

# The People's Mass

30 March 2025  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
(Laetare Sunday) / C

came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son, treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

"Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come", replied the servant, "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property -- he and his women -- you kill the calf we had been fattening."

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Profession of Faith (Apostles' Creed)**  
I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the

Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**  
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), ...  
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.

**Eucharistic Prayer**  
The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right and just.

**Sanctus**  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...

**After the Consecration**  
The mystery of faith.  
We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

**THE COMMUNION RITE**

At the Saviour's command ...  
Our Father, who art in heaven, ...  
Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil. ...  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, ... Amen.  
The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And with your spirit.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...

Showing the Eucharist to the people, the priest says:  
Behold the Lamb of God, ...  
Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.

**Communion Antiphon (Lk 15:32)**  
You must rejoice, my son,  
for your brother was dead and has come to life;  
he was lost and is found.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Is 66:10-11)**  
Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

In the name of the Father, ... Amen.  
The grace of our Lord ... And with your spirit.

**Penitential Act**  
Brethren (brothers and sisters), ...  
A brief pause for silence follows.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers  
and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my  
thoughts and in my words, in what I have done  
and in what I have failed to do.

And, striking their breast, they say:  
through my fault, through my fault, through my  
most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary  
ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my  
brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our  
God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, ... Amen.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

(The Gloria is not said.)

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING (Jos 5:9-12)**

A reading from the book of Joshua.  
The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have taken the  
shame of Egypt away from you."  
The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the  
Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at  
evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the  
Passover they tasted the produce of that country,  
unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same  
day. From that time, from their first eating of the  
produce of that country, the manna stopped falling.  
And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from  
that year onwards on what the land of Canaan  
yielded.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 33:2-7)**

- Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **℟**
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. **℟**

3. Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. **℟**

**SECOND READING (2 Cor 5:17-21)**

A reading from the second letter of St Paul  
to the Corinthians.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation;  
the old creation has gone, and now the new one is  
here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled  
us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of  
handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in  
Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding  
men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us  
the news that they are reconciled. So we are am-  
bassadors for Christ; it is as though God were ap-  
pearing through us, and the appeal that we make in  
Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake  
God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we  
might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Lk 15:18)**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!  
I will leave this place and go to my father and say:  
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against  
you.'

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

**GOSPEL (Lk 15:1-3,11-32)**

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the  
company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the  
Pharisees and the scribes complained. "This man",  
they said, "welcomes sinners and eats with them." So  
he spoke this parable to them:

"A man had two sons. The younger said to his father,  
'Father, let me have the share of the estate that would  
come to me.' So the father divided the property  
between them. A few days later, the younger son got  
together everything he had and left for a distant  
country where he squandered his money on a life of  
debauchery.

"When he had spent it all, that country experienced a  
severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so  
he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who  
put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would  
willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs  
were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he  
(cont'd on back page)

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**Parish of Banogue and Croom**  
Canon Willie Fitzmaurice P.P. 061 397231 / 086 2423 728

Email: croomchurch@eircom.net  
Croom and Banogue Parish Website:  
https://www.croomparish.com/  
Diocesan Web Page: www.limerickdiocese.org

**Link for Live Church Services:**  
Croom Parish - ChurchCamLive.ie  
Banogue Parish - ChurchCamLive.ie  
Croom Church Eircode: V35 R972  
Banogue Church Eircode: V35 WN59  
Banogue Adoration: Tuesdays 3pm - 6pm  
Croom Hospital Mass: Sunday 8am, Thursday 11am,  
Followed by Holy Hour. Public Welcome

**Last Sundays Offertory Collection:**  
Banogue €400  
Croom €1,150

**Recent Death**  
Please pray for the repose of the soul of  
Denis Madigan, a resident of Caberass  
Nursing Home for the past 11 years. May  
he rest in peace.

**First Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**  
Masses:  
Banogue 9.30am  
Croom 7.00pm



### Reflection - The Prodigal Son

The Prodigal Son came home early empty  
handed  
He had no trophies to show his father  
He was a failure. Worse - he was a sinner  
He deserved to be punished  
Yet punishment was the last thing he needed  
When the father saw him coming towards him,  
His heart went out to him  
And the next minute they were in each other's  
arms  
It is an extraordinary experience to be loved in  
one's sins  
Those who have experienced this kind of love,  
know something about the heart of God.

### Prayer for Families

**A Prayer for Families**  
Loving and merciful God, we pray for the many  
needs of families: for abundant love, for forgiveness  
and reconciliation, for a living faith to face the  
challenges of each day.  
Jesus, you were born into a human family and  
became our brother. You know well what families  
need to nourish both children and parents in long-  
lasting bonds of love and respect.

Help families of all shapes and  
sizes turn to you as their source  
of life. May your Spirit  
encourage husbands and wives,  
mothers and fathers, brothers  
and sisters. Give us all the eyes  
to appreciate one another and  
to be grateful for the gift of  
families. Amen.

### In Celebration of Mothers

**Celebration of Mother's  
A Name Like No Other**  
In a world full of names, one for  
each sister and brother. Amidst  
the millions of them, there is a  
name like no other. This name  
is the greatest glue, it holds us  
all together. It's as strong as  
hardest steel and as gentle as a  
feather. It makes endless  
sacrifices, it endures incredible  
pain, it never stops believing,  
both in sunshine and in rain. It  
forgets itself for others, never  
thinking of the cost. It  
embraces those hurting, it  
seeks out the lost. It is our  
guide and compass, our anchor  
and radiant light. It assures us  
of our inner worth and it  
comforts us at night. It loves as

deep as oceans, and as  
brightly as the sun, it  
reminds the world the  
difference, made by  
simply one. It's a  
sacred name that is a  
gift, from God up  
above. It helps us to  
believe and trust in the  
sacredness of love. To  
speak this name is a  
blessing, it is life's  
greatest treasure, it  
implies a friend for life  
and a love beyond  
measure. Without this  
name we wouldn't be  
who we are today. We  
wish it lived forever  
and with us would  
always stay. There is a  
name we love so  
much, it means more  
than any other, in  
gratitude we pray  
today, for the great  
name that is  
**'Mother'.**

