



**MONKSTOWN  
(Church of St. Patrick)**

Mon – Fri @ 10 am  
Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30  
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**PARTNERSHIP PARISHES**

**KILL O’ THE GRANGE  
(Holy Family)**

Mon – Sat @ 10 am  
Sat Vigil 5 pm Sun 10 & 12  
Web: [www.holyfamilyparish.ie](http://www.holyfamilyparish.ie)  
Parish Office Tel: (01) 284 5299  
Email: [admin@holyfamily.ie](mailto:admin@holyfamily.ie)

**BLACKROCK  
(St. John the Baptist)**

Mon – Fri @ 1:05 pm  
Sat Vigil 6:30 pm Sun 10 & 12  
Web: [www.sjb.ie](http://www.sjb.ie)  
Parish Office Tel: (01) 288 2104  
Email: [office@sjb.ie](mailto:office@sjb.ie)

**NEWTOWNPARK  
(Guardian Angels)**

Mon – Sat @ 10 am  
Sun 9:30 10:45 & 12 noon  
[www.newtownparkparish.com](http://www.newtownparkparish.com)  
Parish Office Tel: (01) 283 2988  
E: [parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com](mailto:parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com)

**FOXROCK  
(Our Lady of Perpetual Succor)**

Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri @ 10 am  
Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30  
Web: [www.foxrockparish.ie](http://www.foxrockparish.ie)  
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# NEWSLETTER

Fourth Week of Lent  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026



## LAETARE SUNDAY

This weekend we celebrate **Laetare Sunday**, the midpoint of our Lenten journey. The word *Laetare* means “Rejoice,” and the Church invites us to pause, breathe, and notice the quiet signs of God’s grace already at work in our lives.

Lent can sometimes feel long, but Laetare Sunday reminds us that the light of Easter is drawing near. The gentler tone of the liturgy, and the Gospel of healing all speak of a God who meets us with compassion and restores our hope.

As we enter the second half of Lent, may this Sunday renew our courage, soften our hearts, and help us recognise the blessings that accompany us on the road toward Easter.

## Mass Intentions

We remember in our prayer at mass this weekend the following whose anniversaries and month’s mind occur at this time:



- John Houlihan (A)
- Catriona Houlihan (A)
- Niall & Peggy Quinn (A)
- Derek Ryan (A)
- Ivan Austin (A)
- Margaret Ryan (A)
- Lily Godley (A)
- Marie Broughan (A)
- Myles Rowan (A)
- Lily Hackett (A)

Our local St. Vincent de Paul conference will take up their monthly church



collection after all masses next weekend. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH

Our Parish Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday this week and will re-open on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March



## Community Connect Ireland’s Baby Bank

### THANK YOU

Community Connect have written to express their thanks to all in Monkstown who supported their Drive and Drop campaign last weekend.

## TRIALS & TRIUMPH OF JESUS Preparation for Holy Week and Easter

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March 11am to 1 pm  
Blessed Sacrament Chapel  
Holy Family Parish, Kill Ave.

Presented by Sean Goan



Sean Goan is a teacher and Scripture scholar. He has lectured in Biblical topics in the Marino Institute, the Priory Institute and the Milltown Institute, and has published books on the Sunday Lectionary and the Gospel of John. He is a founder member of the Tarsus Scripture School.



## Irish Music and Dancing

Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> March after 10 am mass

As a celebration in advance of St. Patrick’s Day, children from the family Mass group will perform some beautiful Irish Music and Irish dancing in the church immediately after the 10 am Mass. Join us for some refreshments afterwards in the Parish centre. All are welcome. For further information contact Anthea 0857747466



# LENT



## Commentary on the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

### *1 Samuel 16:6-7, 10-13;*

In the text for our first reading today from the book of the Prophet Samuel we see Samuel out looking for a successor to Saul – Israel’s king. He goes to Jesse of Bethlehem who presents each of his sons except the youngest who is out minding the herd. However, the Lord chooses none of those presented but instead singles out the youngest boy – David – for service as the anointed King of Israel.

### *Ephesians 5:8-14;*

St Paul reminds us in the second reading from his letter to the Ephesians, that, as Christians, we are children of the light (that is, of Christ) and that we are to live by that light in all things. Only by right living can we really be children of the light and know what path the Lord is marking out for us in this life.

### *John 9:1-41*

In our gospel text for today we see Jesus on a Sabbath day giving sight to a man born blind. The miracle itself receives little print but the reaction of the Pharisees and officials receives a lot of print as John records for us that reaction.

The Pharisees maintained that the man had been born blind because of sins committed either by his parents or by himself, though Jesus tells us that this was not the case. They question the man and his parents and the man answers back quite strongly and so receives a rough time from the Pharisees.

This incident began to drive a wedge among some of the Pharisees and between the Pharisees and the followers of Christ. The first reading and gospel remind us that how we perceive the world is not always how God perceives it and that often times God chooses those whom the world rejects (such as the boy David) to lead his people.

### *Psalm 22*

The response to the psalm is:

***The Lord is my shepherd:  
there is nothing I shall want.***

## Fr Kevin’s Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Something goes wrong. Something breaks. Something is missing. Something that was supposed to happen doesn’t. Who’s responsible for this? We demand accountability. We expect an explanation. We insist on satisfaction, and most of the time that’s a reasonable position.

But we can become buried in our grievances. When life goes awry, when dreams crash into reality, when what we expected to be a sure thing crashes and burns, we look for something — or someone — to blame.

Career stalled? Blame immigrants, blame people of colour, blame those smart and competent women breaking “the glass ceiling,” blame the “old boys’ network.

The world’s a mess? Blame the political party or cultural minority or religious group or government agency of your choice. Blame whatever end of the political spectrum you wish — right, left or apathetic middle. We’re in the place we’re in because too many buy the slick advertising and the manipulative marketing.

We’ve become too accepting, too understanding, too gullible. It’s the fault of the manufacturer, the sales rep, the delivery service. It’s because the doctors, the nurses, the police, the teachers who messed up. Fire the waitress, the printer, the driver, the contractor, the clerk, the secretary, the intern.

But more often than we realize, we’re looking for someone to take responsibility so we can let ourselves off the hook. We find some strange satisfaction in nursing our grievances. There’s an element of control in demanding to know, who did this to us?

At its worst, we become mired in cynicism: We scoff at those who serve the community, we dismiss every public servant as a “hack” or corrupt, we refuse to “waste our time” getting involved in the community because nothing’s ever going to change.

The real problem is that while we look outside of ourselves to place blame, we don’t look within ourselves for taking responsibility for making things right.

To the question of who was to blame for the tragedy of the man born blind, Jesus replies, Nobody. He was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. In Jesus’ vision of the Kingdom of God, everything, even the most painful and debilitating situation can become an occasion in which God’s works can be revealed if we seek resurrection rather than recrimination — but that can’t happen if we nurse our grievances, isolate ourselves in our anger, focus only on finding someone to “blame.”

We all suffer times of pain and hurt and confusion that we have little or no control over. The challenge to us as followers of Jesus is not to seek someone or something to blame but to move beyond our anger and brokenness to transform our “blindness” into holy light.

O God, open our eyes from the blindness of self-centeredness. Do not let us nurse our grudges or isolate ourselves in cynicism, but instil in us the light of your wisdom that we may find your peace and grace in the challenges we face, transforming our Good Fridays into experiences of resurrection.