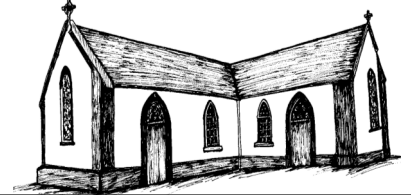
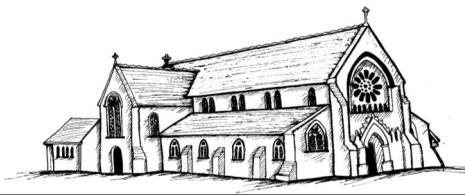
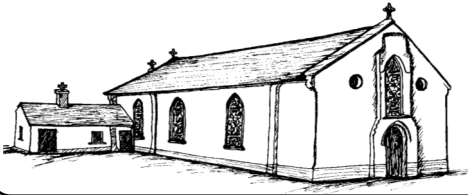


Kingscourt Parish Bulletin



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visit www.kingscourtparish.ie

042/9667314

Priest on Duty: Fr. Gerry.

POPE'S LENT MESSAGE LOOKS AT BAPTISM LINK

Benedict XVI is proposing a journey with the Word of God this Lent and a deepening in the mystery of baptism.

The Pope's annual Lenten message is a theme from Colossians: "You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him. The message offers a reflection for each of the Sunday Gospel readings of the liturgical season.

The Holy Father noted a "particular connection" between baptism and Lent, "as the favourable time to experience this saving grace."

He observed how baptism's reception in infancy "highlights how it is a gift of God: no one earns eternal life through their own efforts. The mercy of God, which cancels sin and, at the same time, allows us to experience in our lives 'the mind of Christ Jesus,' is given to men and women freely."

"Baptism," the Pope said, "is not a rite from the past, but the encounter with Christ, which informs the entire existence of the baptised, imparting divine life and calling for sincere conversion; initiated and supported by grace, it permits the baptised to reach the adult stature of Christ."

To undertake the journey toward "the most joyous and solemn feast of the entire liturgical year," Benedict XVI proposed being guided by the Word of God.

Beginning with the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent — Jesus' temptations in the desert — the Pope emphasised the fragility of humanity and the strength of Christ.

He said, "It is a powerful reminder that Christian faith implies, following the example of Jesus and in union with him, a battle 'against the ruling forces who are masters of the darkness in this world,' in which the devil is at work and never tires — even today — of tempting whoever wishes to draw close to the Lord."

The Second Sunday brings us to Christ's glory in the transfiguration, the Pontiff continued, which "announces the divinisation of man."

It is the invitation to take a distance from the noisiness of everyday life in order to immerse oneself in God's presence," he proposed.

The Samaritan woman at the well is presented on Lent's Third Sunday, with Christ's request that she give him a drink.

This, Benedict XVI explained, "expresses the passion of God for every man and woman, and wishes to awaken in our hearts the desire for the gift of 'a spring of water within, welling up for eternal life.'"

Next comes the story of the man born blind, which "presents Christ as the light of the world."

"The miracle of this healing is a sign that Christ wants not only to give us sight," the Holy Father reflected, "but also open our interior vision, so that our faith may become ever deeper and we may recognise him as our only Saviour."

Finally, the resurrection of Lazarus on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, brings us to face "the ultimate mystery of our existence."

"Communion with Christ in this life prepares us to overcome the barrier of death, so that we may live eternally with him," the Pope reflected. "Faith in the resurrection of the dead and hope in eternal life open our eyes to the ultimate meaning of our existence: God created men and

women for resurrection and life."

The message goes on to discuss the three hallmarks of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The Pope concluded by affirming that "through the personal encounter with our Redeemer and through fasting, almsgiving and prayer, the journey of conversion towards Easter leads us to rediscover our baptism."

"This Lent," he said, "let us renew our acceptance of the grace that God bestowed upon us at that moment, so that it may illuminate and guide all of our actions. What the sacrament signifies and realises, we are called to experience every day by following Christ in an ever more generous and authentic manner."

Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord:

Noel Oates, Dublin.

Reborn through water and the Holy Spirit:

Kacper Placzek Ard Dun, **Blane Tadgh Bowens McKenna**, Bramblewood, **Aidan William Power**, Rocks Road, **Cillian Jack O'Neill**, Ard Dun.

Next **Baptism preparation meeting** will take place in the **Parish Centre on Thursday, 7th April, at 8.00p.m.**

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.

Masses: 8.30 a.m. in *Corlea*.

10 a.m. in *Kingscourt*.

8 p.m. in *Muff*.

Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all Masses.

The New Translation of the Missal

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his **holy** Church.

Fr. Gerry will visit the homes of **The Carrickmacross Road** these weeks.

The Annual Lenten Novena takes place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kingscourt, each year. The following are the guest speakers this year at the Novena Masses which will take place at **8p.m.** each evening. Please note there is **no** morning Mass on Tuesdays.

15th Mar. *John Lonergan*, Former Governor of Mountjoy.

22nd: *Andrew O'Connell*, Columnist, the Irish Catholic.

29th: *Catherine Wiley*, Founder of the National Grandparents Association.

5th Apr.: *David Quinn*, Former Editor Irish Catholic, founder of the Iona Institute and columnist with The Irish Independent.

12th Apr.: *Ben Hughes*, Doctorate student at T.C.D.

