

## So, what are you doing for Lent?

In his annual message for Lent, Pope Francis once again criticised what he called a “globalization of indifference,” saying that when people grow materially comfortable they tend to forget about others, becoming unconcerned with their problems. The answer to this indifference is to pray, to help others, and to recognize the need for God. These three things can be done at different levels, he said, in the Church as a whole, in parishes and communities, and individually.

He called on Christian communities to become “islands of mercy,” transforming parishes, communities, and groups into places where God’s mercy becomes visible.

“Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians,” Francis said, adding that in the Church, there’s no room for the indifference that so often “seems to possess our heart.”

On a parish level, Francis said that every community is called to go outside of itself and engage in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, paying special attention to the poor and those who are far away. “The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed, but sent out to every nation and people,” he said.

Here are some suggestions for the observance of Lent on all levels, prayer, fasting, good works and reaching out to every nation and people. It’s not all about “giving up” for Lent; we can also “take up”:

- Make a special effort at organising family prayer
- Pray the Our Father – the Lord’s own Prayer
- Visit the Blessed Sacrament
- Attend daily Mass as often as possible
- Make the Stations of the Cross
- Abstain from meat or some other food
- Abstain from alcohol or smoking
- Visit housebound, sick, elderly or lonely neighbours
- Donate to Trocaire’s Lenten appeal
- Don’t judge
- Be kind
- Forget a grudge



## Parish Newsletter

St Mary’s & Ladychapel, Maynooth

22 February, 2015



Dear Reader,

Oscar Wilde stated that he could resist everything except temptation! In the Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent, St Mark takes us into the desert with the wild beasts where Jesus is spending forty days praying and fasting. Here He is tempted by Satan.

We are not tempted directly by Satan. Our temptations come to us in apparently attractive and harmless ways. How harmless does it seem to sip half a glass of wine when I’m supposed to be giving it up! How harmless does it seem to ‘borrow’ a little cash from the office tea fund or the petty cash fund! Our temptations towards dishonesty and other forms of immoral behaviour begin with small things and if we give in to them, we find ourselves moving further and further away from God. A simple rule of thumb is to ask ourselves in each of our daily decisions, ‘will this decision bring me nearer to God or take me further away from Him?’

We must always look to Jesus as our guide. He coped with temptation by means of prayer, self-denial and reflection on His mission. If we are determined to follow Christ, we will easily recognise temptation and will try to resist it by prayer and by depriving ourselves from time to time of the things we like most. We will then develop the strength of character to resist. Remember that ‘to tempt’ means ‘to test’. By allowing us to be tempted, God is testing our love for Him. Are we determined to pass the test?

### Contact Details:

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### Mass times

**St Mary’s Church**  
Saturday Evening:  
7.00 pm (The Folk Group  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> week)

Sunday  
08:45, 10:00 (Family  
Mass Group), 11:30  
(Choir) 1.00, & 6:00

(Maynooth Gospel Choir  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month)

### Ladychapel

Sunday 10:00  
(Adult Choir)

Live streaming available

@

[www.maynoothparish.org](http://www.maynoothparish.org)

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## LENT 2015 - Journey in Faith

### Weekday Masses for Lent in St Mary's Church:

8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place each Monday evening during Lent after the 7.30 p.m. Mass until 8.30 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place Monday – Friday from 3.00 – 5.00 p.m.



### Journeying with God's Word this Lent

You are very welcome to attend the Bible Study Group which meets every Thursday after 7.30 p.m. Mass in the Parochial House to read, reflect and pray the Scripture readings of Lent.

**TROCAIRE**  
Working for a Just World

**Trocaire Family Boxes** are normally available through the schools. However, if you wish to support *Trocaire* and do not have a box you can take one from the Church porches. Boxes can be returned to the sacristy at Easter.

This year's Lenten theme is climate change particularly focusing on helping hardworking families in Ethiopia to fight drought and hunger.

To find out more about *Trocaire* and this year's campaign visit [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org)

*Let's live Lent*



Dates to Remember

**Sunday 22 February**

Tickets for "Afternoon Tea" which will be held in the Glenroyal Hotel from 3.00 – 5.00 p.m. on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March in aid of the refurbishment of St Mary's Church will be on sale after all Masses @ €10.

**Monday 23 February**

**Parish Finance Committee Meeting** – Parochial House at 8.00 p.m.

**Tuesday 24 February**

**Ceremony of Light for Confirmation Candidates** from St Mary's Boys' National School, Presentation Girls' School and Educate Together School will take place in St Mary's Church at **7.30 p.m.**  
**THERE WILL BE NO 7.30 P.M. MASS**

**Wednesday 25 February**

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting** – Parochial House at 8.00 p.m.

**Thursday 26 February**

**Confirmation Ceremony for Gael Scoil Ui Fhiaich** will take place in St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m. Fr Donal Roche will confirm the children.

**Thursday 26 February**

**Bible Study Group** – Meeting in Parochial House at **8.00 p.m.**

**Tuesday 3 March**

**Confirmation Ceremony for Boys.** Bishop Ray Field will confirm the boys from St Mary's Boys' National School and Educate Together School in St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m.

**Tuesday 3 March**

**Liturgy Team Meeting** – Parochial House at 8.00 p.m.

**Wednesday 4 – Thursday 12 March Novena of Grace**

**The Novena of Grace** takes place at the 8.00am, 10.00 a.m. & 7.30 p.m. Masses from Wednesday 4 – Thursday 12 March. There will be a speaker at the 7.30 p.m. Mass

**Wednesday 4 March**

**Confirmation Ceremony for Girls.** Bishop Ray Field will confirm the girls from Presentation Girls' School and Educate Together School in St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m.

**Thursday 5 March**

**Bible Study Group** – Meeting in Parochial House at **8.00 p.m.**