

# God's People Our Parish

St. James and St Hugh, Kilbeggan and Rahugh

Saturday Vigil 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. Friday 7.30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.

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**Come to me,  
all you that  
are weary and  
are carrying  
heavy bur-  
dens, and I  
will give you  
rest. Take my  
yoke upon  
you, and learn  
from me; for I  
am gentle and  
humble in  
heart, and  
you will find  
rest for your  
souls. For my  
yoke is easy,  
and my bur-  
den is light.”  
Mt.11: 28-30**



**Make love  
your aim**

**1 Cor 14:1**

## First Sunday of Lent

8 p.m. Brian McNeill Month's Memory  
May Colgan Tullamore  
Rose Scully

11 a.m. Jean Landers 20th Anniversary  
Thursday 9.30 a.m. Rose and Jim O'Connor  
Friday 9.30 a.m. Pauline Heffernan First Anniversary

## Second Sunday of Lent

8 p.m. P.J. Smith and deceased members of the family  
Ann Donoghue Mullingar Road  
11 a.m. Larry Carroll 5th Anniversary  
**Please pray for the soul of John McCormack,  
USA & late of Abbeylara, husband of Moira Car-  
ton, Shureen who died this week.**

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

**Family Rosary and  
Benediction Sunday  
to Thurs-  
day 7.30  
p.m.**



**Plate €235; Renovation Fund Envelopes €235; Offerings €200.** Thanks to all who contribute in whatever way to the parish, your generosity is appreciated. If you wish you can leave your envelopes and contributions in the collection tables in the Church or in the Parochial House. **St James' Church is now open two years since the 3rd of February 2019. Despite all the difficulties with Covid, and not having public Masses the debt on the parish is now down to €140,000 which is far better than we could have hoped.**



**COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE ALONE** manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling **0818 222 024**.

**PIONEER ASSOCIATION** Consider taking the PIONEER SHORT-TERM PLEDGE for Lent? If you would like to make this pledge for six weeks, you can join online at [www.pioneerassociation.ie](http://www.pioneerassociation.ie)

**ACCORD** provides a free and confidential Relationships Support Phone Line to those experiencing extra pressure due to the COVID-19 pandemic: **01 531 3331**



**Thank you** to the members of Kilbeggan Men's Shed, Kilbeggan Shamrocks GAA Club and Kilbeggan Fire Service who assisted in getting our Marquees set up, your help was much appreciated. From all at **Kilbeggan Medical Centre**



**Trócaire's Lenten Appeal for 2021** has now begun. This year's campaign will focus on exploring the Impact of Conflict on Families in South Sudan. Ajak and her son Ngor, along with Awut and her granddaughter Nyajima, are featured on the 2021 Trócaire box.

Both families had to flee the awful violence of South Sudan's war. Ajak lost her husband due to the fighting and had to flee her home with her young children. She came to a village where she met Awut, who had also been forced to flee for her life. Despite having so little herself, Awut welcomed Ajak onto her small patch of land and now both families support each other to rebuild their lives.

Every day remains a struggle for Awut and Ajak and their families. They strive to earn money, grow food and attend school. Life continues to be full of challenges and obstacles for these amazing women, but they face these challenges together, with dignity and solidarity.



**Trócaire boxes are available in our Churches** and every cent collected does make a difference. Trócaire thanks you for your support in these difficult times.

More information available on [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org)



### ***Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love.***

#### ***1. Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters.***

In this Lenten season, *accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ* means, first of all, opening our hearts to God's word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation.....*Lent is a time for believing*, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to "make his dwelling" among us (cf. *Jn* 14:23). Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an

excess of information, whether true or false – in order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet "full of grace and truth" (*Jn* 1:14): the Son of God our Saviour.

#### ***2. Hope as "living water" enabling us to continue our journey.***

*In these times of trouble*, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 32-33; 43-44). Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: "Be reconciled to God" (2 *Cor* 5:20). By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain....

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with "speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be "willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference" (*ibid.*, 224).

*Through recollection and silent prayer*, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. *Mt* 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.....

#### ***3. Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope.***

*To experience Lent with love* means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord's word to his Servant, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you" (*Is* 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters.....

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

***Extracts from 'Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2021'***