



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



It is difficult for us to see something new in the parable of the Prodigal son. We have heard the story so many times we believe that we have squeezed it dry of meaning. Not only that, but, as the saying goes, familiarity breeds contempt. When we hear the opening words of the parable once again, "And there was a Father who had two sons," we greet the words with ho-hum. Heard it. Heard it. Heard it.

Let's step back outside with the older brother, still in need of a shower, arms folded across his chest, the moral high road. "But when this son of yours came back ... you killed the fatted calf for him."

He cannot even bring himself to acknowledge his brother with a name -- "this son of yours." A sense of unfairness, as you know, can turn venomous rather quickly.

So where are we at parable's end? Are we inside the party celebrating? Or are we standing outside with our arms folded, refusing to come in? Jesus will not tell us how this story will end. The father passionately invites the older son inside, "pleads with him" to join in the welcome. Curiously, however, we are never told what the older brother decides to do. The story ends but it doesn't end. "You are there."

Will we RSVP to a party thrown by an unfair God? Or will we stubbornly remain outside? In a world which does not play fair, this parable forces us to make a choice. Who is the real "prodigal" here? Who is the real "waster"? From the beginning Jesus says that this is a story about two brothers.

Which one is the authentic prodigal? Which one has yet to come home to the Father's extravagant love?

Mass Times

Church of Our Lady, Roslevan

Daily Mass Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.30am
Saturday Vigil Mass: 6pm

St. Breacan's Church, Doora

Sunday: 9.45am

Immaculate Conception, Barefield

Sunday 11.15am
Tuesday 9.30am

www.doorabarefieldparish.ie/webcam

Contacts

Fr. Tom Fitzpatrick, P.P.

Tel. 087 272 0187

Doora Barefield Parish Office,
3 The Woods, Cappahard,
Tulla Rd., Ennis

Cora, Parish Office - Tel. 065 6822225;
Opening Hours: Mon & Tues: 9am-5pm;
Wed: 9am-1pm

Email: info@doorabarefieldparish.ie
Website : www.doorabarefieldparish.ie
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/doorabarefieldparish>.



Priest on Duty: 30th March, 2025

Contact: Fr. Martin Blake - Tel. 065 6869098

Remembered in Masses this week

CHURCH OF OUR LADY

29th Mar: No intention booked.
5th Apr: Seamus O'Connor, Ballinakill, Loughrea.
Martin Heaney, Corrovorrin Drive.

ST. BRECAN'S CHURCH

30th Mar: John, William, Anne & Frank O'Connor, Doora.
Mary Vaughan, Knockanean.
6th Apr: No intention booked.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, BAREFIELD

30th Mar: Tony Reid, Glasnevin, Dublin.
6th Apr.: Vincent Canny, Derry, Barefield.

9.30am Mass each Tuesday in Barefield Church.
Novena Mass in Church of Our Lady each Monday.

Finance Development Fund

23rd March, 2025

Barefield: €322

Doora: €131

Church of Our Lady: €296

Development : €768

Míle buíochas

Lenten Video series for Jubilee of Hope 2025

Lenten Video Series A series of videos from people around the diocese are available each day for the Season of Lent on the Jubilee theme of Hope on the social media platforms @BishopFintan, Youtube, TikTok, X, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Bluesky.

A C C O R D – Ennis / Nenagh Centres

Certificate in Counselling (Marriage & Relationship) Accord CLG is recruiting qualified and experienced Counsellors to train in the specialism of Couple Counselling / Therapy. Successful applicants will follow an 18-day (9 weekends) in-person Level 8, Certificate programme, which will take place in Maynooth (one weekend per month) from September 2025 to April 2026. This programme will provide the clinical skills essential to safe and ethical couples' work and in-depth knowledge to manage a wide range of presenting issues. Course fees paid and placement provided by Accord CLG. For further information on application criteria and to obtain an application form, please E-mail: info@accord.ie
Closing date for receipt of applications: 30/04/2025.

Killaloe Diocese - Online Synodal Listening

A synod is a meeting of the people of God, priests and people, discussing the future of our church, together. Pope Francis started a consultation process which is also underway in the diocese of Killaloe. If you would like to contribute to the consultation, please click on his link to success an online response form. There will be a number of in-person meetings across the diocese which will be advertised locally. All contributions are welcome. Click or Copy this link into your internet browser to access the form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4FhXpXc2CMXImOAb9_hiEUBGpCSNA20NcfR5Vu3aCexbqkg/viewform?usp=dialog



Ministers of Eucharist & Readers



This week:

Cour Lady:	BBurke/SGarvey	Ciaran Redmond
Doora:	Martha Neylon	Owen O'Mahony
Barefield:	MRowland/CLeamy	Tara Donnellan

Next week:

Cour Lady:	PMockler/MDilleen	James O'Connor
Doora:	Martha Neylon	Owen O'Mahony
Barefield:	JDevitt/MWhyte	Margaret Carden

Church of Our Lady Basket Collector

29th Mar & 5th April: Dan Lenihan & Tom Heath

Doora Sacristan Rota

30th Mar: Margaret Hosty

6th April: Cora Burke

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Our Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Fintan will depart Shannon Airport on Wednesday 25th June for 5 days. €995 pps includes full board.

