

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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Special Collection for Ukraine: The Irish Bishops have asked for a Special Collection to be taken up at Masses on the **weekend of 26/27 March** to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and especially the families and children who have had to flee their homeland in advance of the Russian invasion. The proceeds of this Special Collection will be directed to Caritas Internationalis, which is the helping hand of the Church on the ground in the Ukraine and the surrounding region. Please be as generous as you can.

St. Vincent de Paul:

The Holy Spirit conference would like to thank people who contributed to our blue envelope collection during the pandemic and all who continue to donate since we resumed our Church door collections.

We need collectors for the 12.15 Mass - just need to be there 20 minutes before Mass starts - please contact the Conference at 087 3336459, leave a message and we will get back to you.

Active Retirement Group:

Please join us on **Thursday, 24th March at 10.00am** at the Crypt - leaving at 10.15am for coffee and scones in Flannery's Bar. We will take a short walk beforehand in the general area. Looking forward to seeing you all.

3rd Sunday of Lent (C)

March 20th, 2022
"TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES"

Luke 13: 1-9

Spring is a time of new beginnings. Leaves sprouting, birds nest—building, daffodils thriving despite the gales, all indicate new life. Hope is in the air. Good beginnings engender hope. It is almost as if a bountiful harvest can be foreseen. But there is many a slip between sowing good seed and harvesting a bumper crop. War can wreak havoc, perhaps, even total destruction. Still, there is always hope. Without hope nothing worthwhile is achieved.

Something similar happens in all human life, Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage vows, all speak of new beginnings, pregnant with great expectations, selfishness and sin, fear and fantasy, pride and prejudice can retard growth into mature faith filled living. But no matter what the setbacks here, there comes an opportunity to make a fresh start. Lent is one such opportunity. Use it or lose it.

This weekend's gospel uses the challenging image of the barren fig tree to remind us that we are called to go before the Lord whenever He calls with a bumper harvest of good works of kindness to those in need, of fidelity in the face of suffering, of steadfastness in keeping faith alive and shared. The opportunity is allowing God into our lives in a deeper way, allowing Him to deepen the friendship between us. For this to happen, we must surrender some selfish comforts from our lives. When God was coaxing Moses to a deeper bond (1st Reading), He asked him to take off his shoes. Sturdy dependable shoes were essential for his safety and comfort on his desert journey.

What does He ask each of us to give up?

TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES

Walk gently in the presence of the God.

Fr. Tom Clancy.

LENTEN TALKS

LENTEN TALKS "Working Together to Care for Creation"

Tuesday, 22nd March

7.30pm (sharp) to 20.15pm (approx)

Archbishop Dermot Farrell

Two interconnected crises: the Covid-19 Pandemic and the Ecological Crisis

Last August, Archbishop Farrell published his first pastoral letter as Archbishop of Dublin. *The Cry of the Earth - the Cry of the Poor* addressed the climate crisis and highlighted how environmental degradation is linked to poverty, suffering and migration.

Introducing his talk, the Archbishop cautions: "The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the fore all that has been outlined in *Laudato Si'*". Everything is interconnected. The ecological crisis is multi-layered. We have to take care of our neighbour, we need to respond to the people in Africa and India, because if we do not, it will come back to bite us".

If you have not already registered, please email faithinactionballineaspig@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Faith in Action.