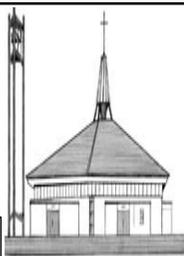


Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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29th March 2020



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Jo Curran, Corriga who died on Friday last.



Baptism: *Kate Lily Kilkenny, Carrickavoher, Aughavas was welcomed into the Christian Community in Aughavas on Sunday last.*

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2020

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Cor 5:20)

4. A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself:

Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth’s goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Today too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, in the midst of Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church’s magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, *Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students*, 18 December 1927). The same holds true for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God’s call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. *Mt 5:13-14*). **Pope Francis**

The Seven last words of Jesus:

FIRST WORD:

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”.

Your body aches from its many wounds. The crown of thorns is tormenting you. And your soul is a sea of sorrow, anguish and hopelessness. Those who prepared all this for you stand there beneath the cross. They laugh, they mock, they blaspheme. A feeling of despair at the sight of such wickedness comes over you. A feeling more terrible than all the pain in your body. Are there men capable of such wickedness?

And yet, you said “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” You love your enemies. You recommend them to your Father. You pray for them. Speak those merciful words of your boundless love over my sins also. Say to the Father on my behalf “Forgive them for he did not know what he was doing”.

SECOND WORD:

“Amen I say to you, this day you will be with me in Paradise”.

Your heart is filled to the brim with anguish, and yet you still have a place in that heart for the sufferings of another. You are at the point of death and yet you are concerned about a criminal. Even the sins and wickedness of a criminal’s life are transformed by grace and there is nothing left to keep him from approaching the all—holy God. You utter the all powerful word of your grace and it goes straight to the heart of this robber. This divine love consumes all the evil and guilt that keeps God from entering his heart. O Lord, let your cross be set up at my death bed and let your lips say to me also “Amen I say to you, this day you will be with me in Paradise”.

THIRD WORD:

“Woman, Behold your son; Son behold your mother”.

This is the hour of farewell, the hour of dying. This is the hour when the mother who is a widow, is to lose her son. Even here in your agony your love is quick to express the tenderness which every son feels for his mother, and through your death even the tender, precious things of our world are consecrated and sanctified, these things which make the heart gentle and the earth beautiful. In giving your mother to the disciple you loved, you gave her to all of us. I say to Mary, your mother as you look upon my poor soul “Woman, behold your son; mother behold your daughter”.

FOURTH WORD:

“My Lord, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Death is drawing near, and death is emptiness, terrible weakness, crushing solitude. In this night of the senses and of the spirit, in this desert that consumes everything in Your heart, Your soul is still in prayer. The dreadful wasteland of a heart devastated by suffering becomes in You a solitary call to God. O prayer of anguish, prayer of abandonment, prayer of unfathomable weakness, prayer of a forsaken God, let us adore You. If You prayed like this, O Jesus, if You prayed in such an agony, is there any abyss so deep that we cannot call out from it to Your Father? Is there any despair so hopeless that it cannot become a prayer by being encompassed within Your abandonment? Is there any anguish so numbing that it must no longer expect its mute cries to be heard amidst heaven’s jubilation? Teach me to pray in the words of your Church, the words of the Mass, in such a way that they become the words of my own heart.

The Fifth, Sixth and Seventh last Words of Jesus will be in next week-end’s Newsletter.

Trócaire: On Monday, 6th April at 11 am, Trócaire will have a prayer/reflective workshop for families. To register, please contact Anna Keegan on anna.keegan@trocaire.org and Anna will then send you on the webinar link. On Wednesday, 8th April at 11 am, Trócaire will hold a workshop on Laudato Si/Caring for our Common Home. To register, please contact Jane Mellett on jane.mellett@trocaire.org and Jane will then send on the webinar link.