**Diocese of Kerry**

Preparation for

Holy COMMUNION

at Sunday Mass



**October 2017 – June 2018**

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***Introduction***

Welcome to our parish programme. This programme offers you as a parish, a way of acknowledging and supporting children and their families as they journey throughout this special year towards the celebration of Holy Communion. The child’s faith journey is developed through cultivating a sense of their participation and belonging in the parish Mass.

As a parish community, we gather as God’s family of families to pray together and to live the joy of the gospel by reaching out in loving service in our communities. By welcoming children and their families who are preparing for the first of many communions, and integrating this journey in the Sunday Mass, the parish community actively expresses the reality of being companions on the journey.

Family is the primary locus of growing in love and in faith. In the love of a parent’s gaze, we are opened to discover the love of God and others. Robert Frost recognised that “We begin in infancy by establishing correspondence of eyes with eyes”. In prayer, we are encouraged to look at God looking at us, loving us. In this tender regard, a personal relationship with God is nurtured. Of its nature, it cannot remain private. It finds its expression in loving action and concern for others.

The religious education programme *Grow in Love* also serves as a link in the home - school – parish partnership and is also a significant component in this special time of preparation towards the celebration of Holy Communion.

***How to use***

The programme follows the liturgical year from October to June and highlights the Saturday evening / Sunday Mass as a celebration where we gather, are nourished by the Word of God and the Body of Christ and are sent out to live the Gospel. It is coordinated by a preparation team of parents in collaboration with the priest, members of the Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgy group and Music Ministers.

The programme is designed to be flexible, to suit the needs and possibilities of your parish context. Choose a Sunday of your choice for this monthly programme. Complement it with practices that have worked well for your parish in the past.

***Involve different members of the community***

* Ask a member of the Parish Pastoral Council to give the word of welcome in the Gathering Rite (Reader 1).
* Ask a number of people to be involved in the Mass: Lighting of Candles, Prayer of the Faithful, Bringing up the Gifts, Communion Reflection. It need not only be families who have children preparing for Holy Communion.

***Create a Sacred Space***

* This creates a focal point and acts as a reminder that God speaks through signs and symbols as well as words.
* You might like to invite the children who are preparing for Holy Communion to bring their candle, received at the Enrolment Ceremony, and place it in the Sacred Space. In order for the wax to be set, ready to be collected at the end of the Mass, please quench the candle after communion. Do what is practical and possible in your parish in liaison with your Liturgy Group.
* For the month of *December:* You might like to consult with the Liturgy Group to establish where there will be an Advent Wreath. It is always helpful to practice lighting the candle/s with the child or family member before Mass.

Have a discussion with the Liturgy Group to see if it might be possible to have the crib empty for the first week of Advent, and then gradually include animals and key figures each week. In this way there is a build-up, adding to a sense of expectation. Place the kings at the back of the church initially and have them journey to the crib. However, given the variety of size and space available, this would not be a feasible option in all churches.

***Music***

In preparing for the monthly celebration, you might like to consult with the Music group so that they can incorporate some of the songs the children have been learning into the hymn selection in line with the liturgical season and preparation theme.

*Some suggestions from Grow in Love*

Oct: Called and Chosen **Grow in Love**

Nov: We Celebrate the Saints **Prepare Ye**

Jan: We Listen to God’s Word **Alleluia Open our hearts O Lord to accept the words of your Son**

Feb: I’m Sorry **I’m Sorry, God**

Mar: Lent **Grow in Love**

Apr: We Give Thanks **This is the Day**

May: We Receive the Body of Christ **Eat this Bread**

Jun: We Are the Body of Christ **Circle of Friends**

***Other considerations***

***April:*** You might like to get a keepsake card printed with prayers before and after communion with your parish name and date to commemorate this time of preparation and celebration of the first of many communions.

***May:*** For the celebration of First Holy Communion, please ensure that a rota of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist is in place.

***Enrolment Ceremony***

The journey towards Holy Communion begins with the Enrolment Ceremony in October. This is preferably during Sunday Mass, highlighting the parish context of the faith journey. However, a parish might decide to have a separate service due to the size of the group involved where several schools come together.

***Practicalities: Enrolment Ceremony at Sunday Mass***

* The enrolment ceremony takes place after the Gospel.
* If you are giving a candle to each family whose child is preparing for Holy Communion, confirm numbers beforehand. Place these candles on a table in the sanctuary or in the sacred space ready for distribution at the end of Mass.
* According to the size of the group preparing for Holy Communion, if feasible, have a photocopy of the commitment and responses for each person. This can be taken home and kept in their sacred space / stuck on the fridge as a reminder of the promises involved in this special year of preparation.
* Where individual photocopies are impractical, simplify the response of the parents and guardians / parish community to “I do”.
* Before the Concluding Rite the candles are brought from the sacred space / table by the Altar Servers and distributed with the help of a member from the Parish Pastoral Council. Children are asked to stay for a moment and to hold out their candle for a blessing.

***Enrolment Ceremony at another time***

* Where possible this would take place in the local church rather than the school, inviting members of the parish community to participate by their presence and prayer in this enrolment ceremony. Invite parishioners via announcement at Mass and the parish newsletter.
* Ensure you have enough candles beforehand for every child who is preparing for Holy Communion. Place these candles on a table in the sanctuary or in the sacred space ready for distribution at the end of the ceremony.

