

Holy Week 2003

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Kilbrittain Parish Bulletin

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The Lamb of God

It has been a glorious spring. These warm April days have been a blessing. We must be conscious of the life blooming and the wildlife active. We will also have noticed the sheep with their lambs. There is a lovely poem by Katherine Tynan. She muses, "The sheep with their little lambs passed me by on the road". This set her thinking and she says; "All in the April evening I thought of the Lamb of God." She goes on to continue her reflection.

The lambs were weary and crying With a weak human cry.
I thought of the Lamb of God Going meekly to die.
But for the Lamb of God Up on a hilltop green,
Only a cross of shame Two stark crosses between.
All in the April evening April airs were abroad
I saw the sheep and their lambs And thought of the Lamb of God.

Easter always comes at the end of the lambing season. The paschal lamb was chosen to free the people of Israel from the land of Egypt, as we read at Holy Thursday's Mass. On the evening of the Last Supper as Jesus and his friends gathered to celebrate that escape from Egypt Jesus changed the whole meaning of the Paschal Meal. He became the Paschal Lamb as he gave himself in the Eucharist as a memorial of giving himself on that hilltop between two crosses. We remember that hilltop on Good Friday as we reflect on the stations of the cross and as we listen to the Gospel Story of Jesus betrayal and death. Then on Holy Saturday and Easter we celebrate the Resurrection. The Lamb of God has won for us freedom from the slavery of sin and freedom to go into eternal life.

Trocaire

Trocaire Boxes must be well filled by this. It would be very helpful if people counted the coins in the box and replace them with notes before handing the box in.

On Holy Thursday , the evening on which we celebrate the Last Supper, there will be Baskets before the Altar. Then at the time of the Offerings people may bring up their Trocaire Boxes to the Altar. We can then associate our Lenten offerings with Christ's offering of himself to us in the Eucharist and for us on the Cross.

This year we are conscious of the increasing demands on Trocaire with the appalling situation in Iraq.



Good Friday

Good Friday, the day on which we recall the Lords' Passion, his sufferings, and his death on the cross is traditionally a day of Fast and Abstinence.

Fasting means we eat very moderately on that day, a main meal and just a snack otherwise. Abstinence means that we do not have meat at all on that day. Ash Wednesday is the other occasion in the year.

Good Friday Collection

There will be a collection in the church on Good Friday at the 3.00 p.m. ceremony for the Holy Places, in Jerusalem, Nazareth and around Israel. With tourism and pilgrimages all but suspended these places will need our support more than ever.

Wednesday 16th April at 8.00 p.m.

There will be a ceremony of reading and reflection and contrition. Visiting priests will again come to give absolution as part of the ceremony. A fitting preparation to prepare for the Celebration of the Paschal Mystery.
