**St. Andrew’s Catholic Church, Tenterden**

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**Newsletter for the week commencing 22nd/23rd February 2020**

**Seventh Sunday of the Year (A)**

**First Reading: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18**

**Psalm 102 Response:**  The Lord is compassion and love

**Second Reading: The first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 3: 16-23**

**Gospel: Matthew 5: 38-48**

10.30am Mass - During Holy Communion the choir sing the motet*Alleluia (William Boyce 1711-1789)*

**Father John writes:**

Ash Wednesday this week!  The start of the journey of Lent.  How often we dread Lent, it seems to be all about penance, gloom and death.   The priest will sign you with ashes and say “Remember you are dust and unto dust you will return”

 Just outside a village in Italy not far from Rome, there is a road direction sign “to the cemetery” and beside it is a traffic sign “one-way street”!  We are all going to die.  The culture of our present time speaks of death only with sadness, fear and gloom.  As people get older, they tend to dread their next birthday – one year nearer to death.     But this is contrary to our whole Christian belief!   Yes, we will all die, but I recall the old lady who welcomed her birthday -” I will be one year nearer the Resurrection” she said.  Lent is all about the journey of life, eternal life - but there is no Resurrection without death first.   

Have you ever wondered where did the martyrs get the courage to face violent death instead of running away?  The answer is that they truly valued above all Christ’s promise of eternal life.   How about this Lent making a real journey of hope and joy towards Easter Night.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne and Joe Venables.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Raymond Carroll, Betty Manning, Maureen McGarry, Edmund Staples, Charles & Nellie Lawrence, Clifford Crofton, Delia Pearson and Pat Baker.

**This week’s events**

**Preparation** for First holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will start next Saturday (29th February). The sessions will run from 11am to 12 midday. Please keep the candidates in your prayers.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** Lent presents a wonderful time to explore Scripture in our daily prayer. ‘Living Lent Daily’ is an email series of Scripture-based inspirations from Loyola Press.  Each day of Lent, those who sign up for the (free) emails will receive a reflection based on Bible verses from Loyola’s immensely popular 3-Minute Retreats. The emails also include suggestions for further exploration of Lenten themes through additional online articles and prayers. Access this superb Lenten resource here: [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](about:blank)

**The first of the Lenten Lunches** (run by the clergy this week) will be held at **St Mildred’s Church Hall on Friday, 28th February,** from 12 midday until 2pm. Do come along and join in!

There will be a Lenten lunch every Friday during Lent. Details of where and of those who are running each one will be given each week.

**ASH WEDNESDAY PSALM** - Be merciful, O Lord; be merciful, O Lord; be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Stations of the Cross** will be held every Sunday during Lent at 4pm.

**This week’s services**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Date** | **Feast** | **Time/Detail** |
| Saturday | 22nd February | The Chair of St Peter the apostle | 10am – 11am Sacrament of Reconciliation  6:00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday |
| Sunday | 23rd February | Seventh Sunday of the Year | 8:30am Mass *People of the parish*  10:30am Mass *Welfare of Michael Masterson (80th)* |
| Monday | 24th February | Feria | 10:00am Mass *Maureen* Curran *RIP A.Taylor* |
| Tuesday | 25th February | St Ethelbert | 10:00am Mass |
| Wednesday | 26th February | **Ash Wednesday – a day of fasting & abstinence** | 10:00am Mass & Blessing and distribution of Ashes followed by Exposition & Adoration  7pm Mass and distribution of Ashes |
| Thursday | 27th February | Feria | 10:00am Mass *Fr D O’Brien RIP* |
| Friday | 28th February | Feria | 10:00am *Deceased clergy*   Exposition and Adoration |
| Saturday | 29th February | Feria | 10:00 to 10:45 Reconciliation  6:00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday |
| Sunday | 1st March | **First Sunday of Lent** | 8:30am Mass *People of the parish*  10:30am Mass  4pm Stations of the Cross |

**Next week’s responsibilities (29th February/1st March)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **6:00pm Saturday** | **8:30am Sunday** | **10:30am Sunday** |
| **Reader** | Noel J | Suzanne V | Kevin T |
| **Extra-ordinary Ministers** |  | Louise Carter  Michael Payne | Frances Lawrence  Collette Iglinski |
| **Flowers** | No flowers | **Cleaners** | Val Broad & Bea |

**Regular activities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Where | When |
| Mothers’ Prayers | The Parish Room | Tuesdays at 4.30pm |
| Choir practice | St Andrew’s Church | Wednesdays at 6.30pm |

**Forthcoming events**

The next **Men’s Christian Big Breakfast** will be held at St Mildred’s Church Hall on **Saturday, 21st March**, starting at 8.30am. The speaker will be Freddy, the Pastor at Zion Baptist Church.

As sunset will be at 7.30pm, Father John has decided that the **Easter Vigil** will commence at **9pm on Saturday, 11th April.**

And finally…

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tyred.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.