**Enrolment Ceremony**

**October 2017**

**Called and Chosen**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader 1*** Today we gather for our Sunday Eucharist and extend a warm welcome to the children who are preparing for their Holy Communion. We all began our faith journey when our parents chose for us to be baptised. We recall that initial moment now with the lighting of our Paschal Candle and with a gesture of blessing ourselves with Holy Water.

***Lighting the Paschal candle***

***Reader*** ***1*** As we bring light to this Paschal candle, may we be reminded of God’s love aflame in our lives.

***Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water***

*Altar server holds bowl of water in front of priest*

***Priest*** Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water God has created, which will be sprinkled on us as a memorial of our baptism. May God’s grace help us to remain faithful to the spirit we have received.

*Brief pause of silence…*

Almighty ever living God, who willed that through water, the fountain of life and the source of purification, every soul should be cleansed and receive the gift of eternal life; be pleased, we pray, to + bless this water, by which we seek protection on this your day, O Lord. Renew the living springs of your grace within us and grant that by this water we may be defended from all ills of spirit and body, and so approach you with hearts made clean and worthy to receive your salvation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Priest sprinkles himself, ministers and congregation*

May almighty God cleanse us from our sins, and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to share at the table of his kingdom.

***All*** **Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Word***

Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Enrolment Ceremony*** | |
| ***Reader 2*** | Now we will have a short ceremony of enrolment for the children who are preparing for the first of many communions throughout their lives. In the Grow in Love programme, the children have been learning that through our Baptism each person has been called and chosen by God. Every time we gather as a circle of friends, as family, as a parish faith community, we do so in the company of our friend Jesus.  I invite the children who are engaging in this time of preparation for Holy Communion to stand. The response to each promise is We Do. After the priest’s blessing, say Amen. |
|  | |
| ***Priest*** | Children, you have been preparing to receive the gift of Jesus through Holy Communion since you were small. Next year you will celebrate the first of many times you will receive communion, to nourish and strengthen you in life. As you prepare in a special way in the coming months, do you promise to listen carefully to all the people who will help you learn about God’s love for us? |
| ***Children*** | **We do.** |
| ***Priest*** | Do you promise to try to get to know God better by praying at home with  your family, by being a friend to Jesus and by coming to Mass? |
| ***Children*** | **We do.** |
| ***Priest*** | +May you know God’s enormous love for you. May you experience much joy growing in love with Jesus. May this joyful love flow out to your families, friends and wider community. |
| ***All*** | **Amen.** |
|  | |
| ***Reader 2*** | Girls and boys thank you, you can now sit down. I invite all adults to stand. In this way, our parish community stands in solidarity with you, parents and guardians. The next set of promises is for parents and guardians. Then the parish community will also commit to sharing this time of preparation. |
| ***Priest*** | God has called and chosen you to be parents. You have asked that your children continue the faith journey that they began at their Baptism. Do you promise to help your child grow in love with Jesus by praying together at home and by committing to engage in the Grow in Love homework with your child? |
| ***Parents*** | **I promise to pray with and encourage my child’s faith learning in this year of preparation for Holy Communion.** |
| ***Priest*** | Do you promise to love, support and pray with your children as members of this parish community through regular celebration of Sunday Mass? |
| ***Parents***  ***Priest***  ***All*** | **I promise to pray with my child and I commit to accompanying my child to Sunday Mass.**  +May God bless you abundantly with wisdom, patience, joy and laughter.  May you discover on this faith journey more than you could ever imagine  as your family grows in love.  **Amen.** |
|  | |
| ***Priest***  ***All***  ***Priest***  ***All***  ***Priest***  ***All*** | As members of the family of God it is our responsibility to be a welcoming, compassionate faith community. Do you, parishioners, promise to welcome and enable these families to deepen their faith and together as a faith community be a compassionate presence in our world?  **We do.**  As your priest, I commit to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus joyfully that together we may be a community gathered in love.  **Amen.**  In conclusion, let us all stand and profess our faith:  **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth…** |

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** Filled with trust that you call us your friends, we come to you loving God with our prayers. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 3*** For the Church throughout the world and in this diocese, that we as the Body of Christ may be a welcoming and compassionate presence, let us pray to the Lord. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 3*** For all civil leaders… at international, national and local levels… that they may be peacemakers and promote the greater good for all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 3*** For all parents, whether delighted or daunted, struggling or thriving, may they know God’s strength and our support in this parish, let us pray to the Lord. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 3*** For those who are sick in our parish, and those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord. Lord. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest***  For the deceased members of our families and community....

Gracious God, you know the prayers in our hearts. Continue to deepen our faith and help us to discover you in our daily encounters. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 4*** We are called and chosen to grow in love. Strengthened by Jesus’ words and presence, we can be his love to those we meet. In the words of Nan Merrill, a grandmother and spiritual writer:

“Blessed are you who help others, those who are in need. For as you offer your presence, you come to know the Divine Guest in your heart.

Even when your friends are unkind to you, do not become mean or spiteful. Rather, send them love and imagine light around them.

Kindness comes from love, and those who practice love will be blessed.”

***Before the Concluding Rite\****

***Priest*** I invite the children who are preparing for Holy Communion to come up to the sanctuary to receive a candle. This candle can be lit when you pray at home as a family or when you are discussing the Grow in Love homework or at other special moments shared together at home.

*When each child has received their candle:*

***Priest*** Receive this candle. May lighting it at home remind you that this faith ***to families*** community joins with you as a circle of faith friends to welcome, encourage and support you. May Christ’s light always shine brightly in your hearts, your homes, in our parish and in the world.

