



Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey
7th March 2021 – Third Sunday in Lent

Bible Reading for Today – John 2: 13-22

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Collect for Today

Merciful Lord Grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

Rector's Thoughts

The 'cleansing of the temple' described in this week's reading is a very striking event. It was highly unusual for Jesus to engage in this kind of direct action and not surprisingly it enraged his opponents. It's clear from his own words that Jesus wasn't only protesting about the abuse of the temple for profit but was also highlighting how this earthly building would be replaced by the temple of his own body. Today, we draw near to God not so much by entering a structure as by accepting a Saviour. That's great news in a time of lockdown – no restriction can prevent us coming to Jesus, because as risen Lord he is accessible to everyone, everywhere.

Online Services (on Facebook Live)

Sunday 11am, Wednesday
8pm, Friday 1pm

Phone Service (074 97 10199)

Ring from any phone at any
time for recorded service.

Announcements

Sunday evening services: Short services are being recorded for the remaining four Sunday evenings in Lent (March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th). Look out for them on our Facebook & YouTube pages. Keep an eye open for Kingdom Kids too!

Level 5: Restrictions continue until at least 5 April. Even after that we have no date for church reopening. Keep praying!!

Easter video: I'd like to get as many people as possible to record a short (<5 second) video clip of you saying, "The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!" and email or WhatsApp it to me (contact details below). It's for use in our Easter Day worship!!

Lent: There are some extra copies of the 'Hope in the Pandemic' book in the box outside the Mustard Seed, as well as Lent boxes if you would like to set aside any money towards Open Doors (helping persecuted Christians).

Online groups during the week: Hope Groups Tues and Fri 2-3pm (anyone) and Thurs 8-9pm (men only). Early Birds Saturday 10-11am (anyone); contact Sandra or Brian 083 3515400. Fellowship Group (anyone) Wednesdays at 10.00am; contact Bev 074 9721075.

The Mustard Seed: We are continuing our Food and Toiletries Appeal, these can be dropped off on Fridays 10am-1pm.

Practical and spiritual support: A reminder that you are always welcome to contact David or Sandra for pastoral care, spiritual guidance or prayer support. Or if you just want to chat! Contact details below...

Contacts:

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