##

***LISTOWEL PARISH NEWSLETTER***

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**7th February 2016**

**Parish Priest: Declan Canon O Connor VF. Parish Office (Mon – Fri 10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm) 068-21188**. After hours emergency no. 0870908949.**Email:** listowel@dioceseofkerry.ie. *Notices for Parish Newsletter have to be in by 2.00pm on Thursdays***.** **Funerals** take place on weekdays at 11.30am and Sundays and Holy Days at 11.00am. **Baptisms** are at pre-arranged times and must be booked through the Parish Office. **Confessions:** every Saturday after 10.30am Mass. Check out our Parish Web Page at [www.listowelparish.com](http://www.listowelparish.com) and all Diocesan news on: [**www.dioceseofkerry.ie**](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie)and a live stream of all liturgies on **www.mcnmedia.tv**

 *St. Mary’s Church is*

 *fitted with a loop*

 *system. Please adjust*

 *your hearing aid.*

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**MASSES THIS WEEK 7th – 14th FEBUARY**

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| Saturday 6th  | Marina Lynch, O’Connell’s Ave. **1st Anniversary** /Joe Scanlon, Dirha Cottages & Middlesex, **1st Anniversary** & Maurice & Agnes Scanlon & Deceased Family / Mary Regan, Dromin /Margaret (Madge) O’Donoghue, Asdee /John Keane, Ballygrennan / Martin Whelan, Finuge / Brid Costello, Ballybunion Rd  | **7pm****Vigil** |
| Sunday 7th  | **People of the Parish** | 9.00am |
| Nellie & Jack Stack, Glenoe | 11.00am |
| Mon 8th  | John & Lena Mulvihill, Kilarda / Special Intention | 10.30am |
| Tues 9th  | Francis Stack, Glenoe & Writers Grove, **1st Anniversary /** Special Intention  | 10.30am |
| **Ash** **Wed 10th**  |  | 10.30am |
| **People of the Parish**  | 1.10pm  |
| Paddy & Ellen Moloney, Woodford | **7.00pm** |
| Thurs 11th  | William & Nelly Moloney, Charles St. /Noreen McGrath, Rosaria, Cahirdown & Teresa McGrath, Galway | 10.30am |
| Friday12th | John & Nelly Moloney, Charles St. /Teresa (Mackey) Sheehan, Church St.  | 10.30am |
| Stations of the Cross | **7.00pm** |
|  Saturday 13th  | Jerry & Jeremiah Junior Nolan, O’Connell’s Ave. &Willie Nolan, London | 10.30am |
| Michael Barrett, Dirha East, **Months Mind** / Ann Mulvihill, Coolaclarig, **1st Anniversary** /Robert McElligott, Convent St. /Celia Doyle, Lartigue Village / Bridget Walsh, Greenville Miriam Carey, Convent St. & Deceased Family /  | **Vigil 7pm** |
|  Sunday14th  | Mary (Mai) Morrissey nee O’Connor, Dublin late of Bolton’s Cross, **Recently Deceased** / Maisie, Tadhg, Daniel & Eileen McCarthy, Duagh / William Harnett, Church street  | 9.00am |
| Jack & Molly Nolan, Aviation Drive  | 11.00am |

 ***Priest on duty for Listowel Deanery on this Sunday, Feb., 7th Fr. Declan O Connor 0870908949 (emergencies only)***

**PARISH OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Our sincere thanks for the Offertory Collection last weekend.

