

"Let us not be ashamed to have signs of our

faith around our homes, like the Sacred

Heart image." - Bishop Donal (see p20)



JPII Exam Mass - Lavey



Little Way Novena - St Eugene's



Mass of Thanksgiving for Y7s - Three Patrons



Fan the Flame - Celtic Park.





Greencastle parishioners joined Bishop Donal for the blessing of the new Sacred Heart Statue in Broughderg Cemetery, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

Baptismal Thanksgiving Service - Coleraine.



Corpus Christi Procession - Buncrana.





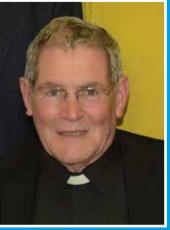
Garry Matthewson, Derry.



Michelle McCrystal, Lavey.



The late Ciaran McAlister, Derry.



The late Fr Patrick O'Connor Desertmartin.

The late Sr Elizabeth Devine RSM Claudy.

Also featuring: Young Writers' feature; NET Ministries Thanksgiving; Holy Family PS Thanksgiving Mass; Children's Catechism Club – C3; Brandywell Grotto Mass for Protection of Life; Celebrating Corpus Christi in Ballinascreen, Long Tower, Three Patrons, Creggan, Buncrana, Dungiven & Newtownstewart; All Ireland Rosary Rally; Catholic Mothers Ireland; Omagh Life in the Spirit seminars; Maynooth celebrates ordination anniversaries; Features; Diary Dates; Quiz... and much more...

Contents

Pray our hearts will be moved to do whatever we can to help our brothers and sisters in crisis - <i>Reflection by Fr Pat O'Hagan</i>
Lavey JPII Award leader welcomes benefits of programme for both participants and parish
Fan the Flame 2024 - Be strong and determined even life gets though - Bishop Donal
NET Ministries give thanks for successful year of mission
Mass of Thanksgiving for Year 7s in Three Patrons Parish schools
Mass of Thanksgiving for Holy Family PS and retiring principal, Mr Garry Matthewson
Long Tower celebration of Derry's St Columbap8-9
Coleraine Baptismal Thanksgiving service
Celebrating Corpus Christi *Ballinascreen *Long Tower *Creggan *Buncrana *Newtownstewart *Three Patrons *DungivenPope Francis calls us to unlock the keys of prayer by Fr Joseph K Varghese
All Ireland Rosary Rally pilgrims called to be Missionaries of the Rosary

The Rosary and what it means to me	of June, Pope Francis has said:
by Shelaine Moore	"Dear brothers and sisters,
Catholic Mothers Ireland enthused	this month I would like us to
by huge expression of faith at Knock Rosary Rally	pray for people fleeing their
by Sinead Strong	
Ciaran McAlister Memorial Award	own countries. The feeling of
	uprootedness, or not knowing
Young Writers share thoughts on	where they belong, often
*The power of prayer	accompanies the trauma
*St Columba's life and works	-
*St Anthony's help in finding lost items	experienced by people who are
*Doubt not a lack of faith but step in growth	forced to flee their homeland
*Importance of trust in Christianity	because of war or poverty. What
*Wonderful Feast of Corpus Christi	1 /
*Pope's reminder of need for action and compassion	is more, in some destination
in addressing migrant crisis Little Way Novena in honour of St Therese of Lisieux	countries, migrants are viewed
In honour of St Therese of Lisleux	as threats, with fear. Then the
Greencastle Sacred Heart Feast celebration	
dreenedstie Sacred Heart reast celebration	spectre of walls appears - walls
Pope Francis calls for prayer	on the earth separating families,
as he prepares document on Sacred Heart	and walls in hearts. Christians
Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus	cannot share this vision.
by St Margaret Mary Alocoquep21	
	Whoever welcomes a migrant,
Omagh Life in The Spirit seminars	
*Bathing in the abundance of God's love changes us	Eucharistic Ad
*Thank God for gift of Salvation and share it with others	Eucharistic Au
*Ask for the Living Water of the Holy Spirit and be amazed *We receive God's gifts by the grace of the Holy Spirit	
*Hearts must be open to guidance of Holy Spirit to receive His	Aghyaran: Thursdays,
gifts	10.30am–12 noon.
*Growth & Transformation will only come about	
if we let go and let God	Ardstraw West & Castlederg:

Remembering the late Sr Elizabeth Devine RSM, Claudy Remembering the late Fr Patrick O'Connor. Desertmartin... Maynooth celebration of ordination anniversaries.

by Fr John McLaughlin sscp26	
Eternal EchoesTimeless Truths for today's hearts by Regina Deighan	
 The Four Marks of the Church: A Series continued p27 Carndonagh – the Painter's Way 	
by Dr Seán Beattie	
St Eugene's Prayer Schedule p27	
Parish Post-itsp28-29	
Step-by-step to feed the next childp29	
other Diary Datesp29	
Lord, I am not worthy	
by Fr Johnny Doherty CSsRp30	
Carmelite Book Clubp30	
Prayer for Priests	
Pope's prayer intentionp30	
Children's Catechism Club – C3	
by Veronica Harley	
Quiz Time with Lawrence	

Fanning the Flame in Celtic Park 2024..



Contacting us:

editorthenet15@gmail.com or ring/text 07809292852

Fr Pat O'Hagan, Diocesan Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care for Migrants & Asylum Seekers, and former member of the Bishops' Commission for Migrants, reflects on the Pope's prayer intention for June... "For migrants fleeing their homes: We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger or violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them"

Pray our hearts will be moved to do whatever we can to help our brothers and sisters in crisis

Fr Pat O'Hagan

hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger IN a short video clip to and new living opportunities." accompany and promote his

welcomes Christ.

political culture that protects the

their full potential and integrates

them. A migrant needs to be

prayer intention for the month une, Pope Francis has said: Holy Father uses here – words Dear brothers and sisters, month I would like us to stop us in our tracks, and make have done and hope to do. y for people fleeing their us think seriously about the n countries. The feeling of ootedness, or not knowing the 21st century. Of course, the ere they belong, often Pope's words are prefaced with trauma erienced by people who are ed to flee their homeland invitation. ause of war or poverty. What

I doubt very much if anyone reading this reflection has ever to find a wall preventing us from had to flee or run away from going any further. How would a serious threat to their life or you or I feel if cherished family wellbeing. We probably all know members, especially a spouse people who have emigrated by abroad for work, or study, or reach them?

travel, or any number of life We must promote a social and experiences. They probably went with friends, or went to stay rights and dignity of migrants, initially with friends or family a culture that promotes the members. They had money; possibility that they can achieve they had all the security they needed. They weren't uprooted. They knew where they were; accompanied, promoted, and they knew they could come integrated. Let us pray that home any time they wanted. In migrants fleeing from war or the past, some may have met with a degree of opposition, or with a certain amount of racism, and violence, may find welcome but they eventually established themselves in their new In this reflection, I would environment and contributed like to tease out the words the to their adopted parish or community, which is exactly that should perhaps shock us, what many of our immigrants

scandal of forced migration in in uncertainty, or with fear, or to meet with armed resistance to the freedom of movement which the invitation to all of us to pray, so many of us take for granted. and to pray with him, at his We who travel freely through borders, ports or airports have no idea of what it must be like or children, were on the other

Pope Francis talks about the and the heart of any Christian. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are challenged to see Him in the face of every single person we meet, without exception!

Chapter 25 of St Matthew's Gospel tells us that we will be judged one day on how we treated our neighbour, with particular reference to the poor, the needy, and the most vulnerable. "I was a stranger, and you made me welcome. Or perhaps you didn't. Perhaps, you turned your back on me, you It must be horrendous to live closed the door in my face, you pointed your gun at me, you closed your heart to me...

On the international stage, we Irish are known to be warm and friendly. Ireland is the land of the Céad Míle Fáilte - the 100.000 welcomes! Over the years, in living memory and well before then, how many millions of Irish people have been welcomed all over the world.

The Pope talks about creating their own choice, who went side of that wall, and we couldn't a culture where migrants are .accompanied, promoted,

Limavady: Sundays from 3-5

pm in Christ the King (with

Melmount: Mondays, after 10

Moville: Mondays, 2-9 pm, and

Wednesdays, 6-9 pm, St Pius X

Newtownstewart: Thursdays,

6.30-7.30 pm, Oratory of Mary,

Sion Mills: Fridays, 11 am-6.50

pm, ending with Benediction

Steelstown: Fridays, from after

Strabane (Camus): All day in

the Adoration Chapel (Oasis

of Peace), at the back of the

St Columba's Long Tower:

Wednesdays, after 10 am Mass

10 am Mass until 6.50 pm.

Confessions).

Church.

Church.

Mother of God.

before 7 pm Mass.

am Mass until 6 pm.

integrated." This is walls in people's hearts - the something for governments hardness of heart, the refusal of to foster in association with welcome, of hospitality, of care, agencies dedicated to the care of which, he says, cannot be in migrants, but it's also something for us to foster in our own hearts and homes, in our schools and workplaces.

> We cannot begin to imagine the fear and anxiety being experienced by migrants today, despite the images we see, despite the statistics of people on the move, by land and by sea, despite the heartbreaking toll of deaths, but we can do what the Holy Father asks us to do - we can pray that this situation will be resolved soon, that the wars, discrimination, poverty, hunger, and injustice, which cause people to flee from their own countries in the hope of finding peace, justice, and prosperity elsewhere will come to an end.

> We should pray too that, in the meantime, migrants will find the "...welcome and new living opportunities" mentioned by Pope Francis, and that our hearts will be moved by the love of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit living and moving within us, to do whatever we can to help our brothers and sisters in crisis.

until 7.30 pm Mass.

St Eugene's Cathedral:

Sundays, 3-6 pm, and Tuesdays,

Eucharistic Adoration in the Diocese

ghyaran: Thursdays, .30am–12 noon. rdstraw West & Castlederg: Fridays, 10.30am-12 noon, St Patrick's Church. Badoney Lower: Tuesdays, after 12.30 pm Mass until 5 pm, St Patrick's Gortin. Banagher: Fridays, 10-11am, St Joseph's Church, Fincairn. Buncrana: Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 6am-10pm, and Sundays, 2-10 pm, St Mary's Oratory. Cappagh: Wednesdays, 8-9pm, concluding with Night Prayer, and Sundays, 3.30-6.30 pm, in Christ the King, Strathroy. Claudy: Tuesdays, after 10 am Mass until 8 pm, St

🎆 The NET

in living our Catholic faith each day.

our Bishop, Most Rev Donal McKeown.

The mission of 'The NET' is to share the fruits of the

faith in homes, parishes and schools across the Diocese

of Derry, and be a source of hope and encouragement

'The NET' is a Lay Apostolate that has the blessing of

With no fixed charge to read this publication,

donations would be most welcome to help cover costs.

Annual accounts will be available to view on request.

