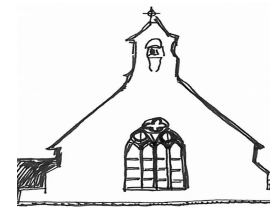


## Parish of Killavullen and Annakisha

### First Week of Lent (February 21-27, 2021)

21.8



**First Sunday of Lent:** *The Good News of a new covenant with God.*

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading:* The waters of the great flood had receded and Noah emerged from the ark with his family and the representatives of the animal kingdom. God set up the rainbow as the sign of a new beginning: the arc of light that spans heaven and earth is a symbol for the connection between God and creation. *May we find many such signs of our renewed relationship with God this Lent.*

*Psalms 24:* A prayer for God's mercy and guidance.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:* St Peter compares the story of the flood in the book of Genesis with Christian baptism. The waters of baptism bring us into a new covenant with God. *Gospel:* Jesus encounters God in the desert; it is from that time of prayer that he begins his public ministry. He invites us to change direction and make peace with God. We prepare for important new stages in life with this time *quarantine*, (a word that originally means 40 days) spent apart from the normal routine.

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**Fallen asleep in the Lord:** *Anniversaries:* Nora Brosnan; Joan Carroll; Tom Carroll (Ballymacmoy); Ellen Owens (Monanimy). *Recent deaths:* David Heaney (Mallow); Christina O'Donovan (Knocknacappul).

**Level 5 Restrictions** have been imposed on Church activities, with a reopening not expected for some more weeks. Mass is offered privately for your intentions each day. Churches remain open for personal visits, but group worship is only permitted with limited groups for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. When making a private or household visit to the church, please sanitize your hands on entering and exiting the building and wear a face mask at all times.

**Sincere thanks** to all who have kept up their contributions to the parish in this time of restricted activity for the Church. The total amount donated to the February Building Fund collection was €340. Weekly Offerings and donations to the Buildings Fund can be given at the Parish Office.

**Mass is broadcast** live every day at RTE NewsNow TV at 10.30am. On every other Sunday it is found on RTE NewsNow at 2.15pm. The readings of the day are found at the parish website: [www.killavullenparish.ie](http://www.killavullenparish.ie)

**Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2021:** This year's campaign features the story of South Sudan, the world's youngest country and of two courageous and generous women, Awut and Ajax, who helped each other in time of war.

**Bon Mots:** *"Either you run the day, or the day runs you."*  
*"There is no argument equal to a happy smile."*

Visit: [www.killavullenparish.ie](http://www.killavullenparish.ie) Fr. Gerard Condon PP. Tel.: 022-46578; Email: [parishofkillavullen@gmail.com](mailto:parishofkillavullen@gmail.com)

**Lent 2021:** Each year, the 40 days of Lent are an invitation to give more attention to prayer, self-denial and generosity (almsgiving) to those in need. The pandemic has added a unique importance to Lent 2021: our awareness of the fragility of our lives makes us more grateful for our blessings and aware that our lives should not simply drift along.

The call of Jesus in today's Gospel is to repent of our sinful ways and return to the Lord. We are asked to take up this call with a sense of hope and purpose rather than guilt. The original word for "repent" ("metanoia") suggests a change in the direction of our lives, away from the unhappiness of sin and towards the light of Christ.

The First Sunday of Lent always includes the image of Jesus going into the desert. The desert is an empty place, its silence and emptiness is a reminder that this is a time to declutter our lives of the things that we could well do without. A good starting point is to ask ourselves the question:

*What do I use in my daily life to distract me  
from the deeper realities of living?*

That might be excessive work, alcohol or smoking, overeating, too much social media or video games? Then,

*Have I got the courage to change?*

Making the kind of quality space in our lives that Lent proposes, will help us to live with greater direction in fulfilling the purpose of our lives, to love God and our neighbour.

**Parish Buildings:** The recent wet weather has revealed the ongoing issue of dampness in our churches, especially at Annakisha. The problem is not a specific leak, but seepage into the walls from rainfall, that finds its way inwards to eventually become indoor humidity. The moisture cannot egress due to the cement pointing in the external stonework. Conservation engineers have identified as a solution a return to the building method used when the church was constructed, that of a lime-based mortar pointing. This allows the walls to "breathe" naturally. One of the gable walls has already been restored in this manner. The cost of applying the solution to the remaining parts of the building was estimated at €150,000 in 2019. The parish must realise this sum in its accounts before the work can proceed.

*please take this bulletin home.*