Our Diocesan Pilgrimage is from 29th September to 4th October €935 pps includes full board.

To reserve a seat please contact Joe Walsh Tours, 89 Harcourt St., Dublin 2 D02WY88 Tel: 01 2410800 or joewalshstours.ie for more details.

A limited number of assisted pilgrims will be accommodated on the June pilgrimage. €855 is the cost of this section. A medical declaration form must be completed and those interested in this section are asked to apply to Ms. Mary Freeman, Pilgrimage Secretary 087 9777896 or marybfreeman@gmail.com.

The Franciscan Pilgrimage takes place from September 24th to 29th and more details can be had from Fr. Michael Nicholas, OFM, Pilgrimage Director, The Friary, Ennis.

Healing Programme for People Bereaved by Suicide

Are you finding it difficult to cope with the death by suicide of a family member or friend?

You could get help at a Healing Programme organised by Clare Suicide Bereavement Support at their premises in Innovation House (near Super Value), Roslevan Centre, Tulla Rd., Ennis. – starting at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th April and continuing for eight consecutive Thursdays.

Please feel welcome to come for support and meet others in the same position as yourself. An appointment is not necessary.

For further information phone

086 0565373 or 087 3698315.

www.claresuicidebereavementsupport.com





First Friday Mass at Church of the Immaculate Conception, Barefield on Friday 4th April at 7pm.

If you or someone you know would like a First Friday call please contact Fr. Tom or the Parish Office with details.

The Annual Matt Talbot Novena will continue on Wednesday, April 2nd, at 7:00 PM in Tulla Church with Mass and Benediction. Fr. Pat Malone from Clarecastle will be the celebrant on the night. Fr Pat will lead us in the service of healing with celebration of the sacrament of the sick. Attending this Novena could be a meaningful way to observe Lent.

Barefield Tidy Town Clean Up Saturday



Barefield Tidy Town are having a clean up day on Saturday 5th April and we would love it if people could come out and help. We will be meeting at 9.30am in front of Clare Crusaders and will work from there.

Please bring high viz jackets and tools. If people can only commit to an hour's work or less, we would appreciate any help. It is a good way of getting to know others in the community and keeping our village looking good. Barefield Tidy Towns are always looking for new members so all welcome.



COPD Meeting each Wednesday from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. in Maria Assumpta Hall, Ennis All welcome

A Mother's Love



There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.
There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.
There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.
For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above.

Prayer for Fourth Sunday of Lent



Too often, too easily,
our eyes are drawn down, God,
to the suffering of victims
and the pain of perpetrators,
to the wounds we inflict on others
and the wounds we inflict on ourselves.

We need to see these things and pray,
But, we also need our eyes to be lifted, God,
to the signs of your life among us,
to the touch of your healing on our souls,
to the cross that casts its liberating shadow
across all human affairs.

We need our eyes to be lifted, God,
so our hearts may be filled with faith
and hope and love Amen.

Laetare Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is also called Laetare Sunday when the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances.

Call it pink — or, more fittingly, rose — this change in colour indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the sombre days of Passiontide.

Priests are given the option to wear rose coloured vestments at Mass held on this day in place of the violet vestments normally worn during Lent.



*the beauty of spring came,
and when Nature resumes her loveliness,
the human soul is apt to revive also."*

Harriet Ann Jacobs



Thank you to all who donated to the Crib in Doora during Advent.

The sum of €100 collected was donated to Help Us Dry the Tears Foundation.



---Doora Barefield GAA Lotto
Next weeks Jackpot: €15,000

Venue: Clubhouse, Winners of €50
Rita Perill, Ballymacahill,
Joanne Callinan, Carhudotia,
Chrissie Moroney,
Michael Clune, Ballymacahill

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who are in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling
breast.

PENITENTIAL RITE

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord
C. For we have sinned against you.
P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
C. And grant us your salvation.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life.
C. Amen.

A reading from the book of Joshua

Jos 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'
The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

R: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. R

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. R

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. R

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

2 Cor 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are

reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appearing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!
I will leave this place
and go to my father and say:
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and
against you.'
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk 15:1-3.11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

I no longer deserve to be called your son."
But the father said to his servants "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found."

And they began to celebrate.

Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

The father said, "My son, you are with me Always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

You must rejoice, my son
for your brother was dead and has come
to life; he was lost and is found.