Supporting us

Patrick's Church, Claudy, and Wednesdays, after 10 Mass until 8 pm, St Joseph's Church, Craigbane. Coleraine: Wednesdays, in St

John's Church, 2-4 pm, with Rosary at 3:45 pm. Creggan: Sundays 1.30 pm-6 pm; Mondays 10.30 am - 7 pm; Tue - Sat 10.30 am - 12 pm, Divine Mercy Chapel. Drumquin: Wednesdays, 6 pm until Mass at 7.30 pm. Drumragh: Wednesdays, following morning Mass, Sacred Heart Church. Errigal: Mondays, after the 10 am Mass until 2.30 pm, St Mary's Church, Ballerin. Fahan: Fridays after 10 am

Mass, St Mura's Parish Church. Greencastle (Tyrone): Thursdays, 6-10 pm, St Patrick's Church.

Greenlough: Thursdays, 9am-5 pm, St Oliver Plunkett's Church.

Iskaheen: Tuesdays, from after 10 am Mass until 2 pm, St Patrick's Church Kilrea: Mondays, 12 noon -7pm, St Mary's Drumagarner. Concludes with Benediction. Killygordon: Thursdays, after 9.15 am Mass, St Patrick's Church, Crossroads. Lavey: Fridays, after 9.30 am Mass until 5 pm.

Leckpatrick: Wednesdays, after 10 am Mass until 5.30 pm.

Donating

Bank Transfer A/C Name: The NET Sort Code: 950679 GB91 DABA 9506 7990 0710 99 - THE NET **IBAN:** SWIFT-BIC: DABAGB2B **Reference:** Your Name paypal.me/thenetderry Via PayPal: (clicking friends/family) By Cheque: Payable to 'The NET' Send cheques: The NET, via Bishop Donal McKeown, Diocesan Offices, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP

10.30 am-7.20 pm. Three Patrons: Mondays, after 11 am Mass, concluding with a Youth 2000 Holy Hour from 7-8 pm, in Our Lady's Chapel, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. It also takes place seven days a week in the Adoration Room in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, 8 am-6 pm, and on Wednesdays, from 10.45 am – 6.45 pm, in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn. Urney & Castlefin: Tuesdays, 12 noon-8 pm, St Anthony's Chapel. Waterside: Monday mornings

and Wednesdays, 7-9 pm, St Oliver Plunkett Church, Strathfovle.

The ministry of

The NET

was dedicated to Our Lady, through the intercession of St Maximilian Kolbe, in a ceremony celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown on August 14, 2019.

Blessing

Lavey JPII Award leader welcomes benefits of programme for both participants and parish...

Pope John Paul Award helps young people to be active in parish life rather than just on periphery

COMING towards the end of Pastoral Council members." their Pope John Paul II Award Parish participants organised a was greatly appreciated.

Amongst those helping and 14-15 participants, like now." encouraging the Lavey JPIIs in their parish involvement is Long Tower Primary School teacher, people find their feet in the parish Michelle McCrystal. Formerly from Maghera, the 56-year-old moved to live in the Lavey area 29 years ago after getting married, and eventually became involved in the Parish Pastoral Council.

It was during Fr Paddy Baker's time as parish priest for Lavey that Michelle first became involved in the JPII Award programme, periphery." and she has found it to be very rewarding.

She recalled: "I had been a member of the Pastoral Council JPII Award in the parish, as nobody was really getting involved in it. So, since then, with the exception help of other parishioners and now extended and it runs from the

Noting that the number of young programme, the young Lavey people that participate varies, Michelle said: "Some years we Mass in June for all parishioners have a small group, like four or five undertaking examinations, which participants, and other years we have a bigger group with around

She added: "I think the Award is a great opportunity to help young by getting them involved in parish life, and to help them to see that it is not just about going to Mass once a week out of habit, but that they can get something out of it and contribute to the life of the parish themselves. It also helps them to see themselves as active members of the parish and not just on the

Finding that the young participants do feel that they get something out of being involved in the Parish JPII Programme, and Fr Baker asked me if I would Michelle said: "They particularly take on the co-ordination of the enjoy the Alpha Programme, which gets them to think more about their faith in-depth and explore their personal relationship with God. of during COVID, I have been Initially, this was run for five or leading the programme with the six weeks during Lent, but this is

Commissioning Service until the end of the Award programme." Going on to highlight the Commissioning Service as an important element of the JPII Award, she said: "It is an opportunity for them to stand in front of parishioners to give their commitment to take part in the programme in the parish, and it is an opportunity for the parishioners to put faces to those involved in the Award.

"It helps parishioners recognise them as Award participants when they are reading or helping with parish events, such as teas after Mass, leading the Stations of the Cross during Lent, the Mass for the Sick and the Exam Mass.

"Parishioners have commented that it is lovely to see the young people being involved in the local events, and their parents are very appreciative of the work we have been doing with the young people on a weekly basis."

While Michelle acknowledged that it is somewhat difficult for many of the participants to continue their involvement after the Award, as many of them move away to university or for work, she

added: "But, some do come back to help in such ways as readers, SVP collectors or with parish teas, as recently happened with the celebration of Fr Liam Donnelly's 60th anniversary of ordination."

Saying that the Lavey JPII participants attend various schools, including St Patrick's College, Maghera, St Conor's College, Clady, St Mary's GS, Magherafelt, as well as Rainey Endowed School and St Pius X College, Magherafelt, Michelle remarked: "I would like to see a closer link between the schools and parishes. While they send us names of pupils interested in doing the Award, there is very little crossover. Perhaps, parish JPII leaders could be invited to the schools to meet with those interested in doing the Award when they first register their interest."

She continued: "If any young Lavey parishioner reading this is thinking about participating in the Award in the next academic year, please contact Patrick in the Parish Office or your school in September. We will be delighted to help you become an active participant in the life of our parish









Coming face-to-face with God on Lough Derg



HI...I'm Hollie, from Strabane. Derg is St Brendan. Also known as fourth time! I will be joining you on July 26 and hope to see you all there.

Providing an insight into my own experience of being on the Island over the past number of years, one thing that stands out for me is the Island itself; it is ancient! It originates way back to the early Irish over. I think it's nice that, individually Church and one of the early Irish and communally, we should think of Saints that is associated with Lough Lough Derg in that way.

My local parish is Melmount. For 'Brendan the Navigator', he depicts those of you who don't know me, I this wonderful image of a voyage study theology in Maynooth. In fact, or embarking on a pilgrimage on a I'm only back from a year in Rome boat. Back then, the boats weren't and missed Ireland that much that motorised, it would have been a I thought I would do Lough Derg a wooden boat and they would have raised a sail.

> Theologically, we would associate the wind with the Holy Spirit; as a gust of wind. The boat would have depended on catching the wind and taking it in a certain direction; something we don't have control

Island, you have to get on a boat as well. I think it shines a light on these questions: Where is God directing me? Where is God directing us as a Church? Brendan talks about sailing into the unknown, but in complete trust in God.

I think Lough Derg offers a place of solace and quietness. It takes you away from the 'busyness' of the world for a short time...for three days. That's what it offers me: rest, and gets me away from the mobile phone

intense. It consists of a lot of prayers, with much praying of the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and the Creed. I think the repetition of these prayers is meant to distract so that you're facing your gaze on God. In taking away food and sleep also, you kind of come face-to-face with God. Although it's intense, you will feel the enrichment on the last day.

When I went in 2019 for the first time, I went on my own, but I still felt a sense of community from people you!

It's funny how to actually get to the there from all over Ireland that I met. In fact, the more you go back, you will see the same people every year. There's a wonderful sense of community on Lough Derg; you're in it together.

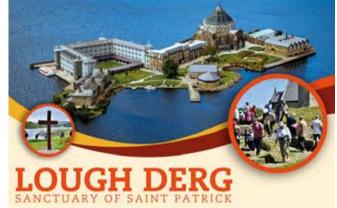
> Will you join our pilgrimage to this Holy place?

The Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Donal McKeown ,starts on Friday, July 26, and concludes on Sunday, July 28.

The bus will depart after 10 am Mass from St Eugene's Cathedral, Prayer on the island is very Derry, on Friday, July 26, and will travel via Strabane, Lifford and Ballybofey. The £80 cost covers bus transport, Lough Derg fee and an experience to be remembered! (Cost without transport is £70).

Prebooking is required. Please contact Tony Brennan on tony. brennan@derrydiocese.org or phone the Diocesan Office on 0044 28 7126 2302 for booking form.

We look forward to welcoming



DIOCESE OF DERRY

Three Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg Led by Bishop McKeown

Friday, 26th July - Sunday, 28th July 2024

Cost: £80 including transport from/to Derry

Prebooking is required. Please contact Tony Brennan on tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org or phone the Diocese Office on 028 7126 2302 for booking form

www.loughderg.org



Speaking at the annual Fan the Flame ceremony, Bishop Donal urged children recently confirmed to...

Be strong and determined even when life gets tough



ALMOST 4,000 voices joined members of the Long Tower Folk Group in singing 'Shine Jesus Shine' during the colourful entrance procession for the 2024 Fan the been confirmed earlier in the year.

Derry GAA chairman, John myself?' Keenan, of Castledawson, extended a warm welcome to all, including will fall for anything. Do not be Bishop Donal and Derry senior afraid to say, 'I believe in sacrifice, team manager, Mickey Harte.

Many of the children had specially decorated 'Fan the tough." Flame' t-shirts and flags, which various school banners passed by in procession with a number of priests, Bishop Donal, and special He will fill you with joy. guests.

a cloudy morning with some rain in His time?" falling, spirits were not dampened during the outdoor Mass of schools took part in the Liturgy, Thanksgiving, with the recently with Pope John Paul II Award confirmed children urged to fan participants amongst the band into a flame the gifts they have received from the Holy Spirit.

During his homily, Bishop Donal Diocesan Catechetical team. remarked how Gospel stories revealed that He loved children. accompanying violence and greed.

"As His disciples, we are all called to follow Jesus' example. That is the challenge we all have to face," Bishop Donal told the 11 and 12 year olds gathered in the stands Flame Mass in Celtic Park, with before him, "You will have to face the stands full of children from this in the years to come; 'Do I throughout the Diocese who had want to look after those suffering from hunger, etc, or just look after

> "If you stand for nothing, you gentleness, kindness, etc. Be strong and determined even when life gets

He added: "Jesus was keen to see they waved enthusiastically as the a smile on the face of His followers. He says to you that there is a battle to be done, it will be tough but that

"Today's culture says enjoy As usual, it was a very joyful yourself. Are you prepared to walk celebration and even though it was with Jesus or run away, as others did

Children from various primary of volunteers who helped out on the day, under the guidance of the

The ceremony came to a about Jesus, the Good Shepherd, close with the children and school staff Pointing out the gentleness of Jesus, members enthusiastically joining the Bishop also pointed out the the Long Tower Folk Group in Lord's toughness, highlighting His singing 'He's got the whole world message that He had come to fight in His Hands, which was led by St



















for successful year of mission

Mass with the Franciscan Friars them. of the Renewal to give thanks for Joseph's Church, Galliagh.

NET, a lay Catholic Missionary faith to young people in Ireland. Apostolate from young people to Australia, Uganda, Scotland, and netministries.ie. Ireland, where it arrived in 2004.

missionaries, who are all aged year of service and for telling young retreat.

