

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Stand)

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

PENITENTIAL ACT (3)

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Priest: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: *Lord, have mercy.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: You came to call sinners: *Christ, have mercy.*

People: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: *Lord, have mercy.*

People: Lord, have mercy.



FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel:

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 129

[R] With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

[1] Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.**[R]**

[2] If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.**[R]**

[3] My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.)**[R]**

[4] Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.**[R]**

SECOND READING Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans:

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Stand)

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; who ever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!



GOSPEL John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

[Longer Version: John 11:1-45]

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, "Lord, the man you love is ill." On receiving the message, Jesus said, "This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea."

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you." "Your brother" said Jesus to her "will rise again." Martha said, "I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said:

"I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes Lord," she said "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, "Where have you put him?" They said, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept; and the Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But there were some who remarked, "He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?" Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, "Take the stone away." Martha said to him: "Lord by now he will smell; this is the fourth day." Jesus replied "Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

"Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me."

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice,

"Lazarus, here! Come out!" The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, let him go free."

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY (Sit)

THE APOSTLES' CREED (Stand)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS



PREFACE DIALOGUE Stand

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...



THE MYSTERY OF FAITH (3)

Priest: The Mystery of Faith.

People: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and resurrection, you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb ...

People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.



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Vol.47; No.17; Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A; 22 Mar 2026; Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14, Psalm 129, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; Next Week: Holy Week. Sat 21 Mar St Enda : Sun 22 Mar Lent 5 : Mon 23 Mar St Turibius de Mongrovejo : Tue 24 Mar St Macartan : Wed 25 Mar The Annunciation of the Lord : Thu 26 Mar Weekday : Fri 27 Mar Weekday : Sat 29th : Sun 29 Mar Passion Sunday.



Death and Resurrection

Last Sunday's gospel was about light and darkness; this Sunday's is about life and death. We can expect a similar paradoxical treatment of them both from John.

It was dangerous for Jesus to return to Judea to the house of Lazarus; the authorities were determined to seize him. When he decided, nevertheless, to go, Thomas said, "Let us also go, so that we may die with him." Jesus faced death in order to give life to Lazarus. This is John showing us the meaning of Jesus' entire life. He was applying the first brush-stroke of interpretation of Jesus' entire life.

Summary

There are wrong ways for Christians to see death.

It is in death that resurrection is to be found.

SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Jesus-Human and Divine; Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A; 22 Mar 2026



John's gospel abounds in paradox. For example, Life OR death is not paradox; paradox is life IN death. John had this literary trait in common with another John, John Tauler (German mystic, 1300-1361), who wrote,

"If only we could seek joy in sadness, peace in trouble, simplicity in multiplicity, comfort in bitterness! This is the way to become true witnesses to God." (Tauler 1300-1361)

Life in death is what we see in this Sunday's gospel.

Clarity?

Either/or, also called disjunction, is easy to understand. It is the way of ordinary rational thinking: yes or no, good or bad, life or death It keeps the two elements carefully apart; it makes opposites – enemies – of them. It has the appearance of being very clear and strong because they are given no quarter.

It also looks scientific (computers are built on this principle); but it is also quite fictional. Oscar Wilde once said, "In fiction, good people do good things and bad people do bad things; that's why we call it

fiction." In reality, good people often do bad things and bad people good things. Any account of human affairs that sees only either/or would be a handbook for war, or a work of fiction, but not a gospel of life.

Death the Destroyer?

We spend our life trying to avoid death, and even the thought of death. When we do think about it we think thoughts like: "it will defeat me utterly, it will destroy everything I tried to do." This makes death an implacable enemy. But this is not the Christian way to see death.

The Death of Jesus

The way for a Christian to understand death is to look at the death of Jesus. St Paul wrote that we are "baptised into his death" (Rom 6:3). The word 'baptised' means 'plunged'. "By baptism we have been buried with him into death." This does not mean running away from death and the thought of death. It seems more like running towards it. Why? Because ...

Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Rom 6:4)

Finding Life in Death

Where did Christ's resurrection happen? It was not in the clouds, not in a better world; it was in the tomb. The place of death was the place of resurrection; it is in death that resurrection is to be found. We are delivered from the crippling fear of death and of everything that reminds us of it. Death is no longer the enemy. This frees us to live. ■

Question

Where did Christ's resurrection happen?

Prayer

Lord, may I not fear death, but look forward to it instead.



Clonmany parish.ie

PARISH MASS AND PRAYER SCHEDULE

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CLONMANY

- Monday—Thursday 9:30am Mass
- Friday: 7:30pm Mass —Confessions from 7pm
- Stations of the Cross after 7:30 Mass during Lent
- Saturday 6:30pm V Mass—Confessions from 6pm
- Sunday: 11:30am Mass
- Wednesday: Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament 2:30pm—3:30pm in the room behind the Sanctuary

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, URRIS

- Sunday: 10am Mass
- Friday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 3-6pm
- Stations of the Cross at 3:30pm during Lent

ORATORY OF THE ASSUMPTION, BALLYLIFFIN

- Tuesday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:30—8:30pm

LENT 2026

Have you thought about what you might do for Lent?

A Time in Lent for Prayer and Reflection – All Welcome During Lent, the parish is offering a simple weekly gathering for anyone who would like space to pause, reflect, and share faith in a relaxed and welcoming setting. Each evening will include a short reflection, a brief video, time for prayer and conversation, and the chance to enjoy a cuppa together. The gatherings will run for five weeks of Lent, continuing this **Monday, March 23 at 7:30pm** in the **Parish Hall**. No need to register — just come along.

During Lent the **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed each Friday at 3.30pm in St Michael's Church, Urris; and after 7.30pm Mass in St. Mary's Church, Clonmany.

Times of Adoration:

Tues 7.30-8.30pm Oratory of the Assumption, Ballyliffin. Wednesday 2.30pm-3.30pm St. Mary's Church, room behind the Sanctuary. Friday 3-6pm St. Michael's, Urris.

Weekday Masses in St. Mary's Church, Clonmany Monday—Thursday 9.30am, Friday 7.30pm.

Why not take a **Pioneer pledge for Lent**? The short-term Pioneer pledge for Lent is a gesture of solidarity with people who are living "one day at a time" according to the 12 Step AA programme. More info iwww.pioneers.ie

VOCATIONS

We pray for our seminarians and men who are considering service to the Church as diocesan priests, that their interests will be in the things of the Holy Spirit who will have made His home in them (cf. St Paul to the Romans).

PARISH DRAW

Promoters are asked to make returns this week for the draw on Friday.

NOWDOC 6pm Friday—8am Monday—Call 0818400911



Clonmany Parish Newsletter

Fr John McDevitt PP Tel 0749376273 or 085 8237119

Fr Karl Haan CC Tel 0749379107

Parish Office Tel 0749376114 Email: clonmanyparish1@outlook.com

Clonmany Parish Website: www.clonmanyparish.ie



Annunciation of the Lord, March 25th

"Mary didn't have clarity; she simply trusted God with her whole heart... Mary chose to allow God to reshape her life – and with that first "yes" she plunged herself into the great adventure of being God's servant."

(Sr Cecilia Olson, Benedictine Sisters of Mount St Scholastica)



"I have never had clarity; what I have always had is trust. So I pray that you trust God."

(Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

FIRST ANNIVERSARY MASS

6:30pm Vigil Mass in St Mary's Church on Saturday 28th March will be offered for Eunice Toland, Tornabratley, on the first anniversary of her death. May she rest in peace.

MASS INTENTION THIS WEEKEND

10:am Mass—Rose Crossan, Urrismanagh

ANNIVERSARIES

Seamus Barr, Dunaff & James Doherty, Cleagh.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Monday: St Turibius. Tuesday: St Macartan Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord

COLLECTIONS

Parish collection last weekend amounted to €2,094. Church gate collection taken up recently for Donegal Diabetic Association amounted to €600. Thank you for your generosity to both collections.

