

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in  
St. Mary's Parish Church.**

Exposition will resume on the main altar in St. Mary's on Thursdays from 10am until 4pm when it will conclude with Benediction. This will begin on the first Thursday in February, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> next. To ensure that there is someone here at all times during those hours, we are inviting people to commit to a specific hour each Thursday. You are invited to write your name and contact number on the Adoration Rota. This rota is now in the parish office.

**Eighteen Catholic Missionaries killed in 2022.**

**Nine Killings in Africa.**

The highest number of murders has been recorded in the African continent with four priests killed in kidnapping prone Nigeria, three missionaries murdered in conflict-torn Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including two priests and a nun, one priest in Tanzania, and another nun in Mozambique. **Eight killings in the Americas. One priest killed in Asia.**

**Ordination to the Diaconate.**

Mark O'Farrell was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore on Saturday last, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford. Please God, he will be ordained to the priesthood later this year. Please pray for him and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**Religious Goods.**

**Glencairn Cards:** A selection of Mass Cards, Mass Bouquets and Get Well Cards, produced at St. Mary's Abbey, Glencairn are on sale in the Parish Office. Medals, prayer cards, and other small religious goods i.e. candles, prayer cards and statues are also on sale in the Parish Office.

**Anois teacht an earraigh beidh an lá ag dul chun síneadh,  
Now with the coming of the Spring the day will be lengthening,**

**St. Mary's Parish Dungarvan**

**February 2023**



**Sharing Faith with our Young People – You Can Help.  
Parish Faith Representatives**

Our young people are a treasure within our Church, they are its present, as well as its future. Our diocese is now seeking a number of volunteers to become 'Parish Faith Representatives', so as to help the youth of our parishes encounter the person of Jesus Christ, find meaning and purpose more in their lives, and enable them to form a deeper relationship with God.

A Parish Faith Representative can be anyone over 18, a practising Catholic, someone who can work in a team, and who can relate well with young people. The role of a Parish Faith Representative is to:

- Become a link between parish, school & home, under the guidance and assistance of the diocese;
- Support clergy and post-primary school teachers;
- Circulate information regarding Youth & Young Adult events;
- Attend relevant Diocesan Faith Formation Conferences and workshops;
- Be part of the development of Youth & Young Adult ministry in the parish.

Parish Faith Representatives will be supported, trained and resourced by the diocese and parish. They will be encouraged to network with neighbouring parishes.

Some training and assistance will be beginning shortly, so if you are interested in anyway in becoming a Faith Representative for our parish please contact one of the priests of the parish directly, or through the parish office.

**Email: parishofficedungarvan@gmail.com or 058 42374.**

( More information can be found on our notice boards, or at [www.Waterfordlismore.ie](http://www.Waterfordlismore.ie) May we pray for God's blessings on these important endeavors.

## Wednesday 1st February: Feast of St. Brigid.

### St. Brigids Icon (on display in St. Mary's Parish Church)

This icon in honour of St. Brigid shows some of the details from the legends about her. She was born in Faughart near Dundalk, Co. Louth. She received the veil from St. Mel under the oak tree, which gives Kildare its name, (Cill Dara), the Church of the Oak. Her halo is of leaves. She wears the veil, symbol of her consecrated life. The snowdrops at her feet remind us that her Feast Day is February 1. As "Mary of the Gael" she is wearing blue, the colour associated with Our Lady. In her left hand she carries the staff, denoting her office as Abbess. And in her right hand she carries a little church representing the church she founded in Kildare. She died on Feb. 1, 525.



#### The Presence of God.

Each of us are on a journey in life. For Catholics, this journey begins and ends with God. Each moment on that journey is a chance to come to know and love God, who has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. **We can feel God's presence when we pray, when we spend time with love ones, in nature, in moments of joy and when we come together as a community to celebrate God's love at Mass. As we walk along our journey, God is with us every step of the way.**

*Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2023  
Walking together in faith and love*

### Day of Prayer for Temperance, 19th February.

#### Putting Temper into Temperance.

Perhaps we should keep the 'temper' part of temperance and use its energy to 'be the change' we wish to see on behalf of the poor who are already suffering because of how richer countries have turned up the temperature gauge of the climate with disastrous consequences for them.

A day to pray for temperance in 2023 would be missing its proper target if we focussed exclusively on our traditional, and newly acquired, addictive behaviours in need of moderation and restraint. To live responsibly as people of faith and hope, we must use this day to ask for forgiveness for our wasteful ways, for the proliferation of plastics and chemicals, for our mindless destruction of the sources of life, water, air, land, other lives. And so to paraphrase the most challenging words of Jesus. 'I was hungry but there was no place for me at the table, I was thirsty but you had poisoned the living stream.'

This day needs to address the true state of our addiction to a way of living we refuse to moderate or give up. Today we are called to look at it. No dodging. No excuses. Pray certainly but take action! Blessed are those who hear the heart-breaking Word of God and are changed by it!

Hugh O'Donnell: Intercom = February 2023 P.19

### 22nd February: Ash Wednesday and the Beginning of Lent.

#### Seven Thoughts for Lent.

- 1.** Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth. Who we are, where we must go, what path we must take in life. Pope Benedict XVI
- 2.** Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast. If you fast, show mercy. If you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ears to others, open God's ear to yourself. St. Peter Chrysologous
- 3.** Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are a good reminder that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life to attain a perfect life, all truth and undying ecstatic love—which is the definition of God. In pursuing that happiness, we find happiness. Fulton. J. Sheen
- 4.** Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving. St. Augustine
- 5.** Apart from the cross. There is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven. St. Rose of Lima
- 6.** O'Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen.
- 7.** Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to shake us from our laziness. Pope Francis

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