

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your
name.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who teach us that you abide
in hearts that are just and true,
grant that we may be so fashioned by your
grace
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus.
The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "If a
swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a
man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is
to be suspected. The man must be taken to
Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who
are his sons.
"The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The
priest must declare him unclean; he is
suffering from leprosy of the head. A man
infected with leprosy must wear his clothing
torn and his hair disordered; he must shield
his upper lip and cry, 'Unclean, unclean.' As
long as the disease lasts he must be unclean;
and therefore he must live apart; he must live
outside the camp."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 31

Response:
You are my refuge, O Lord;
You fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)

2 But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. (R.)

3 Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink,
whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of
God. Never do anything offensive to anyone
- to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God;
just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all
times, not anxious for my own advantage but
for the advantage of everybody else, so that
they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds
for us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:40-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his
knees: "If you want to" he said "you can cure
me." Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched
out his hand and touched him. "Of course
I want to!" he said. "Be cured!" And the
leprosy left him at once and he was cured.
Jesus immediately sent him away and
sternly ordered him, "Mind you say nothing
to anyone, but go and show yourself to the
priest, and make the offering for your healing
prescribed by Moses as evidence of your
recovery." The man went away, but then
started talking about it freely and telling the
story everywhere, so that Jesus could no
longer go openly into any town, but had to
stay outside in places where nobody lived.
Even so, people from all around would come
to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

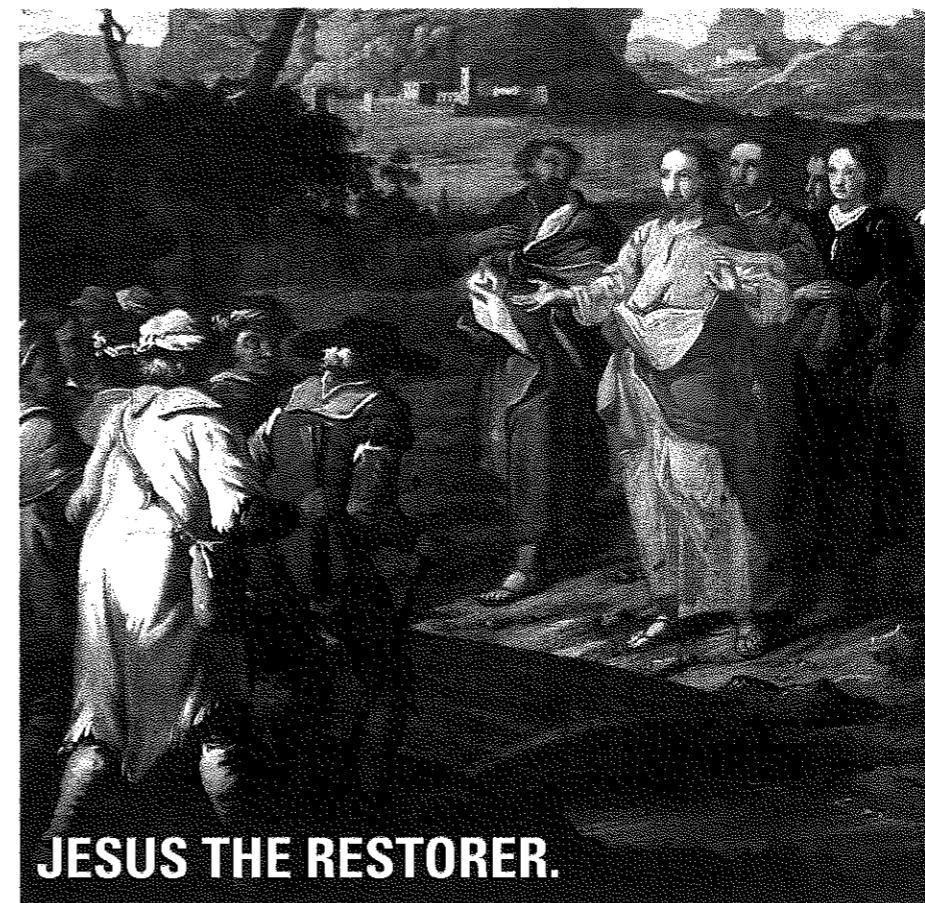
May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse and renew us
and may it become for those who do your will
the source of eternal reward.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they
craved.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,
we pray, O Lord,
that we may always long
for that food by which we truly live.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD**JESUS THE RESTORER.**

The gospel tradition contains a single story of Jesus healing leprosy, though the accounts differ in the number of people cured on the one occasion.

In Mark's version there is one person mentioned, and the narrative shows Jesus in a very human, emotional light. To say that Jesus *feels sorry* for the man hardly does justice to what Jesus felt. Mark tells us that he was *moved in his very depths*, in the seat of his emotions, his heart, or another part of his anatomy which it might be better to avoid mentioning here. To suffer from leprosy was, in some ways, to endure a living death. The term covered a wide range of disorders of the skin, but because the person's skin would dry up and flake off, other people thought that they were crumbling before their eyes. Such sick people were considered unclean and so were excluded from normal society: to come into contact with a leper meant that the other person was considered unclean as well: we might call it *guilt by association*. This makes Jesus' gesture of touching the man even more impressive: it goes against all the accepted social and religious conventions of the day. Once again, Jesus gives the order not to talk about what has happened, an instruction which is not obeyed, and his fame as a healer grows, attracting large crowds. His mission seems to be going well. ■

LEARN

To suffer from leprosy meant that the person was excluded from normal social life.