***All* Amen.**

**Concluding Rite as usual**

***Enrolment Ceremony at another time***

**October 2017**

**Called and Chosen**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader 1*** Today we gather for our Enrolment ceremony and extend a warm welcome to the children who are preparing for their Holy Communion. We all began our faith journey when our parents chose for us to be baptised. We recall that initial moment now with the lighting of our Paschal Candle and with a gesture of blessing ourselves with Holy Water.

***Lighting the Paschal candle***

***Reader 1*** As we bring light to this Paschal candle, may we be reminded of God’s love aflame in our lives.

***Priest*** **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

***All*** Amen.

***Priest*** **May God, who through water and the Holy Spirit has given us a new birth in Christ, be with you all.**

***All*** And also with you.

***Priest* The blessing of this water reminds us of Christ, the living water, and of the sacrament of Baptism, in which we were born of water and the Holy Spirit. Whenever, therefore, we are sprinkled with this holy water or use it in blessing ourselves upon entering the church or at home, we thank God for his priceless gift to us and we ask for his help to keep us faithful to the sacrament we have received in faith.**

***All*** Amen.

**Opening Hymn**: **BAPTISM SONG**

1. Water holy water. Over our heads. x 2

2. Candle, burning candle. God is with us. x 2

3. Garment, white garment. Sign of love. x 2

**We are baptised in God’s name**

**We are the children of God.**

***Priest***  Loving God you have chosen each one of us to be here tonight. During this special time of preparation for Holy Communion, open all our hearts and continue to draw us closer to your friendship. Help us become faith- filled followers of Jesus by loving and serving one another in our homes, school/s and parish community. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All*** **Amen.**

***Reader 2***  We stand to listen to God’s word.

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

***Priest***  A reading from the Gospel of John John 15:18-21  
 Jesus said to his disciples:

‘This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.  
 A person can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you.  
 I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master’s business;   
 I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you;  
 and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.  
 What I command you is to love one another.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

***Homily notes***

For a moment, I invite you to close your eyes and picture this man Jesus. In your imagination what does he look like? How does he speak? Can you picture yourself among the people listening to him? What are the expressions on other people’s faces as they listen? How does it feel to hear Jesus say to you “I call you friends”? What else does he say to you? What is your response?

Opening your eyes now, take a moment to notice how that brief encounter was for you – were you pleased? surprised? asleep? Would anyone like to share that now? Or maybe as a family, you might like to share how you see Jesus on the way home. He’s always there …accepting…loving us. In this special time of preparation for Holy Communion, we are each called and chosen to be followers of Jesus. For the boys and girls, you are being invited to grow in love, getting to know and learn more about God. For parents and guardians, you are being called to grow in love through caring for your family and encouraging faith development. As members of the faith community we are called to grow in love through our active welcome and compassionate support of one another.

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| ***Enrolment Ceremony*** | |
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| ***All*** | **Amen.** |
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| ***Reader 3*** | Thank you, children, you can now sit down. I invite all adults to stand. The next set of promises is for parents and guardians. Then the parish community will also commit to supporting you during this time. |
| ***Priest*** | God has called and chosen you to be parents. You have asked that your children continue the faith journey that they began at their Baptism. Do you promise to help your child grow in love with Jesus by praying together at home and by committing to engage in the Grow in Love homework with your child? |
| ***Parents*** | **I promise to pray with and encourage my child’s faith learning in this year of preparation for Holy Communion.** |
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| ***Priest***  ***All***  ***Priest***  ***All***  ***Priest***  ***All*** | As members of the family of God it is our responsibility to be a welcoming, compassionate faith community. Do you, parishioners, promise to welcome and enable these families to deepen their faith and together as a faith community be a compassionate presence in our world?  **We do.**  As your priest, I commit to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus joyfully that together we may be a community gathered in love.  **Amen.**  In conclusion, let us all stand and profess our faith:  **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth…**  **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**  **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,**  **the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.** |

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest***  Filled with trust that you call us your friends, we come to you loving God with our prayers. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 4*** Jesus calls us by name and chooses us to be his friends. Help us to follow you. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 5*** We ask you Lord to bless all in leadership… Pope Francis, Bishop Ray, priests, all parents and teachers; that they may walk the talk, nurturing honesty, respect and kindness in daily encounters. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader*** **6** We ask you to Lord to heal all who are suffering at this time… whose lives are torn apart by war or famine, and our those nearby who experience depression, homelessness or stress; may our practical concern offer hope in action. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** Grant eternal rest to those who have died…. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Loving God who call us by name, look with kindness on your friends gathered here tonight. Throughout this time of preparation for Holy Communion, may we continue to grow in love with you and with one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Priest*** We pray the prayer that Jesus taught us **Our Father**… As friends of Jesus, let us reach out and offer one another a sign of peace.

Receive this candle. May lighting it at home remind you that this faith community joins with you as a circle of faith friends to welcome, encourage and support you. +May Christ’s light always shine brightly in your hearts, your homes, in our parish and in the world. **.**

***All* Amen.**

**Circle of friends all around you.**

**Circle of friends, strong and true**

**Circle of friends, always there for you.**

**Closing Song**

**Preparation for Holy Communion**

**November 2017**

**We Celebrate the Saints**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

**Reader 1** Through our baptism we are already saints… or maybe more accurately saints in progress, still needing L-plates. The faithful departed are saints because their time on earth is over. Through Christ we are united with the saints. The communion of saints is a profound connection shared among the saints, the holy ones, and ourselves as Christian faithful. We are all members of the one body with Christ at the head. At the beginning of this Eucharist, we pause and remember; we take our place in this communion of saints as we join together in praising God.