BISHOP Donal concelebrated people about Jesus and His love for

Tony Foy, who runs NET's the successful year of mission in mission in Ireland, thanked Bishop Ireland with NET Ministries, in St Donal, and all the missionaries and staff for their sacrifices in bringing

Any young person who might young people, began in St Paul, be interested in volunteering a Minnesota, in 1981. Since then, it year with NET is encouraged to has grown and spread to Canada, reach out to the recruiting team at

Any parish or school interested in Bishop Donal thanked the helping their youth experience the missionaries, who are all aged saving love of Jesus, please contact between 18 and 30 years, for their office@netministries.ie to book a





Mass of Thanksgiving for Year 7s in Three Patrons Parish schools

from primary schools within the through on the actions suggested Three Patrons Parish gathered in by the gift of right judgement; St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, for a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Donal on June 13, to mark their Confirmation year and their final year of primary school.

The Bishop was joined by parish priest, Fr Michael McCaughey and Fr Chris McDermott in as the certainty that God will supply concelebrating the Mass, with us the grace that we need in order to seminarian, Lexie Morrison assisting.

The ceremony got underway with pupils bringing forward artwork representing gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom - enabling us to value properly those things which we believe through faith; Understanding - allowing us to grasp, at least in a limited way, the remarked that the Year 7s, in their very essence of the truths of the Catholic faith; Right Judgement - enabling us to judge how best to act almost by intuition; Fortitude

Knowledge - the perfection of faith and aimed at our actions in this life; Piety - the perfection of the virtue musician, or doctor, but you of religion, so that we desire to worship God and to serve Him out of love; Wonder & Awe - giving us the desire not to offend God, as well keep from offending Him.

Calling those gathered to prayer, Bishop Donal referred to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, saving: "We do not always live up to these, so can we ask for forgiveness and pray that we can be wonderful people, with the help of the Holy Spirit."

During his homily, the Bishop last weeks of primary school, were "full of dreams and hopes".

He added: "It is very important when you are young to have

AROUND 300 Year 7 pupils - giving us the strength to follow dreams, but it is not just about what and believe that they had gifts, you would like to do or have or be like, but also what sort of person would you like to be.

"You could be a sportsperson, could be a generous or grumpy or selfish or inspiring sportsperson, musician, or doctor. So, think about the role models you have; the good people in your life, not famous people like singers or footballers.

'The most important job that anyone will do is to be a human being; a son or daughter, father or mother, a member of your community."

Saying that Jesus would like people to be what they were created to be, Bishop Donal went on to note that when Jesus came on earth, He wanted to be with those who felt most unimportant, unloved, such as lepers, sinners, and outcasts.

He added: "Jesus wanted to make everyone feel loved and precious, talents. He wants followers to: reach out to the invisible people, those on the edges; to offer forgiveness rather than condemnation; and to suffer with those in pain.

"You will need wisdom, understanding, courage, and right judgement because ads will say obey your thirst, let's feel good, life's too short to say 'no'. But, if we want to have a world where the planet is not being destroyed, where there are no wars, where there is social justice, then we have to learn self- guidance." control, concern for the weak, generosity.

"The reason why Jesus' followers meet every week for Mass is to hear God's dream for the world, to support on another, and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ."

Bishop Donal concluded by telling the young people: "You will face big decisions, make good ones and ask the Holy Spirit for



At the end of the ceremony, Fr Michael thanked the pupils and staff of the various schools, and all who enabled them to be there for the special Mass marking their P7 year and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and all involved in the ceremony in any way.

He added: "June 13 is a very significant date for me and I hope that you will be able to look back on

our gathering here in St Brigid's as a significant time for you."

Each school then received a gift for each of the children to keep in remembrance of the special day, and as they left the Church at the end they were delighted to see three ice cream vans lined up to finish off the occasion with a sweet treat.

(Photographs by Jim McCafferty)





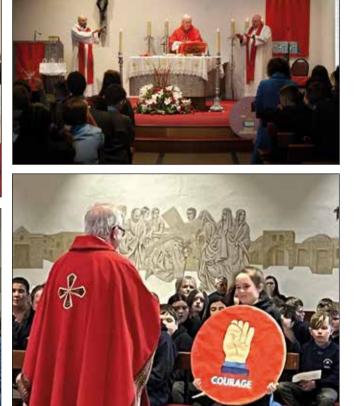














Celebrating Mass of Thanksgiving for Holy Family PS and retiring principal, Fr Joe Gormley commended Mr Matthewson's constant desire to bring out the best in people... It's not about getting it right all the time, but being aware of the need to do better



Mr Garry Matthewson, retiring principal of Holy Family PS, Ballymagroarty, Derry

AS the 2023-2024 school year drew to a close, a special Mass was celebrated in Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, in thanksgiving for over 40 years of Holy Family PS and for 26 years of leadership by Garry Matthewson, who has retired as principal.

Concelebrating the Mass with Fr Kevin Mulhern, the parish priest,

part of a team, every team needed a leader.

Welcoming members of staff and pupils to the ceremony, Fr Joe told them: "Mr Matthewson will miss you so much, but also the whole family of Holy Family School."

Fr Joe also welcomed members of the Board of Governors and former staff members, before saying: "We ask God to bless our school as we enter a new chapter in its existence. Thanksgiving is so important, as when we give thanks to God, He gives us so much more."

Referring to the visit of the late Pope Benedict XVI to the Strawberry Hill campus of St Mary's University, Twickenham, in 2010, where the Holy Father met 3,500 school children and students to celebrate Catholic education at 'The Big Assembly, Fr Joe highlighted Pope Benedict's invitation to the young people assembled to become saints and "not to be content with second best".

"At the heart of what he was saying," continued Fr Joe, "was that he wanted them to be the best person that God wanted them to

Fr Joe Gormley pointed out that be, not to be lording over others. It reconciliation. It requires allowing while Garry always said that he was is about being the unique gift that the Holy Spirit in." each of us is."

> He added: "Children have many dreams of who or what they want to be, but we all know that reality sets in and, unfortunately, they then think that their dreams go down with the harshness of life.

> "The job of an educationalist is to bring forth that unique plan that God has for every child, which is to be the best version of themselves.

"Pope Benedict asked the children to become saints. To be a saint is to be the best version of ourselves, but we can't do it of ourselves. We need the help of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit can work through other people. This is at the heart of the Holy Family Primary School vision and at the heart of Mr Matthewson's leadership for the last 26 years.

"I was warned not to just make this about you, Garry, but we must acknowledge what God does. Thank you for cooperating with God's Grace. We give thanks for the gift of every child that has walked through Holy Family Primary School?

Highlighting that it all begins at home, Fr Joe said: "It is at home that we first receive the gift of love and faith, without that we find life very challenging."

Going on to commend the team of staff Mr Matthewson had built up over the last 26 years, Fr Joe remarked: "It is hard work as a leader and for the team. It involves pain and sweat, disagreements and

Foundation

Pointing out that Garry's leadership reflected what he had received in life as a child, Fr Joe said: "Growing up in the Bogside at a time in this city when there was very little in the way of finances, you were blessed in having the right love and support as a foundation for your life."

He noted that Garry's teaching career had begun at St MacNissi's College, Garron Tower, before returning to Derry to take up a teaching post in St Anne's PS, and then putting himself forward for a leadership role at Holy Family PS.

Fr Joe went on to acknowledge that Garry had been "greatly blessed" by the support of his wife, Siobhan, and the different Boards of Governors that served the school during his 26 years as principal. He added: "At the heart of your

life is a desire for children to see make their lives a gift back to God. It is never about being better than others

'You have been a great witness to us and all the priests who have served here during your time, including Fr Paddy O'Kane. It is not about getting it right all the time, but being aware of the need to do better, and that is the atmosphere you have created throughout the mixed emotions and thanksgiving. school, right down to the pupils."

Fr Joe went on to recall



particular memory of a visit to Holy Family PS: "I remember visiting the school one time and noticing a collection of young men outside Garry's office, waiting to see him. I wondered what that was about and he told me that at assembly that morning he had said that he would be going around to see the pupils' books, and that he had given an opportunity for anyone who didn't think their books were up themselves as a gift from God and to scratch to come to see him first. So, the collection of pupils outside his office had taken him up on the offer."

> Commending Garry for being open to trying new initiatives, Fr Joe said: "You wanted every child to know that they have something great to give to their own families, the parish and beyond."

He continued: "This is a day of We pray that one day we will all be united in Heaven proclaiming with

praise the Mystery of God's love for us. In the meantime, we hope that you get a rest from the constant demands that leadership brings, but we know that you are not one for lying around and that you have grandchildren to help look after."

Commending the School choir, which greatly enhanced the Thanksgiving Mass with a selection of joyous hymns reflecting thankful hearts, Fr Joe recalled accompanying Fr Paddy O'Kane to the Royal Albert Concert Hall, in London, about 10 years ago, to support the Holy Family PS Choir that had been crowned UK and Ireland Choir of the Year and invited to sing on this world renowned stage.

He concluded: "It was a sign of Mr Matthewson's leadership...that no stage was too great for Holy Family children to perform on. And there is no greater stage than where they are today, in God's House."



photographs continued from page 6













Highlighting that while Derry's St Columba celebrations pale in comparison to current Taylor Swift entertainment, the City's Patron is still celebrated 1,500 years after his birth, Bishop Donal added...

Without example of Columba and many prophetic communities there will be little renewal for us

THE annual celebration of St Sunday, June 9, in St Columba's Church, Long Tower, when Mass was celebrated by Bishop Donal, followed by the traditional procession to St Columb's Well led by First Holy Communicants, and finishing up with refreshments and musical entertainment in Long Tower PS.

Bishop Donal was joined by Fr Peter McLaughlin, Fr Stephen Ward and Fr Gerard Mongan, Adm Long Tower, for the celebration of the Mass, with Long Tower Folk Choir leading the singing.

Up to speed with the biggest news for many young people at the time, Bishop Donal commented in his homily on the world tour by Taylor Swift, noting that over 20 months, with 152 shows on all five continents, she would gross over \$1bn, entertaining millions of people for an evening.

"Faced with that, the celebrations for St Columba pale into insignificance, even in Derry!" he remarked, adding: "Yet, as we celebrate our City Patron over 1,500 years after his birth, I ask myself whether the songs of Miss Swift will be remembered long after the end of her career.

"And it leaves me wondering why we still want to remember Columba. It may be because we see in him a figure who struggled with many of the realities that we live with in every generation. He knew what can happen when family and community loyalties clash and people get hurt. He knew what it meant to be sorry for past events but not to be trapped by them."

Reflecting on what might be learnt from this, the Bishop said: "Firstly, we live in an age when there seems to be a lot of anger in the air. We hear of war and condemnation,

attacks on politicians, a lot of Columba in Derry was held on violence on the streets and behind closed doors.