DERRY DIOCESAN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 5 nights from 3rd-8th August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £820 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more info or to book contact bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org 00442871264087

DERRY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Mon 29th June to Friday 3rd July: Due to the great demand for places we have secured 50 extra seats ex-Dublin direct to Lourdes & return, with complimentary bus to the Airport. The fare is £895pps full board If you wish to book please contact the pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop St. Derry, Tel 02871 260293, email: derrypilgrim@outlook.com

ACCORD FACILITATORS NEEDED

Accord is inviting volunteers to train as facilitators for its Marriage Preparation Programmes, supporting couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. Facilitators work as part of a small local team and help lead up to four programmes each year. Free professional training is provided—Tel: 01 505 3112/Email: marriagepreparation@accord.ie

FINN HARPS EASTER CAMP
RASHENNY: WED 8 + THURS 9 APRIL
€40 PER CHILD
 • 10:30AM - 1:30PM EACH DAY
 • €10 DISCOUNT FOR ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS
 • PARTICIPATION MEDAL
 • SEASON TICKET FOR FINN HARPS 2026 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN
 • AGES 6-13
finnharps.ie/easter-camps

CLONMANY PARISH RESOURCES

Vacancy for one Grounds Person / Caretaker: Duties to include: Lining & Pitch Maintenance, Cutting Grass & Strimming, Caretaking, Painting, litter management, upkeep of building and surrounding grounds at Rashenny Football Club. For eligibility Information, please email: CEREFNW@welfare.ie / Clonmany Parish Resources CE Office on: Tel: 074 9376903 email: clonmanyprl@gmail.com

WALKING GROUP

Drumfries Walking Group will meet on 27th of March at Dunree beach car park at 10am—everyone welcome.

DONEGAL PRO LIFE AGM

Will take place on Tuesday 24th March at 7 30pm in The Vestry, in the grounds of St. Conal's Hospital, Letterkenny F92 TD92. Guest speakers in attendance. New members welcome.

CHIROPODIST

Patricia Barnett Podiatrist/Chiropractist will attend St Columbcille Centre, Clonmany on Wednesday 25th March from 9-2pm. For an appointment call 0749363282 or 0863811590.

GOOD AS NEW SHOP

Open in Carndonagh Shopping Centre—all proceeds will go to RNLI

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Details of personnel to contact if you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children—Designated Liaison Person: Ms Marie Gormley Mobile Number: +44 7596500793 Email: marie.gormley@derrydiocese.org

Garda Síochána

Buncrana: 00353 749 320 540
Letterkenny: 00353 749 167 100
TUSLA (ROI) Family and Child Agency
Telephone Number: 00353 749 102 233

CLONMANY PARISH INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2025

	2025	2024
Income:	€	€
Parish Collections	124,219	115,065
Income from Hall	3,239	3,585
Profit from Parish Draw	22,574	22,691
Donations	234	500
Income from the Shrine/Crib etc.	2,840	2,942
Misalettes	1,015	1,015
Bank Interest Received	62	30
D.D.S	350	350
Miscellaneous Income - Covid Insurance Payment	32,267	
	-	-
	186,800	146,178

Less Expenditure :

Salaries Priests/Housekeepers etc.	41,195	42,370
General Expenses Churches & Property	50,644	54,809
Telephone, Printing & Stationery	5,981	7,637
Insurance on all Parochial Property	7,709	7,459
Diocesan Assessment	18,757	19,699
Bank Charges & Interest	543	314
Legal & Professional Fees	1,316	1,415
Rent & Rates	186	1,056
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,951	1,246
	-	-
	128,282	136,005

Excess of Income over Expenditure 58,518 10,173

Capital Expenditure on Churches, Oratory, Car Parks, & Schools etc. (4,833)

Excess of Income over Expenditure 58,518 5,340



... To all who give of their time & talents to help us give witness to the Faith of Victory in our parish of Clonmany. You help make present the Spirit of Joy and Life.

There is always more room!

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses"

(Acts 1:8)