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Homily Notes***

The best definition of a Saint for me comes from a four-year-old girl who had visited a church with her granny. It was a beautiful day and the sun was shining brightly. She had been captivated with the variety of colours and luminosity in the stained-glass windows. Her joy was obvious when telling her mum all about it when she got home. When asked, “What is a Saint?” she immediately responded “Someone who lets the light through.” That story got me thinking about how the saints let God’s light shine in their lives through acts of compassion and generosity.

* Parents and grandparents, I invite you to share with your family and friends, stories of your favourite saints… maybe Brendan, Brigid, Patrick, Ita…
* Become aware of all the saints in our world today who let God’s light shine through their lives… eg Brother Kevin who’s involved in the Capuchin Day Centre in Dublin.
* How can you use your gifts and talents to let God’s love shine through?

As we now turn to pray the Creed in the Missalette, we will say it slower today to hear better the words of our faith and the hope it offers.

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** In this month as we celebrate the Communion of Saints: the faithful departed and the living faithful, we present our prayers to the Lord. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 2*** For leaders in our Church and in our world, that they may use their talents and gifts to create communities of peace. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For the people who are shining lights in our world – those who radiate God’s love by offering encouragement and seeking to improve life for others. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For the children preparing for Holy Communion, that by learning about Jesus they may discover the wonderful friendship that he offers us every day of our lives. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2***  For all who are grieving in our parish, that they may know your close presence Lord, through our compassion and patience. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For all who have died. We are grateful for the love and the faith they handed onto us. This week we remember especially… Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** Loving God you listen with an attentive heart to our prayers. Give healing to those who mourn and a generosity of spirit to those gathered, that we, like the Saints, might use our gifts for your greater glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 3*** We pause for a moment and remember the Saints. We also remember those, whom we knew and loved, who are now part of the Communion of Saints. We are grateful for their lives, their love, their faith. We are all part of God’s blessing.

“I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me. I am stronger for their courage, I am wiser for their words. I am lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter future. I am grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this Earth.

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us. They are saints and they are humans, they are angels, they are friends. I am honoured by their passion for our liberty. I will stand a little taller, I will work a little longer. And my shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow me. “[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Preparation for Holy Communion**

**December 2017**

**We Wait for Jesus’ Birth**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader 1*** Just as we prepare our homes to welcome visitors, today we open our hearts to prepare an inner céad mile fáilte as we wait for Jesus’ birth. Is the cave of your heart ready to receive Jesus? Simply sit and wait in joyful hope and you be will be surprised by the One who is the Light of the World. He enters our messy reality in the most unexpected places!

***Lighting of Advent Wreath***

As we bring flame to this candle on this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ week of Advent, may God bring light to our hearts now and always.

***Liturgy of the Word***

Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word

***Homily Notes***

During Advent we are invited to prepare for Jesus’ birth in a special way. With the shorter days and almost busy atmosphere around getting ready for Christmas, the readings this month invite us to cultivate and prepare an inner space to welcome Jesus…who arrives in unexpected places! A special guest is on his way – are we ready to receive him? How might we do this? The people presented to us in the gospels are ordinary folk who made extraordinary choices. John the Baptist lives very simply, his whole attention on preparing for the One who is to come. Despite being in wilderness territory, John’s message is one of hope and trustful expectation. Mary in the culture of her times was a nobody – being young / a woman / unmarried. Yet God asks for her co-operation to bring Jesus into the world. Mary is able to respond with her Yes, because she knows how deeply she is loved by God.

The best way to grow in love with someone is to spend time together. Perhaps this Advent you could share with your family and friends who are the people who inspire you and give you hope. Or you might like to light a candle before dinner and ask for God’s love to shine in your home / our community / our world. As we progress through Advent, the candles burn brighter. May we too grow radiant in awareness of God’s unique love for each of us.

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** As God’s family in faith, we present our prayers as we wait expectantly for Jesus’ birth. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 2*** We ask for blessings on all leaders – church, political, business and community leaders – that they may be people of hope who prepare a just way forward for the good of all. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For parents who are helping their children get ready to receive the sacraments in the months ahead, that this time of preparation may be experienced as active waiting in joyful hope.Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For a deepening of faith this Advent time, that we may open our hearts to welcoming Jesus in unexpected places…in the eyes of the homeless person on the street, or in the demanding neighbour or family member. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** We thank you Lord for the gift of your creation, your creatures and spaces which bring joy. We delight in their presence. May they be cherished and protected from generation to generation. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** May your tender love enfold all who mourn at this time… Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** For all of our loved ones who have died, we ask for the gift of your eternal peace. We remember especially… Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest***  Gentle God, grant these our prayers and help us to live daily with awareness of your generous love for us. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 3*** We pause for a moment… focusing our attention on the lit candle/s in the sacred space.

Just as the light grows stronger in the Advent wreath as we approach Christmas,

may the flame of Christ’s love grow brighter in our hearts and homes.

May we radiate this love,

through small gestures of kindness and soft words of encouragement,

to all whom we encounter in these winter days,

as we wait in joyful hope for Jesus’ birth. Amen.



**Preparation for Holy Communion**

**January 2018**

**We Listen to God’s Word**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader 1*** Today we gather as a family of families and focus on listening to God’s Word. We might think that a good set of earphones or high definition speakers will help us hear better - but best of all is an open heart willing to listen to the other person. When we are relaxed, we are more open to hearing at a deeper level. Take a moment to arrive and be here. Take a deep breath and ask for the gift of deep listening. It might help us to hear God’s word in a new way during this celebration or later on in the day!

