

## Invictus - *by William Ernest Henley*

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.

### Weekday Masses

Monday, 8pm  
[ Kathleen Ruddy,  
Larahirl], Devotions  
after Mass;

Tuesday, 10 am  
[Patrick McLaughlin,  
Drumley];

Wednesday, 10 am;  
Thursday, 7.30 pm,  
Taize prayer after  
Mass; Friday, 7.30  
pm [Gerard  
McLaughlin,  
Milltown MM];  
Saturday 11 am.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

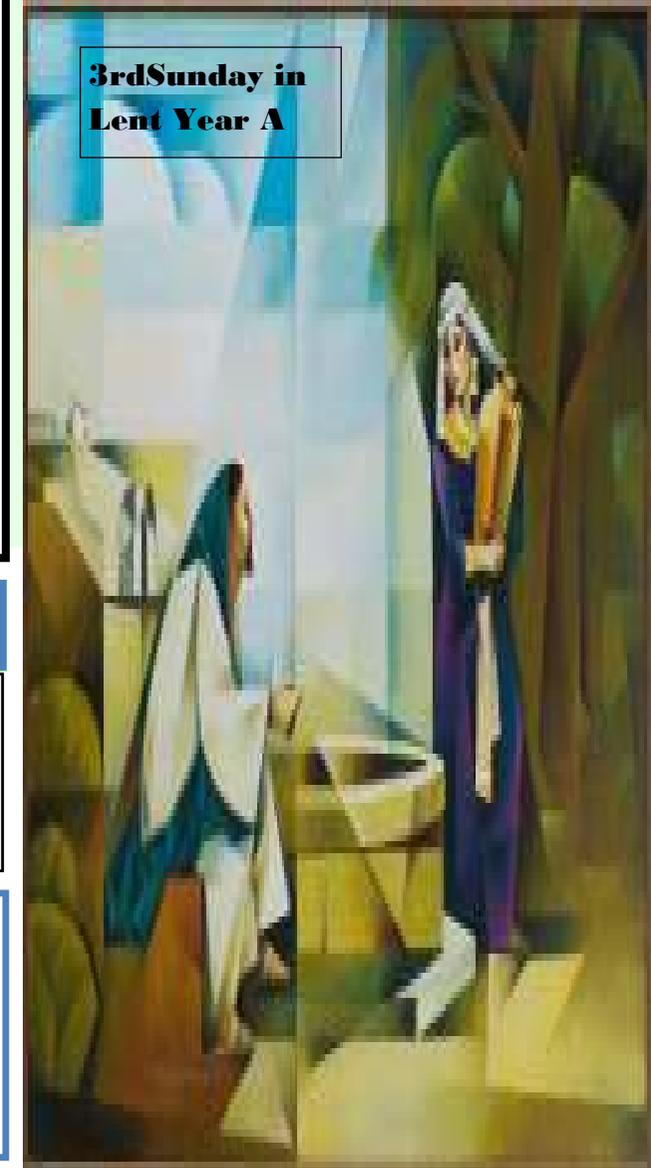
**O that today you  
would listen to his  
voice: 'Harden not  
your hearts.'**

No weekend Masses  
until further notice.  
Sick will not be at-  
tended this month.

# St Mary's Church Bocan

15th March 2020 No. 16

**3rd Sunday in  
Lent Year A**



Fr. Brian Brady, P.P., V.F 9376264  
Fr. Karl Haan C.C. 9379107  
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**Collections** Weekly Offering: €1,305  
Development Collection €500;. Your generosity to our collections is much appreciated. .



**First Reading**  
*Exodus 17:3-7*  
God tells Moses to bring forth water from the rock.

**Second Reading**  
*Romans 5:1-2,5-8*  
Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**Gospel Reading**  
*John 4:5-42*  
Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well.