To come into contact with a leper meant that the other person effectively became a leper, even if they were not physically affected

Leprosy was a blanket term, covering a wide range of skin ailments, many of them not serious.

Jesus actually says to the leper, *be cleansed!*: in this way he removes the stigma of ritual uncleanness.

SAY

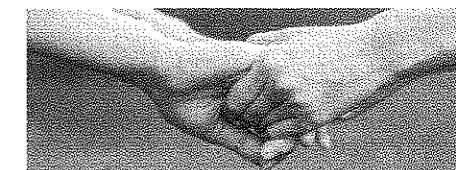
Whatever you do, do it for
the glory of God.

REFLECT

The story of the healing of the leper is more than Jesus' curing of a sick person. It involves the restoring of that person to normal human society. Instead of being excluded from every place where others live and gather, the person now can join in all the activities of the town or community: in this case, he has been given his life back. In some medieval churches we can still see *leper windows*: certain towns and villages had asylums for people who were afflicted with this disease, and there were windows set low in the back wall of the parish church so that they could follow the services at a safe distance from the rest of the congregation. In English, we sometimes talk about people being treated like lepers, shunned by others for one reason or another. The gospel stories are not just about Jesus and the people of his day: they also have a message for us, and often that message is uncomfortable. Perhaps Mark is asking us, *who are the lepers in your society or church?* Who are the people who are shunned, pushed to the margins? And why are they treated in this way? If Jesus was prepared to ignore the social and religious customs of his day so that he could reach a person in need of his touch, would he let the rules we have in place today stop him? There is a tendency among some people to think that the gospel criticisms of the Law, the religious practices and the leaders of the time apply only to the historical situation of Jesus and the early disciples. But the word of God has an enduring value: it applies to us and our situation today. It may well be that Jesus' healing of the leper needs to be translated into terms which apply to our time and Church. ■

DO

Is there someone whom you have been treating like a leper? If so, do something about it.



Parish of St MacNissi

Weekend of 10th & 11th February 2018

ANTRIM PASTORAL COMMUNITY
Tel 9447 2103

We acknowledge with grateful thanks last week's offering of **£2040.00**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION ENVELOPES

A new batch of envelopes are being prepared and will be available in the next few weeks. If you are not currently registered to contribute through Parish Envelopes and would like to do so - contact the office **9447 2103**. You can also receive information about Standing Orders. Registration forms are also in the Sacristy

If **YOU** pay income tax, as a registered charity, our parish can claim back an additional **+25%** from HMRC on contributions **made through the envelope system**.

Anniversaries: Margaret Mary McKenna, Maureen Robb, Catherine Warren, Jeannie O'Hara, Mary McAuley, Paul McDonnell, Rosina McReynolds, Sheila Murray, Michael Joyce, James McKee, Cormac McKeown, John Magill, Charles McMullan, Teresa Press, Karl Casey, Sean Marquess, Karl Carey, Arthur Martin, Paddy Black, Pearse McCann, Paul McDonnell, Danny McCann. Jim Joe McKeown Denis Kelly. Please note that all anniversary Masses should only be booked through the Parish Office.
Bethany Bereavement Support 07517820129

Intention(s) requested for next week
Saturday 17th Feb Vigil 6pm Annie Robb

BAPTISMS

Last week we welcomed

Eoin Charles Wasson
into our Catholic family



The next **BAPTISM PREPARATION** meeting for first-time parents is on Thurs 18th February. To confirm attendance contact Parish Office 9447 2103 (9am-2pm)

Ministers of the Word 18th Feb

Vigil 6pm Liz Carey Frank Devenney
Sunday 10am Caroline McGale Mary McGrath

Ministers of the Eucharist 18th Feb

Vigil 6pm Kieran McCann Brigid Martin
Anne McKee Ciara McIlwee Mary Marion
Sunday 10am Sharon McAuley Terry McKeown
Fionnuala Colgan Gerard McBride John Heffron

Parish GIFT 2 (Growing in Faith Together) programme commences 18th Feb in the parish centre @ 6pm. Year 9 children are invited to attend the 6 Sunday evenings of Lent. We ask parents to encourage their children to attend these stimulating sessions. For info Margaret Kerr 07842168054

Rosary group - in the church each Friday 6pm

Masses this week Tuesday 9.30am

Then LENT BEGINS

Ashes will be distributed at
all Masses on Wednesday 14th
6.30am 9.30am 7pm



During Lent daily Masses will be as follows
Each **TUESDAY 6.30am 9.30am & 7pm**

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 6.30am & 9.30am

Weekend Masses as usual

Vigil 6.00pm Sunday 10.00am
Exposition each Wednesday 7am

The beginning of LENT on Wednesday coincides with St Valentine's Day!!!