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Homily Notes***

At the beginning of his guidelines to living well St. Benedict asks the listener to “incline the ear of your heart” – That small physical detail reveals a profound disposition of attentiveness. Did you ever notice how when it comes to people or news we’re not interested in, we can be very poor listeners?! If we are absorbed by our own thoughts or a TV programme or a PlayStation game, then nothing gets through. On the contrary, good listening is an act of love. We know the difference both from external cues and inner feelings. Good listening takes patience and draws us out of ourselves. It asks perceptive questions and brings us to a place of new life. We see this in the gospels this month where Jesus questions and invites his disciples to be with him. Good listening reflects our relationship with God. The Word of God is as alive and active now as when it was first written! We can welcome this life-giving word by cultivating moments of silence in our daily lives, letting the real stuff of life emerge and be transformed by God’s healing word. Moment by moment we begin to find God in all places when we listen attentively… at home, in school, at work, relaxing with friends, here… now! Where do you listen for God’s word? What is God saying to you today?

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** Loving God, your Word invites us to turn to you at all times, and so we bring you the prayers of our hearts. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 2*** For all who are leaders in the church and State, that they may listen and respond to the plight of migrants and refugees. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For parents who are helping their child prepare for the sacraments of reconciliation, communion and confirmation, that this experience will bring added joy into their families as they grow in understanding of God’s love. Bless all grandparents and godparents in passing on the gift of faith. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For all families, especially those struggling with communication, that they may experience the support needed and grow into life-giving ways of relating. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** We thank you for your gift of creation. May we learn to listen to the cry of the earth and be mindful of the impact of our actions. Let our care and concern be shown through nurturing all life. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For all who mourn the death of their loved ones, may they know your generous care through our presence and prayers. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** Hold close in your light those who have died. We remember especially… Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Ever loving God, in your kindness answer our prayers and deepen in us the gift of listening heart. Through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 3*** We pause for a moment to listen to the stirrings in our hearts…

Teach us to listen, Lord, to those near and dear: family, friends, co-workers, neighbours…

Help parents to be attentive to the moods of children, to hear the unspoken words of their life-partner and to respond with compassion.

Help children to listen and recognise loving care in the “No, you can’t” and to respond with gentleness.

Teach us all to listen, Lord, to those far away or unknown in our parish – to the whisper of one who is sick, to the silence of a refugee unable to speak our language, and to the tears of loneliness and heartbreak.

Teach us to listen, Lord, for your word - in busyness and in boredom, in certainty and in doubt, in noise and in silence.

Teach us to listen Lord and to respond with care.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Preparation for Holy Communion**

**February 2018**

**I’m Sorry**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite\****

***Reader 1*** This month we are bombarded with the commercial aspect of St. Valentine’s day: cards, flowers, gifts. These can be lovely to receive on the day. However, a gift that keeps on giving is gift of reconciliation… The two words “I’m sorry” help evolve a relationship. The first words of our Mass “The Lord be with you” might seem short and ordinary enough, yet they hold the full mystery of Jesus – God with us. No matter what the circumstances, Jesus is always with us, alongside, inviting us to a fullness of life. In asking for forgiveness, we celebrate God’s generous love for each one of us.

***\*\*Lent***

***Reader 1*** In Lent we’re asked to engage in a journey of prayer, fasting and charitable acts. It begins on Ash Wednesday with an invitation to take stock of our lives – our relationships with God, others, self – to see where we have sinned, where we have missed the mark, and to turn around and start afresh. We are invited to believe the good news that God forgives us and loves us. The two words “I’m sorry” will carry us far. The first words of our Mass “The Lord be with you” might seem short and ordinary enough, yet they hold the full mystery of Jesus – God with us. No matter what the circumstances, Jesus is always with us, alongside, inviting us to a fullness of life. In asking for forgiveness, we celebrate God’s generous love for each one of us.

***Penitential Rite***

***Priest*** For the times our thoughts were judgemental and condescending… Lord have mercy… **Lord have mercy.**

For the occasions when our words were shouted in temper or held back in resentment… Christ have mercy… **Christ have mercy.**

For the moments when our actions were selfish or mean-spirited… Lord have mercy… **Lord have mercy.**

May our loving God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Homily Notes***

Do you remember a time when you said “I’m sorry” and you knew you were forgiven? Sometimes you see forgiveness in the eyes, or the lift of the head and a sigh. Sometimes it’s in the hug that holds you. Sometimes it comes later on when the words have had time to settle and the other person understands you really are sorry for what you have done.

In the gospels this month there are many accounts of Jesus healing people. But the story doesn’t end with the healing. For Peter’s mother in law, healing liberates her into action – she gets up and starts serving. The leper isn’t too sure he can be healed, how could Jesus take interest in someone like him? an outcast… isolated… yet of course Jesus wants to heal him. And he goes on to share his joy with others. We too are loved into being continuously by our God. Love cannot be hidden – it is to be shared. Pope Francis suggests a simple way we can cultivate love is through the art of forgiveness: regularly saying Please, Thank You, I’m Sorry… and meaning it! It’s as simple and as difficult as that. When I can name my wrongdoing, freedom arises. Relationship is established…with self, others, God. We come to know that the only meaningful love is that which sees us as we are, and loves us as we are.



