maureen & Mary Doherty, Margaret Doran, Frank Healy, David Carney

***Donal Neary SJ:***

***Gospel Reflections for Sundays of Year A: Matthew***

[www.messenger.ie/bookshop/](http://www.messenger.ie/bookshop/)

***Co-creators***

Jesus is tempted to use creation just for himself.

This can happen with money, other people, the environment and religion. We are called to look after God's creation, not control it.

To be co-workers with God is our call - to focus on people as well as plans, to feel the needs here and abroad.

One view of God is that he looks after the world for good or bad, and we are just the receivers. The other is that we are co-workers in developing the world and God's creation. Jesus was tempted to throw himself away from the world as he knew it, but he did not. He would live by the word of God, and God would care for him as for the parents in the first reading.

'A Christian who doesn't safeguard creation, who doesn't make it flourish, is a Christian who isn't concerned with God's work, that work born of God's love for us' (Pope Francis, 2015).

The temptation to Jesus was to take him off the path of his father. Like him, we are often tempted to use the creation of God just for our benefit. Our call is to be co-creators of the world with God.

*Imagine a garden where everything is beautiful. It is the 'creation' of a gardener.*

*Then imagine that someone has ruined one corner of it*

*- notice the difference.*

*Apply this to how we treat God's creation.*

*May we care for your creation, O Lord, with the love you have for creation and for us.*

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