TROCAIRE During Lent it has become traditional for our country to reach out to the poorest of the World. The main thrust of the Irish Church's overseas aid is through the very professional work done by TROCAIRE. As in previous years you are asked to take home a box that you keep in the family room to focus our minds on fellow human being in great need. 'I was hungry and you gave me to eat...' Jesus

During Lent it has been a tradition for some people to take a **temporary pledge** to abstain from alcohol. Register your pledge with the local Pioneers and say the daily prayer
'I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink until the end of Lent'

LENTEN TALKS

Since you left school, what courses have you participated in to develop an adult understanding of our faith. As a Lenten exercise - in adult education - you might want to attend a set of inspirational talks about the very core of our Catholic faith - 'Understanding the Mass'. -presented by Fr John - commencing Thursday 1st March and ending just before the original Mass - Holy Thursday.

Mount St Michael P.S. ANNIVERSARY!!!!

To celebrate, the school is presenting a Gala Ball in the Tullyglass House hotel on 27th April. Tickets available directly at the school office or may be requested by e-mail msmgala@yahoo.com

St MacNissi Pre-school Playgroup. Enrolment forms available for children entering their pre-school year in 2018/19. Open 5 days each week 9.15- 12.15
☎9447 2109 e-mail stmacnissipreschool@gmail.com

Parent and Toddler group are closed next Tuesday 13th for mid term break and will reopen again on Tuesday the 20th.



St VdeP Parish helpline
0750 854 9606

PARISH CENTRE EVENTS



Luncheon Club We are grateful to hear from volunteers who are willing to lend a hand. The Club will be welcomed by several senior citizens who have missed out on the company and social networking it promises. Watch this space.

SPRED meeting Monday 12th Feb @ 7pm

Maine Bowling Club Mon and Thurs from 7.30pm

Craft Class Wed. 10.00am The Class thank all who contributed to the McMillan Cancer appeal which raised an amazing £2365

150th Anniversary of Apparitions at Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage

Full board 3* hotel 7 nights 10-17 July £725,
5 nights 11-16 July £590. All flights from Aldergrove, Forms available at parish office. For inquiries contact Carmel Kealey 9447 2823 or Pilgrimage Office 9064 6040

Rally in defence of the 8th Amendment

A massive **pro-life** rally in defence of unborn babies will be held in Dublin on Saturday 10th March. For people who have always believed in the sanctity of each human life this initiative is worthy of your support. Coaches will converge from all across Ireland. For further details contact **Rally for Life** 9027 8484

A **Pro-Life** meeting will be held in Toome House on Thursday 22nd February @ 6.30pm. Presentations from influential speakers.



GAA activities

Tir-na-nOg are hosting a lip-sync (!!!!!!!) competition on Friday 9th March Junior age 8-16 and Saturday March 10th for Adults

U8 (Primary 3 &4) and U10 (Primary 5 &6) football training will commence on Monday 12th Feb at 7-8pm in the 4G Hall. Please bring £1, a mouth guard and a waterbottle. We look forward to see all our existing players and also some new faces! All new players are welcome.

Lottery

WINNING NUMBERS
TUESDAY 6th February **14 / 17 / 18 / 23**
JACKPOT **NOT WON** **NEXT WEEK - £600**

£25 WINNERS - MICHELLE GRAHAM
FBG MARTIN RUDI GRAHAM ANNE O'KANE

Kickhams GAC Creggan

Lotto 7th Feb Jackpot £2200 **not won**
Next week's jackpot **£2300**

Winning Letters **F L O Q**
£25 winners J Nelson Y Scullion

Ulster u-21 football final

Lavey (Derry) V Gaoth Dobhair (Donegal)
2pm in Pairc Ciceam

World Meeting of Families

In his Pastoral Letter 'Amoris Laetitia' Pope Francis refers to St Valentine's day. While some regard that day as a cynical ploy to sell expensive bits of cardboard, the Holy Father sees merit in it as a time when we can consider valuing more closely our relationships, and never take them for granted. If we ever get cynical about love we are truly in a sorry state!
As you are aware it is expected that Pope Francis will attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August. Between now and then, there will be a series of events promoting Christian marriage. The organising committee have made available to all parishes some ideas to promote Christian marriage. .. including St Valentine

Can we have fillet steak on St Valentine's night?

It seems we may have to succumb to smoked salmon, oysters, tuna, Sea Bass, Lough Neagh eels or some other fish. **Ash Wednesday** is only ONE of TWO days in the year we are asked to fast from MEAT - the other being **Good Friday**. The last time Ash Wednesday coincided with St Valentine's Day was 1945. Not many people know that- you heard it here first!
It seems the powers that be want to preserve the sacrifice of these two days - but they suggest we join with our Catholic cousins in New Orleans and hold **St Valentine's** day on **Shrove Tuesday** - Mardi Gras!!!
Arguably Lent is always in St Valentine's day

St VaLENTine