***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** Loving God you assure us of your welcome in love for each of us at all times. With confidence, we now bring the prayers of our hearts to you. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 2*** For leaders of churches and nations, may they always actively promote movement towards forgiveness and reconciliation. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For parents, who are helping their children prepare for the sacraments, may the encouragement of forgiveness surprise you in unexpected ways. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For family members experiencing estrangement, and for all who are hurting at this time, may they know our support on their journey to a place of healing. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For your creation which is under threat of pollution or destruction, that we might reconcile our current wants with future needs for the sake of generations to come. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** For our dead, that they may know true reconciliation in your presence. We remember especially… Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

O God, help us to bring our lives into alignment with your desire for us to flourish in loving and just relationships with you and one another. We make these and all our prayers through Christ your Son, our Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit. One God, for ever and ever.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 3*** We pause for a moment.

There’s a great book called “Forgiving the People You Love to Hate”! It’s an honest admission that there are certain people who constantly push our buttons, with whom we need to practice forgiveness frequently. Yet the author recognises God at work when the desire for reconciliation tugs at her heart. She asks God to be with her like a torch in the darkness or an umbrella in the rain, to be a guiding light and shelter for the journey towards forgiveness. Today, who is God asking you to forgive?

*Pause*

And if forgiveness seems impossible to you at the moment, take heart from this prayer written by South African Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho:

“I want to be willing to forgive

but I dare not ask for the will to forgive

in case you give it to me

and I am not yet ready…

I am at the prayer before the prayer of forgiveness.

grant me the will to want to forgive

grant it to me, not yet but soon…”[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Preparation for Holy Communion**

**March 2018**

**Lent**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader 1*** We welcome the girls and boys from Second class who are preparing for their Holy Communion. In Lent, we are repeatedly called into deeper relationship with God and others. We are asked to have a change of heart – from our sometimes hard-hearted, selfish ways into awareness of the wholehearted love of God. So, we are all invited to come just as we are, that’s how God loves us, here and now in this parish celebration.

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Homily Notes***

Lent is a journey of preparation, continually inviting us to a fullness of life. The gospels in Lent tend to highlight a movement of openness. The gospels speak of contrasting elements: night and day; darkness and light; sleep and wakefulness; and death and life. They speak of conscious and unconscious living. They invite us to wake up to what’s going on, to take stock, to ask for forgiveness and start afresh. God’s message is also expressed in nature. At this time of year, Earth is gradually coming into full light between the spring equinox this month and the summer solstice. Each dawn is a new beginning. Can we live this fresh start every day in how we relate with our families, friends and neighbours? What might it look like in your home to ask for and receive forgiveness daily for our thoughts / words / actions?

In Lent, we are also encouraged to pray and share what we have…when we do this in faith, it bears significant fruit. We hear this in the story about the grain of wheat – despite being dropped on the ground, away from all the other wheat grains on the stalk, it has the choice of closing up and dying or risking opening up…which leads to new life… In its own way, this parable speaks of what will happen Jesus during the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) and Easter Sunday…when Jesus shares a meal, lovingly washes the feet of friends, gives his all, his life and dies on the cross on Good Friday. Then there’s the bleakness of Holy Saturday until we gather again in the dark, waiting in hope, watching as the light of the Easter fire grows stronger, and celebrate the Risen Christ.

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** With trust we bring our prayers to the Lord who is compassion and love. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 2*** For all leaders in our church, especially Pope Francis and Bishop Ray, that their witness and encouragement may inspire Christians to be joyful messengers of God’s love. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For the work of Trócaire and all who support community development initiatives overseas whilst creating awareness and being advocates for justice at home. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For the children preparing for their Holy Communion, that this time of preparation on their faith journey strengthen them for a lifetime. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For one another, that this time of Lent may be a healing experience and an encounter with the compassionate person of Christ. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** For our dead, that they will know the great welcome of Christ moving from death to life everlasting. We remember especially… Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

O God be present in our hearts this day. Gather all our contrariness and give us your spirit of peace. We make these and all our prayers through Christ your Son, our Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit. One God, for ever and ever.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 3*** We pause for a moment, aware of Jesus’ presence with us now. Teresa of Avila offers encouraging words: “God is always there if you feel wounded. God kneels over this earth like a divine medic, and God’s love thaws the holy in us.” Take a moment to look back over the last day or so in your mind… What have been the key moments? ... For what are you most grateful? … Where have you felt most happy? Least happy? … Talk to God about these experiences… of joy or of hurts … maybe you want to offer God your own words of thanks or sorrow… and listen to God’s response in your heart. From this place of being held in love, we look to the day ahead with encouragement.

There is always a great welcome awaiting you in the Eucharist and through the sacrament of Reconciliation – may there be many happy returns!

**Preparation for Holy Communion**

**April 2018**

**We Give Thanks**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader 1*** We gather this Easter time to celebrate the great gift of God’s love for each one of us. Pause for a moment, and ponder for what are you most grateful? … It is a joy to see your smiles as you ponder gratitude. So, with hearts full of thanks, we enter this eucharist with a gesture of welcome to those around us… a nod, a smile, a kind word, a handshake… You and yours are very welcome here in our parish community.

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Homily Notes for Third Sunday of Easter***

On Holy Thursday, Jesus gathered with his friends. During the meal, he said to them “Do this in memory of me” referring to two actions: keeping gathering around this table for a meal that nourishes, and offer loving service to others.

