



# Aghavas & Cloone Parishes

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## 1st Sunday of Lent

**Pray for** the happy repose of the soul of Margaret (Peggy) McManus, nee McNamee, Corneddan, Ballinalee, Co. Longford, sister of Evelyn Lee, Druminbawn whose funeral took place on Tuesday in Ennybegs; Martin Boyle, husband of Ann McGovern, Drimna, Cloone who died in London and Evelyn Kelly, wife of Cathal Kelly, Cavan, sister-in-law of the late John Kelly, Cornagher, Cloone.

### Masses

**Aughavas:** Sat. 20th Feb. 7.00 pm. Pro. Populo.  
**Cloone:** Sun. 21st Feb. 10.00 am.  
**Cloone:** Mon. 22nd Feb. 10.00 am.  
**Cloone:** Tues. 23rd Feb. 10.00 am. Packie & Mary Ellen Gallagher & D.M. of the Gallagher and Reilly families.  
**Cloone:** Wed. 24th Feb. 10.00 am. **Cloone:** Thurs. 25th Feb. 10.00 am.  
**Cloone:** Fri. 26th Feb. 10.00 am.  
**Aughavas:** Sat. 27th Feb. 7.00 pm.  
**Cloone:** Sun. 28th Feb. 10.00 am.

*Please note that all masses will be live streamed and without a congregation.*

**Allchurches Trust 'Hope Beyond' Grant for the Parishes of Aghavas and Cloone: Hope Beyond aims to enable churches and Christian charities to meet changing needs within their communities, helping them and the communities they support to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by the Coronavirus pandemic.**

Last Autumn we made an application to Allchurches Trust for a grant towards the expenses that arose in Cloone and Aghavas as a result of the Coronavirus. Expenses in Cloone and Aghavas Parishes as a result of the Coronavirus amounted to €8,802.28. We received a grant of £1,800.00 from Allchurches Trust Ltd for the parishes of Cloone and Aghavas. This money has now been lodged to Cloone Parish account and Aghavas Parish account. The grant has been evenly divided. We are very grateful to Allchurches Trust for considering our application and for awarding us this grant.

**Thanks:** Thanks to all who have contributed to the Offertory Collection and Shrove Dues. You may put your contribution in to the house in Cloone.

### An introduction to Lectio Divina.

In the introduction to the Roman Missal we are reminded of the sacramentality of the proclaimed word of God, that is to say, Christ is present when the Scriptures are proclaimed. "When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel" (GIRM, no. 29). St. Jerome famously said: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

'Repent and believe in the Gospel,' are the words that accompany the administering of

ashes on Ash Wednesday. To repent is to change the direction in which we look for happiness. That's what the Gospel promises, nothing short of happiness. The reality of our restricted living and staying home at this time could be made very fruitful indeed if we allowed God's Word find a home in our hearts.

A very effective way of praying with the scriptures is the ancient practice of Lectio Divina, a Latin phrase that translates as '*Divine reading*'. There are loads of websites that can explain the nuts and bolts of it.

- Basically, it requires spending time with the Word, say 20 minutes.
- Open up the gospel of the day and first of all read it slowly (*lectio*).
- Then read the passage again and take time to reflect on whatever struck you (*meditatio*).
- Don't force it—a phrase or image will stay with you.
- Then having chewed the word a bit, respond by offering a prayer to God that arises in your heart (*oratio*).
- Then read the passage one final time and be still and rest (*contemplatio*)—be nothing, be still.
- Allow the Lord to work!
- Put simply the fourfold task of Lectio Divina is to *read, reflect, respond, and rest*.

Finding a home in our hearts, God's Word transforms us to become a living gospel for others to read. The famous Belgian Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens advised, "Be careful in the way that you live, for your life may be the only gospel that your neighbour ever reads." Is there any more suitable way to mark these Lenten days of repentance than to become Good News?

### **GOSPEL**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. 1:12-15*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### Reflection on the Gospel for the 1st Sunday of Lent.

The fact that Jesus, true God and true man, experienced temptation for forty days suggests that temptation, horrible as it is, can serve a good purpose. As we begin our Lenten journey let us be mindful of this and consider how best to imitate Jesus. Consider too where Jesus derived the strength to overcome the grave temptations that befell him. Clearly it wasn't just a matter of self-reliance ... for as the Gospel states "and the angels looked after him".

A key characteristic of Jesus' earthly life was his uniting of His will with the will of God the Father, e.g. Jn 6:39. We know, however, that Jesus went further by opting daily to abide in His love (Jn 15:10). This was the secret motor that always moved Jesus and which remains available to us too. This is holiness, seeking to know and obey God's will as testament to our abiding in His love.

This Lent may we draw close to God in prayer and find it in our hearts to give expression to our love of Him through simple and frequent acts of sacrifice. And should we find ourselves in some form of wilderness let us be open to the possibility that it too is of the Spirit's making and oriented toward our ultimate good.