> "Columba tried to bring to people the words of Jesus to His confused disciples - peace be with you, my peace I give you. Jesus came to face the fact that we have an ability to mess up our world and our relationships. He didn't skirt round the reality of hatred and exclusion. He faced it in those who opposed and wanted to kill him. He proclaimed that evil exists in human lives, but that it can be healed and does not have the last laugh. He did not try to distract us from facing reality."

He continued: "In a culture where so many slogans want us to be angry about everything government, Gaza, health service and global finance - Columba would want us to be better than anger mongers. Rage just builds divisions and walls. It prioritises condemnation and confrontation, achieving little. Columba knew the price of that approach.

"Can we celebrate his feast by proclaiming the dove of peace over troubled waters, rather than being merely obsessed with condemning evil forces out there around every corner?'

Bishop Donal went on to note: "We have a culture where many of the strong want to control people by promoting either anger or hopelessness. Social media seems to make money by getting people to be engaged on-line. That is bound to have an effect on many of our us - 'to be with him and to go young people who want to have hope and dreams.

"Most of our political leaders appear to offer little more than the hope that the economy will improve and that we will have more money to spend on some new form of entertainment or retail therapy."

Challenge

He added: "The Gospels that Columba loved challenge us to become great people, focused not on me and my little world but on the welfare of our communities, our society and our world.

"Pope Francis wrote recently that God helps us to be and to become what we are called to be...'Fleeing from a personal and committed relationship with God which, at the same time commits us to serve others is the temptation of our time'.

"Healthy faith in Jesus means giving our young people hope that grace can overcome sin and that forgiveness can heal every situation. In the face of violence in His own day, Columba did not choose to blame others but faced his own responsibility, and took the radical step of going to Iona."

He then suggested: "Can we decide to offer our young people not merely a Gospel of fear and hell, but a Good News about Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? That is what Columba did."

Pointing out that Columba had been a monk who had lived in community, Bishop Donal remarked: "The life of a monastery is not easy. But renewal in the church has always involved groups of idealistic young people coming together, supporting each other in reaching out to the margins.

"Jesus gathered a band of apostles around him - as the Gospel tells out' (Mk 3:14). Columba needed a community if he was to preach to the pagan Picts in Scotland. We were blessed in the past to have communities of consecrated religious who gave the witness of community life. Of course, damage was done by some clergy and

religious. But that does not deny the importance of community building, especially in an age of lonely individualism."

He continued: "We are blessed to have new groups among us, who want to witness to Jesus by consecrating their lives to making Jesus known and loved and to bringing His healing mercy to those in need.

"While the culture tends to focus on 'me' as the centre of the universe, Columba and the monastic life witness to our ability to belong, and to be a blessing on each other. Just like committed marriage, committed celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven is a gift to the church, pointing us all to the possibility of freedom and greatness. It is not merely a heartless burden.

"Without the example of Columba and so many prophetic communities, there will be little renewal for us. A church without visible signs of the radical Gospel is not the Church of Christ."

Commenting on the annual celebration of St Columba, Bishop Donal said: "It can be a nice occasion and change little. Or it can be a clear call to prayer, sacrifice, community life, and peacebuilding that will help us build a blessed future for, and with our young people.

"There is nothing wrong with enjoying music and concerts. But Columba calls us to grow up and to accept responsibility for each other. Columba would want us to be signs of hope, celebrating the joy of the Gospel, and our society needs the joy and peace that Jesus offers.

"On this Feast of our Patron, we ask the grace to learn from his wisdom, his honesty and his example. St Columba, pray for us."















continued from page 8























Brandywell Grotto Mass for Protection of Life



On the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady to Elizabeth, a Healing Mass was celebrated for the protection life by Fr Gerard Mongan, Long Tower Adm, assisted by Fr John Forbes, at Brandywell Gro



Coleraine Baptismal Thanksgiving Service 2024

The annual Coleraine Parish who were baptised in the three Baptismal Thanksgiving Service churches of Dunboe, St John's has taken place in St John's and Aghadowey from Trinity Church. Sunday 2023 - Pentecost Sunday The celebration was for all 2024.



One of the Corpus Christi processions in the Diocese this year was held in Draperstown and led by Ballinascreen parish priest, Fr Peter Madden, who shares his reflection here...

Corpus Christi reminds us that Jesus died for us on the cross and left us food for life's journey

THE Gospel of St Mark sets out for us the context on which Jesus prepares His disciples to celebrate the first Mass, on the first ever Holy Thursday, the day before He suffered and died on the cross for us

As far as the disciples were concerned this was just another Passover, special of course, but nothing special in the sense they knew what to expect. Their people, their families for years and years had been celebrating Passover, that time in their history when the Exodus took place, when Moses led the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt through the desert to the Promised Land.

They were a people on a journey, with no time to waste, no time to wait for the yeast to rise, so they would make do with unleavened bread. And during this journey through the desert, God had provided them with a strange food, they called the Manna in the desert; Pope Urban IV in remembrance a substance they gathered early in of the institution of the Eucharist the morning, like a morning dew but so much richer.

the Every year Passover of the Passover Lamb, would be the

reminder of how God provided for schedules, not everyone could Orbi blessing; urbi the city, orbi them in the past and would again attend. when the Messiah came.

On that first Holy Thursday, the disciples weren't to know or even understand when it happened that Jesus was the Messiah they were waiting for, and that after His death on the cross, there would be no more need to kill a lamb; for He was the Paschal Lamb who sacrificed Himself for all of mankind, and not just the People of Israel.

The bread He would give, the manna in the desert was no morning dew but His very self: "This is My Body...This is My Blood."

For the past 780 years, the Catholic Church has celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Feast of the Body and Blood and Jesus Christ, and for much of the catholic world it is still celebrated, on a Thursday. The second Thursday after the Feast of Pentecost was chosen by on Holy Thursday. Many years ago, some countries' bishops, our own included, decided to celebrate celebration, and the ritual killing the feast on the following Sunday because, with increasing work

We may not live in a desert, but there is plenty of evidence on the news each night to tell us that the world has lost its way. And, if you never watched the news but just observed life, there is plenty of evidence all around us that people are struggling to understand their world, their place in it and to live life in a way that is nourishing and worthwhile. Especially our young.

That is why the Feast of Corpus Christi is so important. For it reminds us that Jesus died for us on the cross and left us food for life's journey, the manna for our desert experiences, His own body and blood.

You might remember the image from four years ago of Pope Francis standing alone in an empty St Peter's Square at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic. He had come to give his blessing to the city and to the world, at a time when the world felt lost and didn't know which way to turn.

In his own words, he said: "The moment with the greatest meaning came when I held in my hands the Blessed Sacrament for the Urbi et

the world." The Pope went on: "I entrusted my diocese, Rome and the world to the Lord, imploring Him to put an end to the tragedy."

We are not in Rome, but it is the same Lord who comes among us and blesses us with His presence during our Corpus Christi procession. It is the same Lord who gave His life for us. The same Lord who said to the disciples: "This is My Body. This is My Blood."

Whatever is your desert experience at this time in your life; whatever is reminding you of your vulnerability and need for God's special grace, it might be a sickness in your life or of a member of your family, it might be your exams, a relationship that needs mending, a job that's not working out or maybe no job at all. Whatever it is, during the procession, as Jesus the Bread of Life is carried past your way, open your heart to Him and let Him feed you with His presence. Entrust all to Him and know that all will be well and all will be well and all manner of things will be well.







Celebrating Corpus Christi in Creggan









Blessed to have Adoration in schools for children... Long Tower First Holy Communicants lead Corpus Christi procession

First Holy Communion within prominent role in the celebration replaced all the sacrifices of old." of Corpus Christi in and around St Columba's Church.

During his homily, Fr Gerard Mongan, Adm, spoke about the gift of the sacrament of Holy Communion, saying: "The boys and girls will know why Jesus you cannot have life in you - they comes to us as food and drink in the Eucharist – to become part of us, to be one with us, to enter into our very blood stream, because He loves us so much.

"The boys and girls will also know that the white host is not a piece of holy bread, or even a symbol of Jesus. In the host, we believe that under the appearance of bread and wine, is Jesus truly present, body, blood, soul and divinity. Why, because He said on that first Holy Thursday night: 'This is my body, this is my blood'. He lived out those

CHILDREN who made their words the following day - offering bread and wine, their substance is his Body and Blood on the cross the Long Tower Parish played a - the perfect sacrifice for sins that Referring to how weak our faith

is sometimes, he said: "When Jesus told people in John 6 that the bread He would give is His flesh, for the life of the world, and unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man, walked away. He didn't call them back and say, hold on, it's just a symbol of me, it just represents me - no, He didn't. He didn't soften His

language. He meant what He said. "Even scientists prove it. In the various Eucharistic miracles of bleeding hosts, there's a common pattern: The blood is human - it is type AB, which is the most uncommon blood type; the blood and tissue fibres are from the heart; it is from a tortured, dying man.

"Yes, every time the words of Jesus are spoken at Mass over the

changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, by the power of the present in the Blessed Sacrament. Holy Spirit. We take Jesus at His word."

He added: "Carlo Acutis did. He was passionate about the Eucharist. He called it his 'highway to Heaven'. He loved to spend time visiting the church to pray before the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist - whether it be in the tabernacle or exposed in the monstrance during adoration.

"Carlo knew that many of his young friends loved to sunbathe! He said when we face the sun, we get a nice tan, but when we place Jesus in the Eucharist, Fr Gerard ourselves in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints. He decided to use his early teens to get his computer skills together, and spread the good news of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. He wanted everyone to realise just how miraculous it is for us to be like Carlo, make a real difference?'

able to sit and spend time in front of Jesus, who is really and truly

"Carlo spent hours researching miracles that happened all over the world connected with the Eucharist. He visited some of the places of these miracles and then put together a website spreading digitally the good news that we heard in today's Gospel, the words of Jesus: 'This is My Body...this is My Blood."

Highlighting that the parish was "blessed" to have Adoration for children in the schools, to give them the chance to pray before went on to suggest to those gathered that they ask Jesus, as He walks amongst them during the Eucharistic Procession: "What are you asking of me? How do you want me to serve you in this world and in your Church? How can I,



























Celebrating Corpus Christi...



in Buncrana...

























...Newtownstewart



Some of the P4 Children from St Patrick's PS, Newtownstewart, who led this year's Corpus Christi procession, with Fr Roland Colhoun, at Glenock.

...Dungiven



Pope Francis calls us to unlock the keys of Prayer

by Fr Joseph K Varghese



Rev Dr Joseph Karukayil Varghese

POPE Francis has been urging the faithful to embrace 2024 as a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee of 2025. His guidelines, often shared through reflections, were notably conveyed during his year-long 'Catechesis on Prayer' from May 2020 to June 2021. Pope Francis believes that prayer is our intimate communication with God, originating from our hearts and reaching the merciful heart of God. This connection can transform our lives through a relationship freely provided by God, made simple for us to understand and benefit from.

