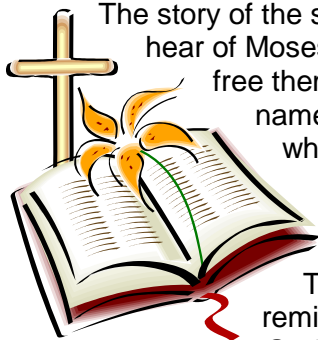


3rd Sunday of Lent



The story of the salvation of God's peoples continues during this Lenten season. Today we hear of Moses meeting with God at the burning bush. God pities his people in Egypt and will free them, through Moses. At vv 13-15, God reveals his name 'I am who I am'. The name in Hebrew is YHWH. What does this name mean? It means: you will realize who I will be; you will see from what I do who I am.

Responsorial Psalm: A prayer in praise of God's mercy.

Today's epistle mentions the wilderness struggle of the Israelites. Paul wants to remind us that we are not saved merely because we happen to be recipients of God's grace. We have to demonstrate that we are willing recipients of the gift of God's grace. The children of Israel received it but proved to be unworthy of it. It is not enough to believe in Christ (new Moses), being baptized (passage through the Red Sea), having received the Spirit (protection of the cloud), having been fed of the Eucharist (the bread and wine correspond to the manna and water in the desert). We must persevere, in order to be saved.

Our Gospel reading is a mid-Lenten call for repentance and conversion. Jesus is on his journey to Jerusalem. Some members of the crowd report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilates' soldiers, while at the Temple. It was commonplace to render peoples' suffering as evidence of their sinfulness and the crowd do suggest that the Galileans must have been sinful. Jesus challenges this interpretation, but also warns them that now is the time, don't lose the moment. The parable however is a story of mercy: it is an invitation to consider Lent as a time of grace, as a new 'precious year' which is granted to the fig tree (each of us) to bear fruit.

Bible Study Group

ANNIVERSARIES REMEMBERED

- ✦ Sat 23rd 10am: Tom & Peter O'Rourke
- ✦ Sat 23rd 6pm: Jenny Hyland, Michael McKenna, Sean Farrell, Noel Duffy, Breda Fitzgerald, Harry Loughrey, Robert McMahon, Alice Farrell & deceased members of McMahon family
- ✦ Sun 24th 9.30am: Peter & Christina Creaner, Richard & Kathleen Fagan, Special intention
- ✦ Sun 24th 11am: Josephine Flanagan, Mona Wall, Rosemary Malone, Pat & Lil O'Brien & Family, Teresa (Terry) Lalor, Noreen Boyle, Dick Kavanagh
- ✦ Tues 26th 10am: John & Molly Byrne, Tom & Peter O'Rourke, Special Intention
- ✦ Wed 27th 10am: Noel Morrison
- ✦ Fri 29th 10am: Tom O'Reilly

OUR SYMPATHY



To the families of Desmond Traynor and Brian O'Reilly who died recently. May they Rest in Peace.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed Wednesday 27th March. We will, however, be open on Tuesday 26th between 10.00am and 11.00am to accommodate the closure.

EASTER CARDS are on sale in the Parish Office. All proceeds to Trocaire.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Well done to all involved in an amazing day in Skerries for St Patrick's celebrations – The Parade, The Concert, The Fireworks! Huge thanks to Frs Melvyn and James, Fingal Coco, Gardai, Skerries Tourism and volunteers and to all the wonderful concert artists.

CHURCH ADULT CHOIR

A meeting will be held for the choir members (9.30am Sunday Mass choir) on Wednesday, 27th in the glass area at rear of church, after the 7pm Lenten evening mass.



ANNUAL MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

16th October for 7 nights accompanied by Fr Paul Monaghan as Spiritual Leader. As places are limited early booking is advisable. Further details from Rita at 0861925502.

SKERRIES ACTIVE RETIREMENT

Mon 25th - club cancelled
Tues 26th 2 pm - Bowls
Trips coming up soon.

SCOIL REALT NA MARA

Parents' Council and Red Island Wine Skerries kindly invite you to their Wine Tasting Night in Skerries Harps GAA Club on Thursday 28th March at 7:30 pm. Tickets €15 are available from Parents' Council Members (text 086 8555158) and Red Island Wine. All proceeds will go towards an outdoor classroom for the school.



SKERRIES TIDY TOWNS

invites all our current ADOPT-a-PATCH volunteers to coffee and a chat at the Mill on Tuesday, 26th March from 10.30 to 11.30am to kickstart our 2019 season. New volunteers very welcome. Look forward to seeing you there.

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- It was Easter Week and the Stations of the Cross were to be staged out of doors around the streets of the town, starting at 12 noon
- Plans were well underway for a number of projects to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Church - a historical study of the building of the Church; liturgical celebrations; a giant street party; an architectural report on the current structure; and a demographical/statistical survey of the town in this historic year
- It was Daffodil Day on March 23rd and events were being staged around the town to promote the cause
- Congratulations to the Venturers from Skerries Sea Scouts who won the Phoenix Cup, a national competition in skills
- Skerries Harps Minor team were now in the final of the Dublin Minor Championship
- Also congratulations to Skerries Ladies Hockey team who won the Dublin Minor Cup

LOST

Purse at the Monument, Thursday 14th March - contains two twenty pound notes and two sets of keys. Please contact 086 104 6605.

OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Rosemary Raughter will speak on *Home Rule is casting many a shadow now: southern women and the Ulster Declaration of 1912* at 6 pm on Wednesday March 27th in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138–144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Sun 24. Minor1 v Ballinteer and Minor2 v St Brigids, both home at 11 am



Sun 31. Senior football league v Thos Davis, home at 10.30 am
Juvenile Academy every Saturday from 10 to 11 am. Club Shop also open.
Zingo 3, 5, 2, 4, 1, 7, 6. Dividend €200 winner P. Mullarkey. Jackpot now €4,200. Next draw Sunday 6.30 pm. Play online via link on club website. Thanks to all Members who have paid their Annual Fees before 31st March deadline.

Sat 6 April. Traditional Irish Music Night in clubhouse at 9 pm. Easter Hurling/Camogie Tourney sponsored by Gourmet Food Parlour will run from 15 to 17 April and our Easter Camp runs from 23 to 25 April (10 am – 2 pm). Camp is for 5 to 13 year old boys and girls. Contact Louise Byrne 085 1465673 to register.

Contact club PRO, Joanne 086 4058523 for information on all club events or see www.skerriesharps.ie.

BALBRIGGAN & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

are holding a talk on wildlife by Joe Curtis a renowned photographer of Wildlife on 21st March in the Scouts Den, Market Green, Balbriggan beside Lidl. For more information telephone 087 752 05 06.

LOUGHSHINNY & RUSH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our March Talk is entitled "The Rush and Lusk Train Derailment – which occurred on 5th January, 1963" by Aidan Langley. Venue: Strand Bar, Rush, Thursday 28th March, 8pm.