18th Apr: Evening of Healing and Reconciliation with *Eddie Stone* from Emmanuel House, Galway.

19th Apr: Conclusion of Novena with *Most Rev. Dr. Michael Smith*, Bishop of Meath.

This week's Collection:

Plate: €1,517.

LITURGICAL NOTES

5th/6th March.

Vigil 6 p.m.: John Martin & dec. fam., Corglass.
Vigil Muff 7.30p.m. Charlie McMahon, Edenagully.
9.a.m. Corlea: Teresa Carolan, Lisagoan.
10.30: Mary O'Neill, Farnham, Cavan.
12.00: Eugene Murtagh, Main St.

12th/13th March.

Vigil 6 p.m.: Philip Finnegan, Corlea.
Vigil Muff 7.30p.m. Ted, Julia & James Reilly.
9.a.m. Corlea: Eugene, Martha & Jimmy Boylan.
10.30: Paddy Freeman, Lisasturrian.
12.00: Paddy Cahill. Month's Memory.

Tuesday 10: Eugene Collins, Rathloghan.

Wednesday 8.30: Mass in Corlea.

Wednesday 10: John, Mary & Willie Power & dec. family members.

Wednesday 8 p.m. Muff: Paddy Fitzsimons. Month's Memory.

Thursday 10: Antonio Temprano Garcia.

Friday 10: Brigid O'Hanlon, Dublin.

We wish to express **thanks** for the February Offerings for the support of your priests.

We extend a very warm welcome to **Barry White** and **Robert McGivney**, two young seminarians from the Diocese of Meath, studying for the priesthood in Maynooth. They will speak at all Masses in the parish this weekend.

Youth 2000 Prayer Meeting for young people. Contact 087/05165402 or 222.youth2000.ie

The Parish Safeguarding Team meet on Tuesday next at 8 p.m.

Parishioners are welcome to join for refreshments in Parish Centre after Mass on **Pancake Tuesday**

The **Parish Finance Committee** will meet on Thursday at 8.30 p.m.

The **Cluster Parishes** of Kingscourt, Drumconrath, Nobber & Kilbeg will meet on Friday next.

Next Sunday we welcome the **First Holy Communion** pupils and their parents at some of our weekend Masses. Please continue to remember the children and their families as they prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in May.

Kingscourt Bereavement Support Group: A five week Healing Programme will commence in the Parish Centre at Kingscourt Parochial House on Ash Wednesday, 9th March, at 8 p.m. and on each Wednesday thereafter until Wednesday, 6th April. This programme is open to all, especially those who are bereaved, even if loss of a loved one was many years ago. You are most welcome to attend this Healing Programme. Contact the Parochial House—042/9667314.

Confidentiality assured.

Visit www.dioceseofmeath for Bishops Michael's address to the Confirmation students and news from Sr. Mary Hardiman in Haiti.

Pope Benedict's new book "**Jesus of Nazareth**" will be published on March 10th.



LENT IN OUR PARISH:

1. **Morning Prayer of the Church** will be celebrated each morning in Kingscourt Church at 9.45 a.m.
2. **The Annual Lenten Novena** will take place in Kingscourt Church on the **Tuesday nights** at 8 p.m. Please note there is **No morning Mass.**
3. **Additional evening Masses** will be celebrated Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. in Muff and on Thursday evening at 8 p.m. in Corlea.
4. **The Lenten Garden** prepared in the Parish Prayer Space will assist us in prayer and reflection this Lent.
5. We encourage all parishioners to consider giving even 30 minutes to **Eucharistic Adoration** on the Tuesdays of Lent. Adoration takes place from 10 a.m.—7 p.m.
6. We encourage parishioners this Lent to **bring a stone/rock and leaving it at the altar**, symbolising the weights and the worries that many carry at this time and entrusting them to the Lord this Easter. Let us remember each other in prayer before the Table of the Lord.
7. This year's **Trócaire** box tells the story of Digna Portilla Amador. She is five years old and lives with her family in north east Honduras, in a small community called La Confianza. The community is extremely poor. Families work together to secure their land, farm it and earn an income. However, yields are so low that they barely make enough to pay for basic essentials like food and clothing. We invite you, this coming Lent, to journey in solidarity with Digna and her family as they struggle for justice, peace and dignity in their community. We welcome speakers from **Trócaire** on the weekend 26th/27th March.
6. **Lectio Divina "The Gospel in our lives and times"** is a way of praying and reflecting on the Word of God, especially on the Sunday readings. It will be made available on the Monday evenings of Lent at 7p.m. in The Parish Centre beginning on March 14th.

COMMUNITY NOTICES: Kingscourt School Enrolment week 7th—11th March.

Corlea School Enrolment Day—Fri., March 25th, from 1—3 p.m. **Muff School Enrolment** March 7th—11th.

Active Retirement Meeting March 11th, 2.30 p.m. Demo. of personalised embroidered gifts for all occasions.

Daffodil Day: Volunteers needed for Friday, 25th March, to sell daffodils. Phone Victoria Rowntree 9667140.

Kingscourt Garden Club A.G.M. in Blake's Wednesday, 9th March at 8 p.m.

Stars Lotto Result: 06, 10, 12, 21. No winner. Next jackpot €3,000.

Handball & Racquetball Lotto Result: 01, 14, 19, 24.