As Christians, we are called to see our lives as a continuous prayer, reflecting our spiritual "breath of life." This perspective allows us to integrate our daily activities into our prayerful relationship with God, ensuring that our actions please Him. It enables us to see the face of God in everyone we not only with God but also with encounter, treating them with the dignity they deserve. This relationship with our loving Father, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit allows us to talk to the Lord, listen to Him, and learn from Him. Pope Francis emphasizes that prayer serves as a bridge between heaven and earth, where human hearts and God's heart intertwine in a dialogue of love.

He asks us to be aware of prayer opportunities arising from both moments of pure joy or great challenge. Whatever the circumstances, we will always discover how much God loves us, the following fundamental steps and realise the open invitation He extends to dialogue with Him. These encounters with God will remove the trial and fear from everyday life. It is in the act of humble prayer that we experience the divine mercy of God our greatness of God. Pope Francis tells Father, and we must be open to being converted by God.

pontificate, Pope Francis has complete dependence on Him. to grow more authentically in the promoted prayer as the place We are called to reveal ourselves call as witnesses to be "the salt where we recognize ourselves to God with a pure and humble as members of God's family. He heart. Seeing and understanding supports St Pio's view that our the omnipotence and unbelievable prayers are like a key that can goodness of God leads us to a easily open the heart of God the deeper and stronger faith and Father. As we embark on the path towards the Jubilee gifts, we will discover God's mercy, strength, and love, renewing our desire to the majesty and grandeur of God, be in His presence, listening to and adoring Him.

numerous occasions in recent times about the importance of prayer. He explains that prayer

enables us to realise that everything comes from and eventually returns to God. He points out that it is through prayer that the Word of God comes to abide in us and we abide in it. He informs us that Evil, in its' battle with the Church; will always attempt to prevent prayer. He tells us that prayer always opens the door to the Holy Spirit, who inspires progress. He also reminds us that when it seems that our prayers are ineffective, Jesus Himself has assured us that He will always be praying for our intentions.

Teach us to Pray (Luke 11:1): Towards a School of Prayer

Early in the Gospels, we hear the disciples pleading with Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray." This plea highlights the human need for a leader, a practical guide, whom we can learn from. The disciples were greatly attracted to prayer as they witnessed how important it was to Jesus in His relationship with His Father. Jesus promised that those who believed in Him would do the works He did, but even better, and He saw that it was important to teach them to pray thus establishing a "school of prayer". This shaped their relationships, their fellow men.

Pope Francis believes that prayer is more than devotion, but rather as natural as breathing and describes it as the "breath of the soul". He looks upon prayer as a face-to-face encounter or dialogue with God, where we can ask God to guide us in our prayers just as the disciples asked Jesus. He also encourages us to seek the help of community members, as spiritual guides; those who have already learned to walk in the Lord's footsteps and can offer advice and guidance to their brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis has highlighted to advance and deepen our Prayer life...

Adoration

Adoration involves humble reverence in the presence of the us that, in Adoration, we should acknowledge God's sovereignty From the beginning of his and power and recognise our trust in Him. In this instance, we come to recognise our own insignificance in comparison to both as the Creator of all but also as the infinite source of mercy and

Pope Francis has spoken on love.

Praise and Thanksgiving

The prayer of praise and thanksgiving is a simple expression of joy and gratitude that God has chosen to lavish such an abundance of gifts and blessings on one so insignificant. We celebrate the greatness, beauty and goodness of God, and we express gratitude for each and every work of God. We recognise that every blessing from God is a sign of His infinite goodness. This develops an attitude of gratefulness in us which shapes positive inclinations towards our brothers and sisters, in accordance with the love that God displays towards us.

Intercession

When making prayers of intercession, we are praying for the intentions and needs of others, displaying solidarity, understanding and compassion with their plight. This can be a powerful tool for bringing world or community needs to God. Intercessory prayers connects the needs of all God's faithful wherever they are; allowing us to share in each other's joys and sufferings in God's presence. We could also intercede on behalf of those who have already died, seeking plenary indulgences to reunite them fully with the Lord.

Supplication

In the prayer of supplication, we present our most urgent concerns, our personal needs and our deepest desires to God. We should present our requests with confidence and perseverance, in the knowledge that God is always ready to listen to what is in our hearts. In our vulnerability, we grow closer to God through witnessing His mercy and love first hand.

Prayer in the Parish Community The Eucharist

This year of prayer provides an excellent opportunity for deepening our understanding of the true meaning of the Eucharist. To fully comprehend what occurs during the Eucharistic Celebration it is essential that we immerse ourselves in the reverence and seriousness of the moment. Each time we participate we are again celebrating Christ's Passover and joining in His Sacrifice, so that He might save all of humanity. Such commitment allows participants of the earth and the light of the world."

The Sunday Mass is always the perfect opportunity for the whole Community to gather together around the table of the Body and Blood of Jesus. Such solemnity demands proper preparation and participation so let us consider how we might bring that about. Prepare for Mass well: Arriving

early to Church will allow time voice with Christ in praise of the ensuring childhood instruction in of the gift we are being offered in the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If time permits, we might even peruse the Word of God in the readings of the day.

Make our initial sign of the Cross well: This encapsulates our whole Christian faith as we recall the incarnation, redemption and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus. We ponder the wonderful mystery of The Holy Trinity as we name Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God: By listening carefully to the of the laity to participate and readings, we hear God speaking to promote us today in our present situation. He knows exactly how and where cantors would enhance the liturgy we are in todays' world. Allow this substantially. grace to guide and help you.

Be attentive to the Lord's Prayer: Consider every word you say to the Father and give due consideration to what you ask of God and what you promise in return.

Welcoming the Eucharistic Jesus: We should truly understand that receiving the 'Bread of Life' in the Eucharist is literally that; the food which sustains us and strengthens each of us for our daily lives. As such, our hearts should be open and welcoming, and be appreciative of the wonderful gift we are receiving.

'The Mass has ended. Go and glorify the Lord by your lives": We should consider the instructions received and how much you have to be grateful for. This will allow you to embark on your week ahead with great confidence.

The Liturgy of the Hours

This is the public prayer of the Church, and is also referred to as 'the Divine Office'. We may have assumed that such prayers were designed only for priests, but we should remember that all God's people "exercise a royal priesthood of the baptised", uniting in one seem to be excellent ways of

to contemplate the importance of Father. Consequently, the Liturgy the Mass, away from the hustle of the Hours belongs to the whole and bustle of our daily lives. We Body of the Church. When we pray should meditate on the enormity the psalms, its central core, we are being blessed and made holy by the Word of God in Scripture.

Liturgy of the Hours in Parish Community

Any parish ecclesial community would reap rich rewards from this promoting celebration under the guidance of the priest. Preparing and promoting Morning Lauds and Evening Vespers, the two cornerstones of the daily office, would provide Be attentive to the Word of opportunities for larger numbers Catechesis. The accompaniment of organ and

24 Hours for the Lord

Pope Francis requested a prayer initiative, 24 Hours for the Lord, to be celebrated on the Saturday and Sunday before the fourth Sunday of Lent.

Prayer in the Family

There was a time when children learned to pray 'at their mother's knee'. In today's heavily secularised culture such language would be seen as hostile to the concepts of modern society and deemed to be 'stereotyping'. While the concept of the home as the 'Domestic Church' that emerged post Vatican II is much reduced in its we are being given, and take time resonance, there is, nevertheless, to reflect on what gifts you have an obligation on Catholic parents to 'hand on the faith'. Part of this responsibility should include formation in prayer. Pope Francis stresses that "moments of family prayer and acts of devotion can be more powerful for evangelization than any catechism class or sermon".

> Given that today many parents spend less time with their children in their early formative years, parish programmes of sacramental preparation would

at least the basic Christian prayers.

Conclusion

At face value, what Pope Francis desires is highly commendable and worthy of implementation. However, as with any liturgical initiative, it often happens that aspirations are chastened by the problems of practice.

At our Parish Pastoral Council (Dungiven), members were given a brief outline of the contents of Pope Francis' initiative. Acknowledging the value of the document, there was an acceptance that what it proposes would serve as a broad agenda for the Council's deliberations in advance of the 2025 Jubilee Year.

As with any initiative, planning is important and the Council would need to devise practical means of heightening parishioners' interest in engaging in forms of communal prayer, leading to greater individual commitment to same. Perhaps a Parish Mission, focusing on developing prayer formats for groups and individuals would be a starting point. In this way, mere aspirations would find expression at practical levels.

Pope Francis' allusion to the plea of the apostles to Jesus to teach them to pray is surely an archetype of our current plea for help in dealing with a society largely bereft of a personal, grateful relationship with God. His call to prayer has the important, perhaps essential element, of providing the people of God today with communal opportunities to extend and deepen their experience of prayer. Having experienced the value of such communal encounters, one would hope that individuals would also develop stronger devotion to private prayer.

As aptly summed up in the Eucharistic Prayer:

"It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God."

Amen to that!

Inishowen Men's June First Saturday Rosary in Buncrana



All Ireland Rosary Rally pilgrims called to be missionaries of the Rosary... Place Rosary beads in hands of everyone you know so to proclaim the Gospel to all hearts and help Our Lady with new evangelisation



THE number of pilgrims attending the annual All Ireland Rosary Rally at Knock's International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine has been steadily growing, with this year's attendance on Saturday, June 1, of around 15,000 exceeding previous years as large numbers of buses arrived in the Co Mayo village from every part of the island.

Blessed with beautiful sunshine, the day got underway with a Marian Conference in St John's Centre, during which talks were delivered by Fr Michael Donnelly, Sr Ana Margarita Lanzas SCTJM, and Fr Joseph Mary Deane CFR.

The main talk of the day on the Rosary was given in the Basilica of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland by Mother Adela Galindo SCTJM. This was followed by outdoors Stations of the Cross and a Rosary procession, during which the prayers were led by children from various Children's Rosary Groups around Ireland. Amongst the Children's Rosary Groups present were members of the Claudy and Carnhill groups, within the Derry Diocese.

Born in Leon, Nicaragua, Mother Adela is the foundress of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary, a religious institute in the Archdiocese of Miami, with a spiritual charism to be a living image and presence of the heart, person and mission of Mary in the heart of the Church. The Sisters desire to be an offering of love and consolation to the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary by choosing in all things the perfection of love, and to be ardent witnesses of the and the salvific mission of Christ. power and fecundity of love and

of the Church, so as to build a new civilization of love, truth and life in the heart of the Church and the world

Inviting those gathered in the Basilica to hold their Rosarv beads in their hands throughout the time of reflection on the Holy Rosary, Mother Adela began by describing the Rosary as "the school of the Gospel through Our Lady's Heart". Recalling St John Paul II's

reflection on what was his most favourite prayer, she said: "St John Paul II spoke very powerfully and deeply about the Rosary. He led us to understand that the Holy Rosary is a gift from the Mother of the Church. He wanted us to enter into the School of Our Lady's Heart in praying the Rosary, allowing her to help us understand deeply the mysteries of Jesus' life."

You are so blessed here, in Ireland," remarked Mother Adela, "Our Lady chose to appear here in a very powerful apparition. She did not say a word but she didn't have to; the image says it all. Even if you just sit for five minutes in front of the image of the apparition, you will see the complete Gospel. Allow the silence of Our Lady to train your hearts about the message of the Gospel of prayer of the Rosary."

