

PATRICKSWELL/BALLYBROWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40-day period of fasting before Easter. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are blessed, mixed with either holy oil or water, and marked on our forehead with the sign of the cross. As he signs us with the blessed ashes, our priest prays: "remember you are dust, and to dust you will return" (see Genesis 3:19), or "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" (Mark 1:15). The ashes we use on Ash Wednesday come from the burning of palm branches that were blessed the previous year on Palm Sunday. The ashes serve two purposes. First, they remind us of our mortality and humanity as we begin the Lenten Fast. Second, ashes are a biblical symbol of repentance, sorrow, and humility. There are many cases in the Scriptures of wearing ashes as a sign of penitence, often while wearing sackcloth. The prophet Jeremiah (6:26) urges his readers to "gird on sackcloth and roll in ashes." Fasting is an important part of Ash Wednesday, and Ash Wednesday is an official fast day of the Church, along with Good Friday. Fasting has always been important in our faith. It was while "worshipping the Lord and fasting" that the Holy Spirit led the Apostles to set apart Paul and Barnabas for their work (Act 13). The history of the Church is filled with stories of fasting and its spiritual value. Jesus warns us not to show off about fasting however, and Ash Wednesday fasting is about repentance.

Masses for Ash Wednesday:

Patrickswell – 9.30am and 6.30pm. Ballybrown 9.30am and 8.00pm.

Trócaire Boxes are available from the exits of both Churches. Our parish made a very generous contribution last year, we thank you again for that and hope for your continuing support towards Trócaire's work, particularly during this Lenten season. www.trocaire.org.

Limerick Choral Festival Society is thrilled that the world-famous Palestrina Choir are coming to Limerick for the very first time to perform at the opening concert of this year's choral festival (26th-28th February 2016).

The concert takes place on **Friday, 26th February in St. Josephs Church**, O Connell Ave., **at 7:30pm**. Tickets can be purchased online at www.litmt.ie, from the Abbey Bookshop or at the door (Priced €15/€12).

Selesian School: 'Beauty and the Beast' will be staged in the Lime Tree Theatre on the Mary Immaculate College Campus. Two shows on Thursday, 25th February and Friday, 26th February. Tickets available from the Lime Tree on 061 774774.

C.B.S. Sexton Street Bicentenary of the Christian Brothers coming to Limerick with mass in St. John's Cathedral on Sunday February 7th at 12.00noon. Light refreshments will be available in the Secondary School afterwards.

Aware Depression Support Group meets: Limerick – Wednesdays at 8pm, Redemptorist Community, South Circular Road, Limerick. Aware Support Groups are free to attend, no referral necessary. www.aware.ie

Ballybrown Senior Choir:

Please note, rehearsals resume in Ballybrown Church on Tuesday 9th February at 8pm. We will be preparing for St. Patrick's Day and Easter. New choir members always welcome. If you would like to join, please come along on Tuesday evenings.

Patrickswell Tidy Towns Group will be hosting a Pancake Coffee Morning and Cake Sale next Sunday, February 7, in the Cú Chulainn, from 12noon onwards and we look forward to seeing our friends and supporters there. Donations of home baking or spot prizes would be very welcome.

Limerick GAA Senior Scor will be held on Sunday 21st February at 7.00pm in Askeaton Community Centre. Events taking place are Set & Figure Dancing, Solo Singing, Balad Group, Instrumental Music, Novelty Group, Recitation. If you are interested in taking part contact Evelyn Adams 087-2211804 or Gerry Griffin 085-1388028 immediately.

Ballybrown GAA juvenile Club Registration Night will be held on Friday 19th Feb at 7.30 – 9.00pm in GAA Club. Membership Fee for 2016 are as follows. €60 Family of 4(2Adults/2 Children), €20 - 1st Child, €10 - 2nd Child. €50 Ballybrown GAA Adult Membership.

Crib Donations: Monies donated at the cribs this year amounted to €1265 from both Churches. The money has been given to Sr. Bride Counihan, a Little Sister of the Assumption, to help with her work in a remote area of Brazil. "Thank you" to all who donated so generously.

Masses this Week:

Patrickswell: Monday to Friday at 9.30am. Wednesday & Saturday 6.30pm. Sunday 11.30am.

Adoration: Saturdays 8.00am – 12noon.

As this is the Year of Mercy there will be an additional session of Eucharistic Adoration in honour of God's divine mercy and love on Sunday 14th February from 4.00 - 6.00 pm in the meeting room in Patrickswell church. Call in for 5 or 10 mins.

Pre-Baptismal Gatherings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Church.

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th weekends of the month. Saturdays 5.00pm, Sundays 12.30pm

Ballybrown: Monday to Friday at 9.30am (Including jAsh Wednesday)

Wednesday 8.00pm. Saturday 8.00pm & Sunday 10.00am

Adoration: Wednesday 7.00am – 8.00pm.

One month's notice required when booking a Baptism.

Bookings can be made with Pauline in the Parish Office or with the Church Sacristans.

Parish Office Hours: Mon/Thurs/Fri from 09.30am to 3.30pm. Tel: 353454
Located in New Community Resource Centre, Ballybrown between Church and Primary School.