

Church of the Holy Spirit Ballyroan

10th April 2022

HOLY WEEK



As we approach Easter it might be helpful to consider the 'Creed' we say at Mass, as this is in a nutshell what we profess to believe as Catholics:

The history behind our 'Creed' -Every Sunday, midway through Mass, we rise and pray together the **Nicene Creed: "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth"** ... Perhaps the Creed is something we can take for granted. But it was the result of both faith and controversies in the centuries of the early Church.

In the first few centuries after Christ, Christians strove to find language to express the truth that **Jesus was truly God and truly man**. However, some proposed different theories. Docetists claimed Jesus was really God and only seemed to be human. Ebionites thought Jesus was only human but denied his pre-existence and divinity.

One heretical idea **Arianism** became very popular. Arius, a popular priest of Alexandria, taught that, Jesus, the Son of God, was the first-born of all creation, but only a creature — a godlike creature, but not God. Furious debate broke out among Christians, with serious consequences: The cities of the Roman Empire were disturbed by riots and pitched battles between opposing sides.

To quell the turmoil, **Emperor Constantine** called all the bishops of the world to meet in Nicaea, across the straits from his new capital, Constantinople. **In A.D. 325, the first worldwide (ecumenical) council in the Church's history** took place. The Council of Nicaea helped to repair a Christian world riven over a single but crucial Greek letter that separated doctrinal truth from heresy: Was the Son of the same substance (*homoousios*) to the Father, or of a similar substance (*homoiousios*)? We hear that truth — *homoousios* — repeated once more today in the revised language of the Creed, in the third edition of the Roman Missal: that **Jesus is "consubstantial" with the Father**.

In the end, the members of the council drafted a profession of faith in which they affirmed the Church's belief that Jesus was truly God made man, eternally begotten of the Father, and born from the Virgin Mary. The council's creed stated unequivocally that the Son was of the same substance *as the Father*

Though the **Creed we recite today** is essentially the same as centuries ago, it has undergone a few modifications. The Church's definitive statement about the divinity and co-equality of the Third Person of the Trinity would not be added until the next ecumenical council at **Constantinople in A.D. 381**. (Thus, the Creed we pray at Mass is technically named the "**Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed.**")

What is Lent and How Do We Celebrate it?

Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year - Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from and it brings our need for a Savior to the forefront. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

Lent is more frequently observed as a solemn time of preparation for remembering of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday till Lent ends on Easter Sunday, Lent is traditional a time of fasting or giving something up, known as abstinence. Lent gives us time to prepare our minds and hearts for remembering the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Prayer is a large focus during Lent. During the 40 days, we seek God's forgiveness, accept his love and mercy, and repent, or turn from our sins. The act of fasting or abstaining from something, like our favourite food or activity, not only gives us time to pray but reminds us of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice.



LENT



Saints of the Day 09nd April—15th April

Saturday: Of the day

Sunday: Palm Sunday

Monday: St. Stanislaus

Tuesday: Of the day

Wednesday: St Martin

Thursday: Holy Thursday

Friday: Celebration Of the Lords Passion



ADVOCATE COLLECTION- APRIL 9th and 10th 2022

The Sunshine Fund of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is holding its annual collection this weekend.

Like all charities we have been unable to fundraise or operate properly over the last two years and so many children have missed out on a holiday. We still don't know if we will be able to hold residential holidays this year; but we still need support to look after the house and plan for our future. The Advocate collection is the only way the Sunshine Fund can finance these activities. Our collectors are outside the church. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you in advance.

Bereavements

We remember all who recently passed away in our parish. Our thoughts and our prayers are with their loved ones and their families.

"Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them".

Things to note for Easter :

Take Note

- Prayer initiative for Lent, Wednesday @7.30 Ruah Centre. Led by Ger Healy
- Easter Confessions Easter Saturday @11.am
- We are delighted to announce that on Easter Sunday we will be baptising a young boy and welcoming him into our Spiritual community.
- Easter week Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday—morning prayer in the church with holy communion.
- No Mass Friday 15th April

Finance Corner

1st Collection: €1,140.00

2nd Collection (Share): €965.00

Shrines: €775.00

Mass Cards /Anniversary Masses/Special Intentions

Mass association cards for the Deceased and the Living are available at the back of the church.

Anniversary Masses and Special Intentions can only be booked through the office.

Individual Mass cards that is, a Mass to be offered for a person on an unspecified day/time can only be booked through the office. This mass may be sent to a priest abroad due to the number of requested Masses.

Mass Intentions 09ND —15TH Of April

Sat 7pm: Mary Rafter (M.M.) Pat O Meara (R.I.P,)

Sun 10am: Della Walsh (A) Margaret & Bill Hinphey (A) Patrick Beere (R.I.P.)

Sun 12pm: Frank Giblin (A) Eddie Mulligan (A)

Mon: Peter Weafer (M.M.) Betty Caulfield (A) Abina Murphy (A)

Tue: Mass Association (Deceased)

Wed: Mass Association (Living)

Thu: Holy Thursday

Fri: Good Friday

Parish Information

Parish Priest: Father Michael Murtagh

Deacon: Frank Browne

Parish Secretary: Mary McDade

Email: ballyroanparish@gmail.com

Parish Office: 01 4947303

Parish Office Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 10am

Saturday: 7pm

Sunday: 10am & 12am

Very Important: Please note that face masks must be worn when entering the church.

Please also ensure you use the hand sanitizer

Thank you for your co-operation.