She added: "Our Lady thinks and speaks with The Word of God. Everything that comes from Her comes from The Word. She speaks in communion with The Word, in total harmony. Her life is always in line with the Word of God. Blessed is every one of you because you are here and allow Our Lady to speak to your hearts in simplicity."

Mother Adela also referred to what St John Paul II said about the Third Millennium needing saints, saying: "He said that the Rosary, in a very special way in this Third Millennium, has a particular mission to bring forth a harvest of holiness. The Saints of today are among you...we need more Eucharistic Adoration and more Rosaries."

Stressing that the Rosary was not just a repetitive prayer, she added: "The Rosary leads us to the deepest meaning of all that is contained in the Gospels - the life, the words, the actions, the compassion, the mercy "St Paul VI said that the Rosary My Blood."

the splendour of the magisterium you are holding in your hand is a compendium of the Gospel. He was saying that everything that is contained in the Gospels is contained in the Holy Rosary, and that is why we need to pray it with a contemplative heart. It also contains the memories of Our Lady.

"Our Lady is the only one who can teach us what she saw and heard. She is the only one who can share with us the Mysteries of Her Son. At the Marian School, we will be able to see with the eyes of Our Lady, how she contemplates the mysteries of Her Son; how she saw Him being born, grow up and live the life of the Cross.

"Through Her Rosary, Mary is teaching us to go deeply into the events to see the meaning of each Mystery. Listen to Her in your ears and hearts, explaining to you the Mysteries of Her Son's life. After all, we owe it to Her Fiat that God became Man to save and redeem us. What would have happened if Our Lady had said 'No'? But, love can never say 'No' to God."

Teach

"People say to me that they can contemplate Christ without Mary," recalled Mother Adela, "but She is the one who can explain to us everything about Christ and can teach us to have our eyes fixed on Him. Our Lady's gaze never gets distracted from Her Son. Her womb was the first Tabernacle in the world. She lived totally in His Presence. Likewise, when we leave the chapel after having received the Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament continues to be present in us, like it was in Mary, and is in every Tabernacle in every Catholic Church throughout the world.

"The first one to see the face of Jesus was Our Lady, and the first face Jesus saw in the world was Our Lady, and then St Joseph. From the womb. Mary never stopped adoring the face of God's Love, and so there is power in Our Lady's gaze. That is why Pope John Paul II said that in Mary we have an incomparable model.

"The Fathers of the Church said that Our Lady was the one who taught the Apostles how to contemplate and treat the Eucharist. What did She feel when She heard them say, 'This is My Body...this is

She added: "Even though the Rosary is a simple prayer, it is very powerful. The Lord has granted the Rosary a power beyond our understanding. Pray the Rosary for your children and place a Rosary in their pockets."

Mother Adela went on to point out that the Mysteries of the Rosary were meant to be proclaimed, spoken loudly, and then "Our Lady takes our hand and explains to us about the Mysteries and prays for us that we may understand them, while we pray the Hail Marys."

Concluding by calling those gathered to be Missionaries of the Rosary, Mother Adela said: "Place Rosary beads in the hands of everyone you know, as when you do that you are proclaiming the Gospel to all hearts and helping Our Lady with the new evangelisation. Send Rosaries all over the world and the world will hear the Gospel Our Lord proclaimed to all people."

She also promoted Our Lady's Fatima message regarding the First Saturdays and urged pilgrims to place statues of Our Lady of Knock in their homes and around the country, saying: "When I was here in September and we were travelling around the island, I hardly saw a statue of Our Lady of Knock. It's all the same Our Lady whether it is Lourdes, Fatima, Knock, etc, but you have a great treasure here. Our Lady appeared at Knock and she will be here until the end of time. You are to have Her statue in your homes, patios and along your roads. Knock is the treasure of Ireland, honour it as such!"

Basilica was celebrated by Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, of the Waterford & Lismore Diocese, who was joined by Bishop Emeritus of Cork and Ross Dr John Buckley, and a large number of priests who had led groups from parishes across the island.

During his homily, Bishop Cullinan also encouraged the thousands packed into the Basilica to be courageous missionaries in their everyday lives, telling them that Jesus wants them to spread the Gospel in their kitchens, living rooms, schools, offices, factories, farms, hospitals, etc, "bringing His truth, love and mercy to the people He puts in your life". He went on to state: "Ireland





needs Jesus. We see so much pain, so much brokenness, which surely is breaking the heart of Jesus. Let's fulfil our vocation with all our heart, whether that be to marriage, religious life, single life, diaconate, or priesthood.

"We have to pray every day. Ireland needs prayer. It is wonderful to see that so many people are The closing Mass in the packed praying in Ireland today. By your very presence here, you are encouraging each other."

> Suggesting ways that they could promote prayer in their parishes, Bishop Cullinan said: "Don't go to your parish priest and say, Fr we need to gather more people for Adoration. You gather people for Adoration and go to your PP and tell him you have gathered people for Adoration and so when can they do it.

"Look at the urgent need of help for marriages and families, what can you do for them? Can you do something with your Rosary beads and follow the wonderful example of Fr Peyton and pray. Maybe gather your neighbours to say the Rosary on a certain night each week

in your home, and this could be the start of little prayer groups around the country. There are faith groups in Ireland and we need more for our young people, to teach them the Rosary.

"Every time we take the Rosary in our hands, we are taking Mary's hand in ours. We can bring Her all our worries and joys and She will stand there beside us, just as She was there for the Apostles. The Rosary is always a moment of grace and if we can spread it around more it will be a great grace for our whole country."

Plans are already underway for the next Rosary Rally at Knock Shrine on Saturday, June 7, 2025, which is a Jubilee Year with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', when it is hoped that the fruits of this year's rally, when pilgrims were sent home as missionaries of the Rosary, will bring many more thousands to the Eucharistic and Marian Shrine to honour Our Lady and Her Son, the Saviour of the World.

The Rosary and what it means to me by Shelaine Moore

Rosary every day. She used to after mammy wrote to him. gather all the children in our street on a Saturday morning to pray the Rosary, and she would bring out the statue of the Mystical Rose. She also had a Rosary group on a Tuesday evening for a lot of her friends.

I believe mammy was greatly inspired by Venerable Fr Patrick Peyton CSC, the world renowned

Peggy Shepard, who prayed the in our home in Ballymagroarty,

Fr Peyton's quote, "The family that prays together stays together", stays with me to this day. I prayed so much to him to help me get the Children's Rosary up and going in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill. It has been going now since October 2023

We went to the All-Ireland

past and it was so powerful. The graces we received were amazing, with prayers answered as we are now getting the go ahead to do the children's Rosary in the Long Tower from September. Hopefully from there ,it will grow to other parishes.

Hearing the children pray out the Rosary is amazing. Some of them didn't know how to say it when

I was inspired by my mother, Rosary priest. He celebrated Mass Rosary rally in Knock on June 1 they started, now they are confident going, and try to get more and more enough to come up to the altar and pray a decade on their own. I love children are the Church's future. the joy and happiness it brings to all the families who attend our Rosaries

ones to say the decades and sing the song." I feel that I owe it to Our Blessed schools and chapels involved, as the

There are so many prayer groups for adults but not many for children; this is why it is so important to My son, Lee, who is 12 said to me: me to get this going, as I am very "Mammy, I'm teaching the younger thankful for answered prayers in my own life.

(Formerly from Derry City, Shelaine is now living with her Mother and to Fr Peyton to keep family in the Claudy Parish).



Catholic Mothers Ireland enthused by huge expression of faith at Knock Rosary Rally by Sinéad Strong

ALL roads led to Mayo on Saturday, June 1, for the annual All-Ireland Rosary Rally, which took place at Knock Eucharistic and Marian Shrine, Co Mayo. The sun shone on the huge crowd! It was estimated that there was in excess of 10,000 people there. Catholic Mothers Ireland was delighted to be there as part of it people that the real good news is and witness the huge expression of faith in Knock that day. There God so loved the world that He was a great buzz about the Shrine. It was great to see!

A big, enthusiastic crowd gathered early for a Marian Conference at 9.30 am to hear speakers, such as Fr Joseph Mary Deane CFR, Fr Brendan Kilcovne, and Sr Ana Lanzas. Over 20 Apostolates from around Ireland, including Catholic Mothers emotional, to hear Dana for the Ireland, then met the people at a specially created conference area. It was a fantastic experience to be there and to see all the great work going on around the country. We met so many people and told them all about Catholic Mothers Ireland and how they could be part of it. There was also a Rosarv and Scapular making workshop in the morning and, at midday, over 200 people took part in Ireland's first ever living Rosary, where people wearing white and different colour shirts formed a nurture and care for her gigantic beads of the Rosary, with an overhead drone capturing the scene on video.

Stations of the Cross for thousands of pilgrims, and representatives

from different youth groups, including the Children's Rosary Movement, led thousands of pilgrims in a Rosary Procession. Bishop Phonsie Cullinan was the main celebrant at the Holy

Mass, joined by Bishop John Buckley and many other priests. Bishop Phonsie reminded the found in St John's Gospel: "For gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3, 16). He encouraged the thousands gathered to write another chapter of the Acts of the Apostles and to spread the Gospel message with joy and enthusiasm.

It was exciting, and a bit first time as she sang her songs, 'Totus Tuus' and 'Our Lady of Knock'.

This was the first year that Catholic Mothers Ireland took part in the All-Ireland Rosary Rally, which is growing every year. We were so glad we got the opportunity to be there and will certainly be keeping it in the diary for 2025.

Catholic Mothers Ireland

The role of a mother is to children. As Catholic Mothers, we are called to more. We must nurture our children spiritually Fr John Harris OP led the as well as physically. When I got married in 2013, I moved away from everything and everyone

I knew. It was scary and lonely, and having children added to this and bringing them up in the faith compounded it even further.

I knew that it was not possible to do this alone. Surrounding ourselves with other faith families fortifies our efforts and helps us grow in faith, especially through our trials. In 2015, during Adoration, the inspiration for Catholic Mothers Ireland came to me. I realised that I wasn't the only one going through these difficulties and feelings of isolation, for my friends who were bringing their children up in the Catholic faith were facing the same problems.

There was a real need for somewhere these mothers could go for support and encouragement in their demanding roles as wives and mothers, as well as growing in their faith through sharing their experiences. I then reached out to my closest friend to discuss it with her, and she thought it was a great idea. From there, we worked together to invite other mums to join us. As we were so spread out, we kept our meet ups to school holidays. We went to Mass in our local parish and then prayed the Rosary during the car journey to our meeting point – usually a soft-play area or forest park. It was a great way to get talking to other mums that you could relate to, and the children were making friends with other children also being brought up in the faith.

We started off with seven mums

grown into a great community where we are bonded by our vocation and faith to support and encourage each other during our most challenging times, and have a place to go to discuss our faith and grow closer to God. Over the years, we began to develop what we were doing for the mums bring forward plans to help in our and families in the group. We parish and support the church. In started adding more events to our between all our in-person events, calendar: family days; our annual All Saints party; and more regular 'Pray and Play' days for mums to meet locally during term time. novenas together, for Bishops, Wherever we saw a need, we tried to fill it and be there as a support in faith in Ireland. These are all to mothers.