**Counters for the Month of** Barbara O'Connor, Bernadette Scott, Maria Finnegan

Life in the Spirit Seminars are taking place in Scoil Eoghain, Moville, from 4-6pm each Sunday up to and including Palm Sunday, 5 April. For Scoil Eoghain, turn left at the Cozy Cottage restaurant just beyond The Square. The school is about 100m on the right hand side. Please note: the Seminar on Sunday 22 March will take place in St. Pius X Church, Moville.

**Thornhill Ministries, 121 Culmore Road, Derry:**

**Praying Lent** Be part of a praying community during Lent. Led Meditation, Exposition, Prayer of the Church and the welcome Lenten soup! **Thu 12/19/26 Mar & 2 Apr 10:30 am-12:45 pm Suggested Donation: £10**

**The Two Popes** A relaxed, yet insightful morning exploring the film 'The Two Popes' with Fr Paschal McDonnell. Cuppa in hand and eye on the screen! All welcome! **Mon 16 Mar 10:30 am-12:45 pm Suggested Donation: £10**

**Let's Talk Music** Those who serve our faith communities through music can come together and explore their ministry's challenges, questions, joys and good practice. **Sat 21 Mar 10:00 am-11:30 am Suggested Donation: £5**

To book or for more information, contact 028 7135 1233 or [thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org](mailto:thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org). Website: [www.thornhillministries.co.uk](http://www.thornhillministries.co.uk)

Third Sunday in Lent, March 15th. Gospel: The Samaritan Woman at the Well  
The story of the 'nameless' Samaritan Woman at the Well, recorded only in the Gospel of St John, is full of truths and powerful lessons. An outcast in her own community, the Samaritan woman even despised herself, but Jesus recognised her spiritual thirst and engaged with her. The grace of God is always there for everyone. Regardless of the entanglements of our lives, He values all of us enough to actively seek us, to draw us to His intimacy. There are many people who thirst for healing, but they do not know how to go about encountering Jesus – perhaps they are too afraid, unsure or embarrassed to talk to God; perhaps they feel excluded or intimidated by others whose main agenda is to recognise and highlight their faults.

"Home to Donegal" concert with Patsy Cavanagh in Carrowmenagh Centre on Sunday 22nd March at 8pm. Songs Stories and Scenery. - Good nights entertainment guaranteed Tel: 9381104

**Carrowmenagh Community Centre** are hosting **Home to Donegal with Patsy Cavanagh** – an evening of song, story and humour on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 8 pm. Tickets at the door. For any further information please contact Patsy 93 81104

**Serenity House - Names are being taken** for Home Revamp & Furniture Upcycling and Bath Bomb & Soap Making.

**Serenity House** is organising a 6 Day Coach Trip to Kilkenny on the 21st June, staying in the Springhill Court Hotel. Phone 9382945 for details.

**'Give me a drink!'**

In today's Gospel, we hear the wonderful account of the woman at the well. We hear of physical thirst but also of a much deeper thirst, for connection and conversion.

During Lent, we are invited into the lives of Trocaire's partners in the global south. We meet Madris in Kenya, who walks around the dusty brown patch of land beside her small home, where she lives with her six children. There are no crops visible, just a few scraggy bushes. Madris tells us, 'I feel very bad when the rains don't come because all my plants depend on rainfall.' Water scarcity worldwide is being accelerated by the climate crisis. Scientists tell us that rain-fed agriculture will drop by 50% world-wide by 2030, due to global warming.

When we think of how we might help, we give, and that is good. But we must also be aware of a deeper conversion that is needed. Change is possible, solutions are there, and as faith communities we are invited into this journey of change. The woman in the Gospel today is so deeply affected by her encounter with Christ that she runs to tell the others. May we also be enthused and open to a real thirst for climate justice, aware that we are called to 'an ecological conversion whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.' (*Laudato Si*, 217)

A **challenge**: How much water do you use? Where water is concerned how can you serve God more fully? For water tips, see [www.taptips.ie](http://www.taptips.ie).

a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night'.