**RECENT DEATH Sheila Fitzell,** Ballygologue Road

**ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE**: Eileen Scully, Dingle / Thomas Healy, Clountubird / Bridie Flavin, Knockane / Nora Kenny, Patrick St.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**PARISH ENVELOPES BOXES:** Our Parish Finance Council wish to thank all of you who use the **Parish Envelope System**. The boxes for **2016** are now due to be distributed before the first weekend in March. The Parish Envelopes are used at the various times of the year for the ‘***offerings***’ which support the capital expenditure and running costs of your Parish and your Priests. There are many benefits to using the ‘***envelopes system’*** as we can record in a confidential manner (*known only to the Parish Secretary*) the offerings that you give to your Parish and to your priests throughout the year. The big benefit is: should your total offerings in a calendar year for everything be in excess of **€250.00**, and you are paying tax, the Parish can claim a tax rebate. For the year **2014** a total **€15,616.64** was raised in the Tax Rebate System - **450** householders had used the envelope system with **206** surpassing **€250.00** offering. However of these **113** were donors who were PAYE or self-employed / self-assessed. All donations now from PAYE and Self Assessed are treated with the same tax relief of 31%. The envelopes are as follows: The **Parish Capital Envelope** is orange and supports all the capital expenditure and running costs of the Church, Presbytery, Diocesan Levies and the wages of the Parish Staff etc. **The** **Priests Offerings**: are the 4 envelopes marked Spring-Easter Dues (green) / Autumn Dues (yellow) and the November Offerings (purple) and Christmas Offerings (white) is what supports your priest or clergy who help. These envelopes have replaced what was traditionally known as the Station Dues which were at Spring & Autumn. We have also included a Blue Envelope for the Kerry Diocesan Sick & Retired Priests Collection which takes place early in July. Your offerings can be placed on the Offertory Basket at any weekend mass, whether you are in Listowel or at a neighbouring parish - or it can be handed into the Parish Office, or you may decide to make your offering to each fund by direct debit regularly or in a once off payment annually. Choose the system that suits you best. We are very much aware of the times we live in, so any contribution you can afford is much appreciated and we are very grateful. Again, a breakdown of the Parish Accounts for the past year **(2015)** will be published after Easter to both the Diocesan Office and the Parish. We wish to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your great generosity and support throughout the year. *May God reward you.*  ***Listowel Parish Finance Council****: Canon Declan O’Connor P.P., Jim White, Shane O’Donoghue, Kieran Moloney, Maura Joy & Margaret Broderick*

**LISTOWEL PARISH ENVELOPES BOXES 2016**: To facilitate the distribution and collection of the new ***Boxes 2016*** **Denise** (Parish Secretary) will be available at the Parish Office throughout the week and at all masses next weekend with the new boxes at the back of the church. We would ask you to **collect your own personal box** and if anybody new would like a box she can register you**. For those already registered you need your box number as they are organised in numerical order.** *Thanks for your co-operation*.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** this weekend at the Vigil Mass on this Saturday & at 11.00 a.m. Mass

**LOURDES HELPERS ANNUAL CHURCH COLLECTION**  which will support the many young helpers travelling to Lourdes next September takes place at all Masses this weekend after Holy Communion. Many Thanks.

**MEDJUGORJE MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING** will meet in the Blessed Sacrament Room - **Adoration Chapel room** on this Monday night ( Feb. 8th ) at 7.30pm.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Wednesday next – **Feb. 8th is Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of Lent. It is a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at three Masses - **10.30am morning Mass & 1.10pm. Lunch time & at 7.00pm evening Mass.**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK: on Thursday next Feb 11th**  -  **Feast Day of our Lady of Lourdes** – Special prayers for the Sick will be offered at our 10.30 a.m. Mass. The Sacrament of the Sick and Anointing will be given to those who feel that they are in need of healing or request it as part of our Mass for the Sick.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Reminder that it takes place every Tuesday & Wednesday at Adoration Chapel from after the 10.30 a.m. Mass to 8.00 p.m.

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES SERVICE OF COMMITMENT**: for all our Confirmation candidates of our Parish, their parents, teachers and sponsors taking place on Thursday night next (Feb. 11th ) at 8.00 p.m. in the Church. Fr. Francis Nolan, Tralee will be the guest speaker.

**LAUDATO SI- EARTH WEEK PROJECT ON BIODIVERSITY (DIOCESE OF KERRY)** An information meeting will be held in the Listowel Parish Meeting Room on Wednesday 17 February to explain the project and provide practical help to get it started, in church grounds, and private gardens etc. So bring along your ideas, questions and rough maps of the spaces you hope to make more biodiversity rich and pollinator friendly. Everyone is welcome: members of pastoral councils, individual parishioners, or interested members of the community of all ages. Organised by the Diocesan JPIC Committee and Kerry Co. Council. See [www.dioceseofkerry.ie](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie) (Look for Earth Week 2016 under Justice).

**INTERESTING STATISTICS FROM OUR PARISH**

**FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| **Baptisms** | 89 | 84 | 69 | 72 | 70 |
| **Confirmation** | 78 | 83 | 88 | 64 | 81 |
| **Marriages** | 13 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 17 |
| **Funerals** | 63 | 52 | 71 | 64 | 71 |

**PRAYER FOR LENT** Faithful and loving God you bring us to the beginning of another Lent. We pray that during these forty days we may allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit on a journey of Renewal, Repentance and Reconversion to a more loving way of life. Send your Spirit upon us now that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to love Him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of Your Kingdom. Amen.