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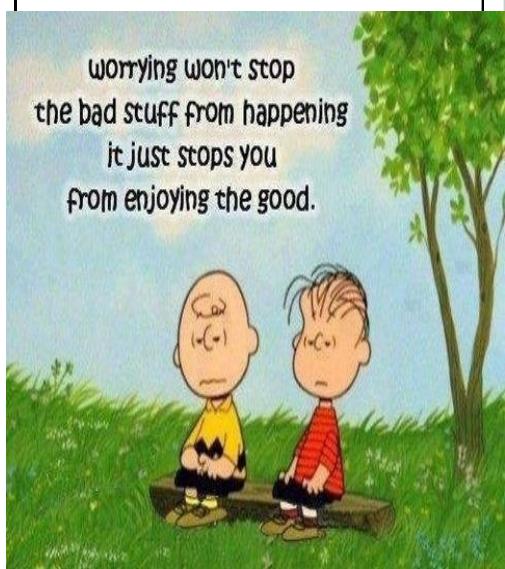
Items for newsletter to be in by  
12.00 noon on Friday

Web Site -  
[www.ardrahan-kilchreest.com](http://www.ardrahan-kilchreest.com)

email:  
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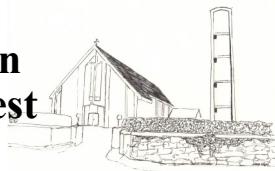
**Masses for the Parish**  
**Kilchreest - Sat 7.00pm**  
**Ardrahan Sun 10.30am**  
**Until further notice**



**21-02-2021**  
**1st of Lent**



## The Parish of Ardrahan The Parish of Kilchreest



### First Sunday of Lent



Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert  
 to be tempted by the devil.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.



### Anniversaries



#### Kilchreest Sat 20th Feb 7.00pm

Una Boland

#### Ardrahan Sun 21st Feb 10.30pm

Bridie & Michael Hehir

Michael & Carmel Stankard

Margaret Glynn

Peter & Moira Forde

#### Ardrahan Sun 28th Feb 10.30pm

Mary Monahan Mts Mind

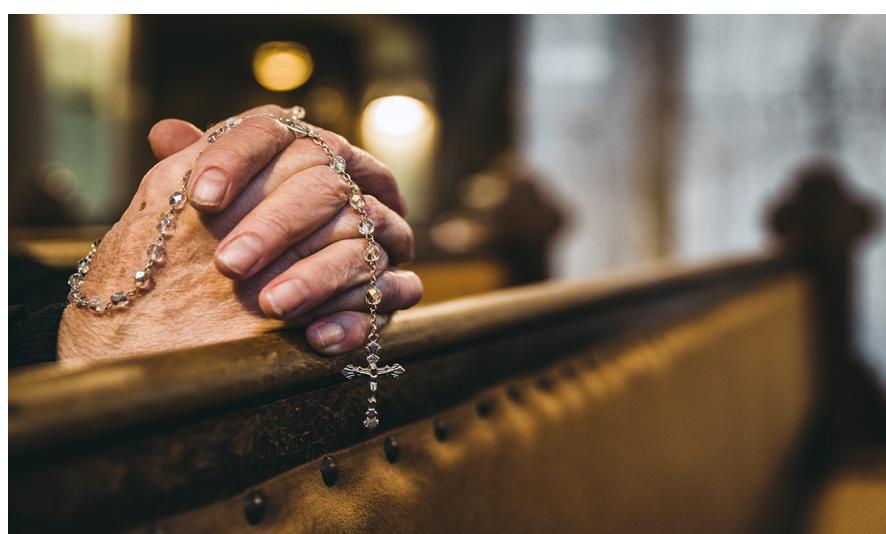
Kathleen Uniacke

Patrick & Minny Shaughnessy

Please pray for Dolores & Pat Burke UK

RIP Funeral arrangements later in week

The Rosary will be said after  
 mass during the week  
 for lent





## 22nd The Chair of St. Peter

This ancient feast relates to an early Roman custom at this time of year of remembering the ancestors of

the family, those who presided over the family fortunes. The texts today celebrate Peter as Bishop of Rome. We recall Christ's choice of Peter for service to the whole Church. we celebrate a chair not because of the material object, but because of the person who sat on that chair and the spiritual authority given to him by Jesus Christ.



## 23rd St Polycarp Feb 23rd

Polycarp was converted by Saint John the Evangelist and was his disciple. Friend of St Ignatius of Antioch. Fought Gnosticism. Bishop of Smyrna (modern Izmir, Turkey). Revered Christian leader during the first half of the 2nd century. The Asia Minor

churches recognized Polycarp's leadership and chose him representative to Pope Anicetus on the question the date of the Easter celebration. Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has survived, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi, Macedonia. At 86, Polycarp was to be burned alive in a stadium in Smyrna; the flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger, and his body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved reliable account of a Christian martyr's death.

**Mass can be viewed on line**

[Kilchreest-Ardrahan –  
Parish Website](#)

**If you are lighting Candles  
in the church due to  
COVID-19 Protocol its  
advised that you bring your  
own lighter**



## What Is Lent?

Ash Wednesday was a few days ago, starting the Lenten countdown toward Holy Week and Easter. But maybe some of us are not completely clear as to why these weeks of preparation are there in the first place.

One opinion is that Lent is a time to deprive yourself. You give up candy or smoking or desserts or heavy meals or ... well, choose your favourite and then give it up. These are part of Lenten practice.

Lenten deprivation gave birth to Mardi Gras (literally meaning "Fat Tuesday"). In contrast to the toughness of Lent. Mardi Gras, at least in non-covid-19 years, had you eat all the fat you could, parade around in costume, go wild. The public usually does not recall that Mardi Gras has something to do with what is to them a quaint old practice, Lent. But that sharpens the question: what have they or we forgotten about Lent and its practices?

Well, what if we described Lent as a "**Retreat**"?

A Retreat, in Catholic and other religions, is a space of days taken out to pray and to be with the Lord. Often one goes to a retreat house to do these. In St. Louis, for instance, there is a beautiful place called "White House"—different from the one for the president—which has a stunning view of the Mississippi River. For many decades Jesuits have preached retreats there every weekend and sometimes during the week. Sizeable groups of men or women stay for two or three days to meditate, listen to talks, and refresh their spiritual lives.

I am not saying that you should disappear to the nearest retreat house for the five weeks of Lent. But what about letting each Lenten day partake of certain retreat practices? For instance, what about setting aside a little time each day to let your insides settle down for a while, to create a space within you to welcome God. Maybe set up a special place in your home or someplace else just to pray. How about a picture or crucifix or maybe a candle?

Or just 10 minutes of silence?

And why not use some time to read in advance the gospel from the upcoming Sunday Mass? Sit down, read it slowly, and let the scene described take place within the your heart and mind. This week you could ask Jesus how it felt to have the Spirit drive him into the desert, as described in this week's Gospel.

**The point?** Let the Lord's loving deeds be your motivation for "giving up" anything during Lent. Make a gift of gratitude to God—rather than just refraining from something or other. How does any of this prepare you for Holy Week and Easter? By doing exactly what Jesus does when he makes of himself a gift consisting of suffering and death. He is returning a gift of love to the Father. Lent prepares us to witness this reality of our saviour.