



# St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield

## First Sunday in Lent – A 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023



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### Pastors Desk

On Wednesday, we began our journey through the holy season of Lent. It's a special time of spiritual renewal for each of us in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Today's readings tell us that we are constantly tempted by the devil and that each one of us should use God's grace to overcome our temptations and failings.

During Jesus' 40 days of preparation in the desert for his public ministry he must decide between using his life for his own purpose or choose to follow the Father's plan and give it in the service of others. We hear how he is tempted by the devil who presents several 'proposals' to him. He found his strength in the words of scripture when he says, 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone'. At that moment, we are told, the devil left him and the angels appeared and looked after him. He conquered temptation by relying in faith on God's word and authority.

We are all tempted daily in different ways to make choices that are not in our best interest. Jesus strengthened himself by prayer and fasting. Perhaps this lent we could use the time wisely in daily prayer to be alone with God and listen to his voice guiding us and not to the voice of the evil one whose purpose is to come between us and the Lord.

We pray that we may have the strength to remain faithful to whatever act of penance that we may have chosen to do this Lenten period.

*Fr. Gerry Corcoran.*

*A special collection will be taken up **this weekend, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February in support of the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquakes.** This will replace the SHARE collection.*

#### Parish Survey:

*As part of the new partnership of parishes we would value your opinion on the current mass times here in St. Paul's Parish, Ayrfield.*

*We would be grateful if you could fill out the survey forms which are available at the entrances to the church.*

#### **KNOCK PILGRIMAGE**

##### Date for your diary:

Our 2023 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, which will be led by Archbishop Farrell, will take place on **Saturday, April 29.**

If you have any queries, or have an interest in attending you can leave your contact details

#### Mass Times

**Saturday : 6 pm Vigil**  
**Sundays : 10:30 am & 12:30pm**  
**Weekdays : Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri. 10 am**  
**Service of the Word with Communion : Monday 10am**  
*Weekday service is preceded by the Rosary at 9:40am*

#### Contact:

**Fr. Gerard Deegan** Co - Parish Priest 01 8674007  
**Fr. Gerry Corcoran** Moderator, Co-P.P. 087 24 08 428  
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**RCN Parishes Trust :** 20016166 **Charity No.** CHY 7424

## Lent 2023

**What Should I Do for Lent this Year?** Well, who better to pick for as your Lenten spiritual director than Pope Francis? **Pope Francis' 10 Tips.**

- 1. Get rid of the lazy addiction that keep us from God** - "[Lent] is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. Lent helps us to leave behind old habits of sin that deceive and ensnare us."
- 2. Do something that costs** - Lent is a time for self-denial; we should ask ourselves what we can give up in order to really help others by our self-denial. No self-denial is real without this dimension of penance.
- 3. Don't remain indifferent** "Indifference to our neighbour and to God represents a real temptation for us Christians." Think of others, think of God - not ourselves.
- 4. Pray: Make our hearts like yours!** "During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Make our hearts like yours'." In this way we will receive a heart which is not closed or indifferent.
- 5. Take part in the sacraments** - "Lent is a time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him." This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Go to Mass more often if you can.
- 6. Prayer** - "In the face of so many things that hurt us and harden us and make us indifferent, we are called to prayer, especially during Lent. In prayer we come close to God".
- 7. Fasting** - "**We must be careful not to practice fasting because it makes us feel good about ourselves.**" Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others.
- 8. Almsgiving** - "Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, of sharing our blessings with others."
- 9. Help the Poor** "In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ."
- 10. Evangelize** "The Lord asks us to be heralds of his love and mercy - to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness."

You probably won't be able to take huge steps forward in all of these areas. Instead, pick a couple that stand out to you and try to find practical ways to grow in your love of God and your love of your neighbour. Which one of Pope Francis' tips sticks out to you the most?

*We remember at Mass  
and in our prayers  
those who have gone before us*



**Saturday** (Vigil Mass) **6:00 pm**

**Jimmy Eiffe** 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Fr. Maurice Foley** Anniversary

**Sunday** **10:30am**

**Sheila & Dave White** Anniversaries  
**Madge & Pat Buggle** Anniversaries

**Sunday** **12:30 pm**

**Derek Dillon** 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance  
**Patrick O'Malley** 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Your prayers are also requested for the  
happy repose of the soul of  
**Doreen O'Brien** recently deceased.*

*May they rest in peace*



### Grow In Love Programme

Children preparing for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion this year will receive the **Sacrament of First Reconciliation** on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** at **7:30pm**.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday.  
10am mass will be offered for all those on the Altar List of the Dead.

### Lay Ministry Weekend 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February

A chance to find out more about the different ministries involved in the parish and express an interest in joining any.

The **Novena of Grace** in honour of St Francis Xavier begins on **March 4<sup>th</sup>** and continues until **March 12<sup>th</sup>**.  
Novena prayers to Saint Francis Xavier will be recited at all masses.

### **Gardiner Street Parish**

Preacher this year will be Fr Dermot Preston SJ.  
Mass times: Mon-Sat: 11am, 1pm & 6pm.  
Sunday 11am, 12.30pm & 3.30pm.

### **St. Brendans Church, Coolock**

**See our Notice board for details**



**Trócaire Boxes** will be available on the stands at both doors of the church during Lent.

**Notice to Coeliacs:** *If you have been advised to abstain from Gluten, please contact the Priest before Mass so that we can try to accommodate your requirements.*