This led to our first Retreat Day in August 2022 with the was another area where there did mums. We now have four of these one-day retreats a year, all around Ireland. The aim of the day is twofold. Firstly, to give a spiritual boost to mums, we have talks, Secondly, it is a way for mums to take time for themselves; a brief day.

We hope that through our mission, Catholic mothers in we are about; new members will Ireland will come to a deeper be welcome also. understanding of their faith and draw closer to Jesus. We have Ireland is especially important experienced a huge growth in our at this time. We live in an age

and, over the years, we have community over the last couple of years, such is the great need for Catholic mothers and families to connect with each other. We are stronger together.

> Our most recent work has been our Parish Initiatives group. Here, we are discussing ways in which Catholic Mothers Ireland can we try to keep connected through our social media platforms and WhatsApp groups. We pray exam students and for a growth things we can do from home and locally.

We recently had a meeting with Dominicans in Dundalk. This Archbishop Eamon Martin, who was delighted to hear of all the not seem to be much to suit busy great work Catholic Mothers Ireland is doing. We are so blessed to have his continued support in our mission going forward. He will celebrate Mass at our upcoming Family Day Adoration, Confession and Mass. on Saturday, September 7, in Co Armagh. This will be an annual, national event and we reprieve from the busyness of are encouraging everyone to join motherhood to spend time with us to pray for Catholic Mothers other mums, be encouraged and Ireland and be part of this replenished, and be served for the wonderful group of women and families. This day will be open to all families to come and see what

The work of Catholic Mothers



where the very foundation of womanhood and motherhood is under constant attack by the media and governments. The group unites us together and we pray with and for each other, building each other up and reminding each other that we are not alone. We are there for each other in the good times and the bad, and when you can't pray for yourself, we'll pray for you!

It is hard work being a mother, and even more so being a Catholic Mother. It can be so easy to lose hope when you feel isolated. I would encourage anyone who feels called to it, to set up a local Catholic Mothers 'Prav and Play' Group or a Mothers' only group, and build foundations of support for themselves and their families. For more information contact: Telephone /WhatsApp - 085 147 1516, via email - catholicmothers@ outlook.ie, or through our website www.catholicmothers.ie

(Sinéad is the founder of Catholic Mothers Ireland.)



Ciaran McAlister Memorial Award by Rosemary Finan



The late Ciaran McAlister, Derry

CIARAN McAlister was a gifted singer who joined St Eugene's Cathedral choir in 2007, having previously given committed service to other church choirs, most notably St Mary's, Creggan.

Ever dependable, during lockdown he provided solo music encourages young singers in fullfor Sunday Mass in St Eugenes. Outgoing by nature, he enjoyed the social element of the choir also, and often enlivened rehearsals with an injection of humour.

Ciaran contributed much to other elements of parish and community life as well: he was a Eucharistic minister; a voluntary member of the Catechetical Centre adult faith a master class given by Belfast-born formation team; and dedicated baritone, Malachy Frame - and gives member of the Irish Red Cross, serving at many public events in this capacity.

After Ciaran died unexpectedly in January 2024 following a short illness, it was felt fitting that he should be commemorated by the institution of an annual award for the benefit of the St Eugene's Choir Choral Scholars' scheme. This scheme, begun in 2022,

time education to join the choir. In return for a weekly stipend, they attend rehearsals and sing at all the liturgical services of the Cathedral. This provides them with invaluable experience of sight-reading and working as a member of a musical ensemble. It develops students' singing technique - last year included opportunities for solo performance.

One of last year's students is currently studying voice and performance at King's College London. Seven students have participated in the scheme each year thus far; it is hoped to bring this up to 10 students per year, with spaces currently available for male student voices.

Anyone interested in joining

or donating to the scheme may contact the choir director at maghnusmonaghan@hotmail.com. For this year 2023–24, Ellen Harkin (Alto) has been chosen to receive the inaugural Ciaran McAlister Choral Scholar Award for commitment. The award and cheque for £250 were presented on behalf of the choir by Mrs Phyllis McAlister, mother of Ciaran, following the 12.30 pm Mass on Sunday, June 16th.







For the month of June, Seán has reflected on the life of the patron of his school and local Gaelic Club, St Columba, whose Feast Day is June 9, finding that even today we can benefit from the legacy of the Saint's life and works.

Shea writes about the power of prayer and how it has helped him grow in his faith by helping him to develop a relationship with God, while Niamh addresses the experience of doubt and how it is a step in spiritual growth, highlighting the importance of prayer in helping to overcome doubts by drawing you into communion with God.

Prayer is also the central theme of Bronagh's reflection on the powerful intercession of St Anthony, whose Feast Day is June 13, while Luke writes about the importance of trust in Christianity.

James reflects on the Pope's prayer intention for the month of June, and how it is a powerful reminder of the urgent need to address the migration crisis with compassion and action, and John writes about the wonderful Feast of Corpus Christi.

Cara-leigh Bronagh Peter Grant John Agustine James Tourish, Erin Whoriskey Doherty - Derry Joseph, Derry Derry City Derry City City Deanery Co Derry Deanery. City Deanery Deanery Deanerv

ea Doherty, Evan Curran **Derry City**

Niamh Sharkey, Derry McLaughlin, City Deanery Co Tyrone

Co Derry Deaner Deanerv

Cadhla Shivers, Luke Doherty,

A reflection on the Feast of Corpus Christi by John

apart by division, conflict and war mystery..." still needs the "aroma of bread of love".

Derry City

Deanery

The Eucharist is the "living bread from heaven"; it is in one sense the manna that sustains. The The real presence of Our Lord Holy Father taught in his homily during Corpus Christi that the Eucharist "teach us to be thankful abandons us but rather waits for for God's many gifts in our lives, by properly using our talents and skills". To give thanks is the very meaning of the Eucharist.

Moreover, the Eucharist is the remembrance of the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord. Even though we are deeply unworthy, Our Lord loved us so much that He took on the burden of our sins and offered up His Body and Blood as the ultimate hope in the resurrection of the sacrifice.

giving His Body and Blood, "Jesus found favour in His presence" [1]. taught us to give ourselves as an offering to people in need".

quote the Anaphora To (Eucharistic Prayer) of Mar Addai and Mar Mari from the Syro Malabar Qurbana,

"Setting aside His equality with You, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant. Born of a woman, He became a complete human being with a rational, intelligent, and immortal soul, and a mortal body. He subjected Himself to the law, in order to Corpus Christi in Rome presided by

AS we reflect on the Feast of redeem those who were under the Corpus Christi, Pope Francis law. He left for us the memorial reminds us that the world, torn of our salvation, this redemptive

The mystery of the Eucharist is what the Second Vatican Council describes as the source and summit of our Christian lives. in the Eucharist is a reminder, as Pope Francis says, that "God never us to accept Him in the form of Bread".

In a world where many strive only for themselves, the Eucharist points us towards our purpose, which is to adore and worship God, through all that we do.

Through the mystery of the Eucharist, may we be sanctified; may it grant us "remission of our debts, forgiveness of our sins, great dead and new life in His heavenly The Holy Father taught that in kingdom with all those who have [1] Syro Malabar Qurbana



Pope Francis.

We can all gain something from an understanding of St Columba's life and works

by Sean

Columba. This anniversary of a God, and he wanted to dedicate man who so greatly influenced the development of early Christianity in Ireland and Scotland, led me to the desire to understand his of what it means to be Christian, reasoning for his life's work, and why he sought to do it.

the name Columba and his almost mystical figure in history, and mysterious figure throughout therefore, the curiosity has always my life has ignited this thinking been present since a young age. I went to St Columba's Primary School and the message of Columba was well spread there, it being a strongly rural, Catholic school.

My Gaelic club, Urnai Naomh Columba, is also named for and this motto of Columba aided Columba due to his personal influence in the local area, and this birthed that presence of the man's name in my life.

the life, works and teachings of Columba where even more present. Recently, the school year celebrated the 1500 anniversary of Columba's birth, with a series of events dedicated to his memory. This anniversary inspired me to gain further understanding.

He was a mysterious figure priest. in ancient Gaelic Ireland, and his actions led him even to in 544 and founded several banishment, after which he monasteries, including Doire, travelled to Scotland to spread the word of God there as well. Columba born was on

December 7, 521, in Gartan, a parish in Tir Chonaill (modern day Donegal), in which he was said to have eventually founded a monastery, and was baptised in Conwal, near Letterkenny.

Ireland's most prominent 6th century Church figures, and developed a great understanding of the teachings of Jesus from five hundred years earlier. As his mistakes in his life that led to influence in the Church grew, he grew also to prominence in Irish politics. At that time, the island was ruled by petty kings and a loose and usually ineffective High King.

On his father's side, Columba escalated to the point that was the great-great grandson a conflict began over the of High King Niall of the Nine manuscript incident. The Battle Hostages, and this led him to of Cul Dreimhne in Sligo, in 561, having great ancestral claim to resulted in numerous deaths, and influence and widespread reach Columba felt enormous guilt over later life. on the island.

with historians unsure whether and 12 of his followers departed it was Colmcille to begin with. Ireland in shame at the bloodshed The monks on Iona with him that had been caused. believed it to be, but other sources in Ireland would suggest that it Matthew 26:52, Jesus had said: was Crimthann (fox). If he did "For all who draw the sword shall adopt the name Colmcille, then die by the sword." Columba saw this was a deliberate marking of himself as guilty for the deaths the aim of his mission on himself. during the battle at Sligo and, The name in Latin means 'dove', therefore, took it upon himself which is the same as the Prophet to evangelise the barbarous Pict

JUNE 9 was the Feast Day of St intended to spread the word of his life to it.

This intention has had an impact on my own understanding as spreading the word of God is a vital term in the covenant I have been surrounded by that Jesus offered to us. Being surrounded by Columba's name in my mind. My school's motto is 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God'. This rule of Columba's outlines that our primary intention in life is to act in ways that are morally acceptable to God; that is what is the most important in our life, me into coming to the realisation of this.

Columba was a deacon by the time that he was 20 years old. My grammar school is St He studied under many people Columb's College, and here around Ireland, never confining himself to one place, drawing influence from various sources rather than one. This leads to understanding. The best known of his teachers was Finnian, at the monastery at Clonard, in which he became known as one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland, after which he was finally ordained a

He returned to the north Kells, and Durrow. He even planned a pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem, which never proceeded. In 560, he became involved in a dispute with Finnian in the Movilla Abbey, due to him copying one of Finnian's manuscripts, intending to keep the copy for himself. He began studying under Finnian opposed such a move, demanding that he keep the manuscript for himself.

> It was in this dispute that Columba would make the the realisation that he needed to change and truly spread the word of God.

