

**The Patience of Job:** Most of us are familiar with the expression ‘you would need the patience of Job’ in a given trying situation. The extract from the Book of Job in our scripture readings for this Sunday is somewhat timely. We are living through these difficult days when we are asked to ‘self-isolate’, ‘keep our distance’ and ‘stay at home’ in order to try and diminish the spread of the Corona Virus. Most people are doing so with great resilience and fortitude and no little patience. The Book of Job is one of the most fascinating books in all of the scriptures. It is a classic exploration of the meaningless or needless suffering in the life of an individual and one we can all relate to on different levels. Job has a good home, a happy marriage, a prosperous farm, lots of livestock and his family is well provided for. In a classic confrontation, God allows Satan to tempt Job and his life is quickly plunged into pain, great suffering and massive loss. Job’s faith in God is severely tested while he is deprived of family, friends and the basic means of survival. Despite all the bad things that happen to him, Job refuses to blame God or to lose faith in him. Somehow, he manages to hold onto the belief, that even in the depth of our sufferings, in our times of greatest loss, God does not abandon us but continues to love us, enabling us to come to a deeper awareness of his mysterious presence active in our lives. Job does not help us to understand the problems of evil and suffering but he shows us how we can live with them.

In these challenging times in all our lives, when we all need the ‘patience of Job’, the following prayer may prove helpful.

I asked God for strength that I might achieve;  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health that I might do great things;  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.  
I asked for power that I might have the praise of people;  
I was given weakness that I might feel my need for God.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing that I asked for  
But everything I had hoped for.  
Almost, despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am, among all people, truly blessed.

**SUNDAY 7th FEBRUARY**  
**5th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**  
**PRIEST ON DUTY: FR. SEAMUS O’ROURKE C.C. 071-9620054**

**ST.MARY’S Sunday 10am:** Thomas Padden (Months Mind)  
Brendan McMahon (Anniv)  
Mai ,William, & George Cryan & their grandson Michael  
Michael Cassidy (Anniv)  
P.J. Flynn & deceased members of the Flynn family

**MASSES FROM MONDAY 8th – SATURDAY 13th FEBRUARY**  
**Monday 8pm:** Jack McPherson (Anniv)  
**Tuesday 10am:** John O’Connor (Months Mind)  
**Wednesday 10am:** Jim Earley (Anniv)  
**Thursday 10am:** Jean Dockery (9th Anniv) & her husband Denis (25th Anniv)  
**Friday 8pm:** Frank & Imelda O’Hara & their son Dermot (Anniv)  
**Sat 10am:** Danny & Josephine Lannon (Anniv)

**MASS FOR SUNDAY 14th FEBRUARY**  
**Sun 10am:** Joe Lowe (Anniv)  
Josie Murray (6th Anniv)  
Pat & Siobhan Barrett (Anniv)

**DEATHS:** We pray for the happy repose of the souls of Brian Finlay (Drumgeaglom, Leitrim) and Padraig McGinn (Ballynamoney, Carrick-on-Shannon) who died in recent days. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**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.

**NORTH WEST STOP** provides FREE Counselling in your area with No Waiting Lists. Please phone or text our Counselling Coordinator on 086 777 2009 to arrange to speak with a counsellor.