

## Lent, Sunday 3rd [March 7th, 2021]

The three great Lenten practices – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – give us the opportunity to look at what’s most important in life, to change, to repent, to grow.

Imagine you stumbled across your own obituary. In 1888, Alfred Nobel had this experience when a French newspaper mistakenly reported him dead; sadly, it was his brother Ludvig who’d passed away. What struck Nobel most about reading his obituary was how he was presented. It wasn’t his wealth or his many achievements – most notably the invention of dynamite – that unsettled him, but the title they’d given him: ‘The Merchant of Death’. His most recognised achievement was that he “devised a way for more people to be killed in a war than ever before...”

Nobel was deeply disturbed by this title. It wasn’t how he saw himself, and yet it was how history would think of him if things didn’t change. And so, he turned to the nobler pursuit of peace. Revising his will, he established the Nobel Peace Prize – and became associated, to this day, with ‘Good Works’ rather than with The Merchant of Death. The false obituary gave him a second chance.

If only we had the chance to read our own obituary while still alive; to see our life summed up and, if necessary, to change. The three great Lenten practices – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving - help us to do just that. They help us to get our life in order. All three draw us closer to God, all three strengthen our virtues, and all three are connected. In his Ash Wednesday homily last year, Pope Francis spoke about Lent as “a privileged time for prayer”. He also quoted St Augustine, who described fasting and almsgiving as “the two wings of prayer”, because they are signs of humility and charity. Fasting goes well with prayer, because by fasting, we deny our human appetites, and can focus more intensely on our prayer.

Another reason for fasting is to show solidarity with the poor. What we give up through abstinence we give to those less fortunate. Pope Francis says, “Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him.” That is why every year Trócaire runs a

special campaign during Lent to support its work for justice and peace. It is making the connection between fasting and almsgiving. Making the Lenten sacrifice helps us to focus on what’s important in our lives and to live simpler lives, also.



The days of Lent give us the opportunity to look at our priorities, to change, to repent, to grow. Alfred Nobel was lucky enough to be given the chance to rewrite his obituary. Lent gives us the chance to write ours.

**Phased return to School** More than 320.000 primary children and leaving certificate students returned to their classrooms last week since they left them in last December . 260.000 are primary school children , 60.000 leaving cert students. Special schools also moved to full capacity. A target date of 15th March has been set for the return of all remaining primary school children as well as fifth year students at second level, with the remaining second level students proposed for after the Easter break.



**St Patrick’s Day**, how to build a sense of togetherness with families who are apart this year due to Covid. In each of our Churches you will be able to pick up a tag, write the name of your family member away and place the name on the family tree. You may also like to leave a photo for our Mass on that day.

**Rathard/Donoughmore Residents Association.** TLC6 will be celebrated this year in a different but doable manner. Due to covid-19 restrictions TLC can only accept registration of interest from individuals and those in their household bubble. If you are interested please visit [www.teamlimerickcleanup.ie](http://www.teamlimerickcleanup.ie) to register. as an individual. Stay safe . Mary Hurley



**BCDA Ballyneety & St. Vincents 500km challenge** organised by Joe Looby, join us on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12th to 14th March for a virtual 5km walk

## Remembered In Mass

### Donoughmore



Sat 6th	7 pm	Gerry, Mary, Carmel, Patricia, Martina O'Donnell
Mon 8th	10 am	St Senan
Tue 9th	10 am	
Fri 12th	10 am	
Sat 13th	7 pm	Breda O'Connell

### Knockea

Sun 7th	11 am	John Fenton. Breda Sheahan (1st), nephew John Clifford. Denis, Eileen, Anne, Marguerite Holmes & Johnny O'Donovan. Tom Gilbert (1st) & his wife Pauline
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Wed 10th

Sun 14th	11 am	Molly Keane (MM) Richard Ryan
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### Roxboro

**We offer our sympathy & prayers** to the families of Oliver Coughlan, Parkroe Roxboro, funeral Mass was Thursday in Donoughmore at 11.30 and Patricia O'Mullen, Ballysheedy funeral this Monday in Donoughmore at 11.30am, also Beverly (Bev) Connolly who has died in Toledo Ohio USA. May they rest in Peace

**We pray for the sick** particularly for those in hospital and intensive care, that they be blessed with a swift and successful recovery and a happy return to their homes and loved ones.

## Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro



**Fr Tom Mangan PP**  
087-2348226

Fr Dave Kennedy, weekend assistant  
dkrparish@gmail.com

Website, dkrparish.ie

Facebook: DKR Parish Limerick

### Sacristan

**Terry** 087-6686050

The Eircode for St. Patrick’s Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.

The Eircode for St. Patrick’s Church, Knockea is **V94 D938**.

**Mass Cards /Bouquets / Get well cards** available in parish office

**Buíochas mór!** Sincerest thanks to all parishioners who are faithfully continuing to support our parish financially during this challenging time by using their registered parishioner envelopes, or online bank transfer, or through the ‘Donate’ system which you can find on our website. Parish envelopes can be dropped into the letter box at Church house (Office) Donoughmore

[www.dkrparish.ie](http://www.dkrparish.ie)

The weekly **news-letter** and **mass leaflet** which you can find in the “Parish Info” section. You can also access our FB page through the website