The word Eucharist comes from the Greek *eucharisto* – an expression of gratitude or thankfulness, and which leads outwards to service. We see this in today’s gospel. The two walking along the road were sad after all the events at the weekend. Their friend Jesus was dead and they couldn’t make sense of it. They can’t see straight and don’t even recognise the Risen Christ when he joins them. Yet this stranger asks how they are, and listens…then when invited to share a meal, all changes at the remembrance of the breaking of the bread. They know Jesus is alive. Their hearts are on fire and they run to share the good news. When we are grateful, we can’t but share it! When gratitude is in our hearts, it is nourished now at this table. It spills into our day in multiple ways. Perhaps at home you might like to pray a grace before / after meal to foster this gratitude? With whom, and how will you share your thankfulness today?

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** We continue to give thanks this Easter season to the Lord of life and bring him the prayers of our hearts. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 2*** We pray for our Church, that our thankfulness will be actively expressed in our daily lives through our care for one another and all creation. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For parents who are helping their child get ready to receive Holy Communion for the first of many times, that this time of preparation may be one of deepening joy and gratitude.Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** We pray for people who suffer ill-health and their carers, that they be given the strength needed to cope at all times. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For all families – whether united, dispersed, broken, homeless - however we are and wherever we are, may the hope of the Risen Christ give new heart to all, and a knowing that we all belong in the family of God. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For all who mourn at this time, may your tender love enfold them. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** For all of our loved ones who have died we ask for the gift of your eternal peace. We remember especially… Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Gentle God, grant these our prayers and help us to live daily with awareness of your generous love for us. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 3*** Risen Jesus, what joy you offer us. In your life, death and resurrection you trusted fully in God. You give us hope that no matter what, death is not the end. In the messiness of our lives, you show us that new life is possible. New beginnings happen. Your peace calms all fears so we can move out from enclosed rooms. Your joy sets hearts on fire with fresh understanding. You desire that all people would know your message of love. Send us forth from this eucharistic celebration that we may show this love and joy among family, friends and neighbours. May we give witness to your great gift of hope in the week ahead. May we be your Easter people. Amen.

**Sunday after**

**May 2018**

**We Receive the Body of Christ**

**First Holy Communion**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader 1*** We welcome the girls and boys in our parish who - yesterday\* / recently\*\* - celebrated Holy Communion for the first of many times, and hold in prayer their classmates who are not with us today.

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Homily notes***

What a joy it was to share your Holy Communion day…and we get to do it all over again today! This wonderful gift that we receive in Holy communion will nurture us at all stages of life. It is a never-ending love. The Sunday gospels this month reflect this generous heartbeat of expansion and contraction. If we listen to the verbs Jesus uses, we hear “Remain in my love” – that invitation to put down deep roots in God’s love for us, which will then help us to “Love one another” and “Go out to the whole world”. Another translation of “Remain in my love” is **Live on in my love**. As we approach the end of the school year and the summer holidays, no-one wants to remain in school! **Live on** invites us to keep going forward in the sure foundation of God’s love.

On Pentecost Sunday, we hear Jesus offer “Peace be with you; receive the Holy Spirit”. This is balanced the following week with “Go make disciples…Teach…Know that I am with you”. It’s a constant pulse of Jesus’s love in us and through us. No matter what is going on in our lives, with Jesus it’s always a case of welcome back…many happy returns! The sacraments of reconciliation and eucharist await the pleasure of your company.

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** We bring our needs and prayers to the Lord who never forgets his people. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 2*** We pray for our Church, that that it may continue to share the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth and give hope to all peoples. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For parents who journeyed in faith with their children during this year of preparation for Holy Communion, that they may be abundantly blessed in unexpected ways for their generosity and perseverance.Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For all children who celebrated their Holy Communion, that they will come to know what a wonderful, life-long friend they have in Jesus. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** We pray for the World Meeting of Families next August, that Pope Francis’ presence with us in Ireland will infuse an openness of spirit towards healing and reconciliation, solidarity and support for all families that are struggling. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For all in our parish who are suffering, whether known or hidden, that through our actions they may be comforted by a visit, phone-call or thoughtful gesture. We hold in prayer too all who suffer in our world through warfare and famine. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** For all who have died… may they know the Lord’s close comfort and peace. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

Creator God, your love first sent that impulse of life into creation. Continue to deepen your love in us and create us anew to be loving in our homes, schools, workplaces and online. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 3*** Together we pray our Grow in Love prayer after communion:

Lord Jesus I love and adore you. You’re a special friend to me. Welcome, Lord Jesus, O welcome, thank you for coming to me.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, O thank you for giving yourself to me. Make me strong to show your love wherever I may be.

I’m ready now Lord Jesus to show how much I care. I’m ready now to give your love at home and everywhere. Amen.

**Corpus Christi**

**June 2018**

**We Are the Body of Christ**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader 1*** We welcome the girls and boys in our parish who recently celebrated Holy Communion for the first of many times, and hold in prayer their classmates and families who are not here with us today.

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Homily notes***

Today’s gospel recalls the total self-giving nature of Jesus. He keeps nothing back. He gives all of himself to us. We gather together every Sunday as a faith community to remember this generous love. No matter where you travel in the world, even though you may not understand the spoken language, you can join in parish celebrations where you are fluent in this language of this love. Bread and wine are transformed into Jesus’ body and blood. We too are transformed by this love, we are called and chosen to reach out and share this love with others.

***Prayer of the Faithful***

***Priest*** We bring our prayers to Jesus who desires to share all of our lives. The response is Lord graciously hear us.

***Reader 2*** For our Church throughout the world, that faith communities may witness to our calling as the Body of Christ. In times of personal and social upheaval may we be peacemakers in our thoughts, words and actions. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For all children who received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion or Confirmation this year, may their faith continue to be nurtured at home and through our parish. For their families, teachers and all who helped along the way, we give thanks. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For the World Meeting of Families, that the preparations and experiences will nourish and foster an active concern for supporting family life in its diverse expressions. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For the gift of creation, that during the long summer days ahead we will respectfully care for our common home. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Reader 2*** For those among us who mourn their loved ones, may they know the comfort of good friends and accepting listeners in their grief. Lord hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

***Priest*** We pray for the dead … may they know eternal rest in your loving care. Lord hear us… **Lord graciously hear us.**

Generous God, in your abundant love, hear the prayers we make today in the name of your Son, Jesus, our Lord.

***All* Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

***Reader 3*** St. Teresa of Avila’s invitation to live our belief is as relevant today as when it was first written over 500 years ago. On this feast of Corpus Christi, let the strength of Christ renew you. Let his compassion flow through you. Become whom you receive.

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.   
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.  
 Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.   
 Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
 Amen.

**Appendix Liturgical Calendar**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Intention | Sunday | Gospel | Theme |
| **October** | **Called and Chosen** |  |  |  |
| 1 | Day for Life | Ordinary 26 A | Matthew 21: 28 - 32 | True obedience |
| 8 |  | Ordinary 27 | Matthew 21: 33 - 43 | Vineyard owner sends son |
| 15 |  | Ordinary 28 | Matthew 22:1-14 | Many called, few chosen |
| 22 | World Mission Sunday | Ordinary 29 | Matthew 22: 15 - 22 | Entrapment |
| 29 |  | Ordinary 30 | Matthew 22: 34 - 40 | Greatest Commandment |
| **November** | **We Celebrate the Saints** |  |  |  |
| 5 |  | Ordinary 31 | Matthew 23: 1 - 12 | Integrity |
| 12 |  | Ordinary 32 | Matthew 25: 1 - 13 | Being Prepared |
| 19 | World Day of the Poor | Ordinary 33 | Matthew 25: 14 - 30 | Talents |
| 26 |  | Christ the King | Matthew 25: 31 - 46 | Being merciful |
| **December** | **We Wait for Jesus’ Birth** |  |  |  |
| 3 | Migrant’s Sunday | Advent 1 B | Mark 13: 33 - 37 | Stay awake |
| 10 | Bible Sunday | Advent 2 | Mark 1: 1 - 8 | Prepare a way |
| 17 | Expectant Mothers | Advent 3 | John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28 | Witness |
| 24 |  | Advent 4 | Luke 1: 26 - 38 | Annunciation |
| 31 |  | Holy Family | Luke 2: 22 - 40 | Presentation |
| **January** 2018 | **We Listen to God’s Word** |  |  |  |
| 7 |  | Epiphany | Matthew 2: 1 - 12 | Encountering the Magi |
| 14 | Migrants and Refugees | Ordinary 2 | John 1: 35 - 42 | Call and Response |
| 21 | Christian Unity 18 – 15 | Ordinary 3 | Mark 1: 14 – 20 | Repent and Believe, Invitation |
| 28 | Catholic Schools Week | Ordinary 4 | Mark 1: 21 – 28 | Teaching and Ministry |
| **February** | **I’m Sorry** |  |  |  |
| 4 |  | Ordinary 5 | Mark 1: 29 - 39 | Further Healings and Prayer |
| 11 | World Day for the Sick | Ordinary 6 | Mark 1: 40 - 45 | Healing of Leper |
| 18 |  | Lent 1 | Mark 12: 1 - 15 | Wilderness Journey |
| 25 | Temperance | Lent 2 | Mark 9: 2 – 10 | Transfiguration |
| **March** | **Lent** |  |  |  |
| 4 |  | Lent 3 | John 2: 13 - 25 | Cleansing of the Temple |
| 11 |  | Lent 4 | John 3: 14 - 21 | Death - source of new life |
| 18 |  | Lent 5 | John 12: 20 – 33 | Grain of Wheat |
| 25 |  | Palm Sunday | Mark 15: 21 - 41 | Passion and Death of Jesus |
| **April** | **We Give Thanks** |  |  |  |
| 1 |  | Easter | John 20: 1 - 10 | Mary Magdala meets Jesus |
| 8 | Divine Mercy | Easter 2 | John 20: 19 - 31 | Peace |
| 15 |  | Easter 3 | Luke 24: 13 – 35 | Emmaus |
| 22 | Vocations | Easter 4 | John 10: 11 - 18 | Good Shepherd |
| 29 | Communications | Easter 5 | John 15: 1 – 8 | True Vine |
| **May** | **We Receive the Body of Christ** |  |  |  |
| 6 |  | Easter 6 | John 15: 9 – 17 | Remain in my Love |
| 13 |  | Ascension | Mark 16: 14a, 15 - 20 | Reach out to the Margins |
| 20 |  | Pentecost | John 20: 19 - 23 | Receive the Spirit |
| 27 |  | Trinity Sunday | Matthew 28: 16 - 20 | I am with you Always |
| **June 3** | **We are the Body of Christ** | Corpus Christi | Mk 14: 12-16, 22-26 | Do This in Memory of Me |

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1. Standing on the Shoulders by Joyce Johnson Rouse [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Adapted from Teach us to Listen by John Veltri sj [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Book of Forgiving by Desmond and Mpho Tutu [↑](#footnote-ref-3)