Conflict

His dispute with Finnian the consequences that his actions His birth name is debatable, had permitted. That year, he

Columba remembered that in Jonah in Hebrew. Columba kingdoms of northern Scotland,



which were far from God and still resembled the pre-Roman mess of Britannia.

Columba and his followers settled on the island of Iona, off the coast of northern Scotland, in 563. The island was provided to him by the kinsman, Conall mac Comgaill, the king of Dal Riata, so that he could build an abbey there. He intended to act as the converter of the pagan tribes. This was inspired by Mark 16:15, in which Jesus said: "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all."

The Picts were an ungodly people, and so Columba, seeking redemption and forgiveness, saw it fit to carry out Jesus' commands and evangelise people who had not heard the Good News. We should all take example from this mindset. We have been given the word of God and we should offer it to those who haven't been.

Columba's reputation as a holy man led to his status as a diplomat between the unruly Pict tribes, and the successful conversion of most of those people, and the founding of many monasteries and abbeys along the northwestern coast of Scotland. At Iona, Columba transcribed upwards of three hundred books by hand, and only returned to Ireland on a few occasions in his

founded, one of many, the one that he chose to call home during the lengthy and permanent stay in Scotland.

Columba today is the Patron Saint of Derry, due to having founded the monastic settlement in 540 upon his return to the

north from Leinster. He was given the honour of becoming a saint in the Catholic Church due to his noble actions evangelising Scotland and seeing the wrongs in his way prior to the battle caused by his transcription of Finnian's manuscript, and also due to the miracles that he performed to aid the Picts during their conversion.

I believe that we can all gain something from an understanding of St Columba's life and works - what he strived for, how he achieved it, and how he always turned back to God in a time of uncertainty and guilt.

This saint has always influenced my faith, with both of the schools that I have been educated in since the age of four being named after him. The feast day this year sparked a new interest for me when thinking about St Columba, and inspired me to analyse his life and actions for further understanding and comprehension of what it means to be a follower of Christ. It requires, as Columba rightly demonstrated, the will to turn ourselves around when we make mistakes, already turning back to God. God is forgiving and the final judge, and we must learn what is acceptable to Him so that we can learn from our mistakes.

Columba turned back to God after causing a battle in which many people died, and Columba died on a Sunday I now try to model my own - that being June 9, 597, with responses to mistakes on the that date now celebrated in the way that Columba did; with Catholic Church as his feast day. resilience and the ability to see He was buried by the monks of the good in yourself that can Iona in the abbey that he himself be reinvigorated. I have learned that it is preferable to try and compensate for consequences that you brought about, rather than allowing yourself to lull into eternal guilt. Acceptance of your own wrongdoings is the first step towards the kingdom of God.

Pope's June intention serves as powerful reminder of urgent need to address migration crisis with compassion and action by James

FOR June 2024, Pope Francis dedicated his monthly prayer intention to a poignant and pressing global issue: migrants fleeing their homes. This focus reflects the Pope's enduring commitment to advocating for the vulnerable and marginalised; a hallmark of his papacy.

His call to action not only urges the global community to acknowledge the plight of migrants, but also to actively participate in fostering a world where everyone can live with dignity and security.

The current state of global migration is alarming. According to the United Nations, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide has reached unprecedented levels, with conflicts, persecution, and environmental disasters driving millions from their homes. Migrants often face perilous exploitation, and journeys, uncertain futures as they seek safety and better opportunities.

Pope Francis has been a vocal advocate for migrants throughout his tenure, repeatedly emphasising the need for compassion, solidarity, and practical assistance. In his June 2024 intention, he specifically asks the faithful to pray "that migrants fleeing from war, hunger, and persecution may find welcome and support." This intention underscores the multifaceted nature of the migration crisis and the imperative for a collective, humane response.

The Pope's message is a clarion call to the global community, urging nations and individuals alike to adopt a posture of empathy and action. He emphasizes that migrants are not mere statistics but human beings with stories of suffering, hope, and resilience.

In his recent address, Pope Francis stated, "Each migrant has a face, a name, and a story. We must see them not as burdens but Pope Francis elaborates on the everyone to contribute to a more as brothers and sisters in need of our help."

His words challenge the pervasive narrative that often dehumanizes migrants, reducing their plight to political debates and economic calculations. Instead, Pope Francis calls for a culture of encounter and inclusion, where the intrinsic value of every human life is recognized and cherished.

Beyond prayer, Pope Francis encourages concrete actions to support migrants. This includes advocating for fair and humane immigration policies, providing resources for migrant assistance





programs, and communities that welcome and integrate newcomers. The Church, he suggests, should lead by example, offering sanctuary, aid, and opportunities for migrants to rebuild their lives.

In line with this, numerous Catholic organizations worldwide have intensified their efforts to support migrants. From offering legal assistance and shelter to providing education and job training, these initiatives aim to empower migrants and help them regain their dignity and independence.

Pope Francis's June intention also aligns with broader themes of his papacy, such as social justice, environmental stewardship, and the preferential option for the poor. He often highlights the interconnectedness of these issues, noting that many migrants are fleeing not just violence and persecution but also the devastating impacts of climate change and economic inequality. envisioning a world where borders

fostering where solidarity and cooperation prevail. His prayer intention for migrants is a concrete expression of this vision, urging humanity to break down barriers and build bridges of understanding and support.

The Pope's June 2024 intention serves as a powerful reminder of the urgent need to address the migration crisis with compassion and action. It challenges individuals and communities to look beyond their immediate concerns and extend a helping hand to those in dire need. By advocating for migrants fleeing their homes, Pope Francis continues to shine a light on one of the most critical humanitarian issues of our time, calling for a global response rooted in empathy, justice, and love.

In a world where the plight of migrants often fades into the background, Pope Francis's unwavering focus on their struggles brings renewed attention and hope. His call In his encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti', to prayer and action invites concept of universal fraternity, just and compassionate world, ensuring that no migrant is left to do not exclude or marginalize but navigate their journey alone.



Lost and Found – St Anthony by Bronagh

JUNE 13 annually sees the celebration of St Anthony's life. On this day, traditionally, the lily is blessed as a sign of his purity.

People pray to St Anthony to help find what is lost and for comfort in times of distress. People also turn to him for help when they can't find what they are looking for; literally or spiritually. This story stems from the legend that claims that Anthony had a psalter, a book of psalms, stolen from him by a novice in the Franciscan community. He prayed that this would be returned to him along with the novice returning to the community - his prayers were answered; hence his being commonly referred to as the 'Patron Saint of lost things' (Britannica,June 2024).

The returning of the novice to the Franciscan community can be linked to the calling for vocations. St Anthony can be used to pray for us in times where we have lost faith, either in ourselves or others. He shows us that faith can be returned, even when we think there is no return.

The theme of forgiveness is also relevant, as when we commit a sin we can feel like we have lost God ,or sight of what He has taught us. Our trust and following in God can be returned to us through confessions - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (John 1 1:19).

St Anthony carried out many miracles during his time as a Franciscan Friar, such as the



story of the horse that hadn't eaten in three days and ate the food after it had been placed in adoration before the Eucharist; or the poisoned meal that Anthony ate after making the Sign of The Cross over it, without it causing anv harm to him. (Catholic News Agency, June, 2024).

St Anthony is most often pictured holding the Child Jesus, in statues and paintings. This is symbolic of an experience Anthony had during his life travelling through Limoges, a city in France. A benefactor had given St Anthony lodging for a night during his travels, which consisted of a room separate from the others.

Passing near the room where coming through the cracks in a Doctor of The Church in 1946.

This sentiment is echoed in

Job 31:24, which states: "If I have

put my trust in gold or said to

pure gold, 'You are my security,'

Money is an excellent example

of something that we shouldn't

merely something placed upon

the intrinsic value of trust in God.

This is not to say that we should distrust everything around us.

completely, I would argue that

The key example of this would

they must earn, but once earned

people are fallible, so the trust in

them can never be as reliable as

trust in God could be. However,

does not mean it is worthless.

unfaithful to God on high."

door. He saw Anthony kneeling, full of wonder, caressing a loving child of rare beauty who was embracing the Saint. The loving child was Jesus, who visited His faithful servant, Anthony, (Aleteia, 2019). This picture often also includes a lily, and is used to honour St Anthony and his work. St Anthony died at just 36 years old and was canonized a saint one year later by Pope Gregory IX. He was exhumed 336 years later, his body was corrupted with his tongue completely incorrupt, symbolic of the teachings he had taught during his time on earth.

St Anthony is prayed to very often, all over the world, for many reasons and his work is admired and inspires so many, just like St Anthony was staying that Pope Pius XII was inspired and night, the benefactor checked on realised that the teachings were him when he saw rays of light so outstanding he was declared

Trust in Christianity by Luke

web.

TRUST is an important part ephemeral strands of a spider's of life as a Christian. When we think of trust, one of the first things that may come to mind is trust in God, or, in other words, faith. It goes without saying that then these also would be sins to this is incalculably important, as our religion is nothing without be judged, for I would have been trust in God.

Sometimes, when times are difficult it can be a challenge to truly place our trust in the place our trust in, as its value is Lord. That is unavoidable and a fundamental part of being it, an extrinsic value compared to human. The important part is not to have unwavering faith, as that is essentially impossible, the important part is to recover from That is not a practical way to live. our doubts and to renew our trust While God is the only source in God each time we face such a of something that we can trust difficulty.

trust in something, and as Job that are derived from God. 8:13-15 says: "Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes be people. Unlike trust in God, the hope of the godless. What trust in people is something they trust in is fragile; what they rely on is a spider's web. They lean it is also worthwhile. Of course, on the web, but it gives way; they cling to it, but it does not hold."

Put simply, these verses teach us how many sources of trust are just because this trust is imperfect fragile, comparing them to the



I said that this trust is, in a way, connected to God. That is because, to earn our trust, somebody must show goodness and reliability, to indicate they deserve it. Like all goodness, it comes from God.

Faith in God may supersede all other forms of trust, but to truly We cannot function without there are other sources of trust trust God we need to have faith in some of His creations around us. So long as we hold onto our trust in God, we can trust others too. This trust in others is necessary, as without it we may find ourselves in a constant state of conflict. Society doesn't work without trust.

> Trust in others allows us to feel safe physically, while God allows us to feel safe spiritually.

Experiencing doubt does not mean we lack faith by Niamh

DOUBT is a natural part of any young person's life; questions and uncertainties can arise from many personal experiences, academic challenges, societal pressures, and even from within your spiritual life.

To deal with doubts, you must acknowledge them as suppressing them can lead to a faith that cannot withstand pressure. As young people, we must understand that experiencing doubt does not mean we lack faith, as even Mother Teresa experienced periods of great doubt. Acknowledging doubt is a courageous and necessary step towards spiritual growth.

Prayer is a powerful way of dealing with doubt, as you can talk to God, express your uncertainties and ask for guidance. The Catechism of the Catholic Church encourages believers to turn to prayer in moments of doubt, reminding us that God understands our it is important to be patient with struggles and is always ready to listen.

Doubts are often caused by lack of understanding, this is why it is important to read scripture and



the Catholic Church, which will help answer questions.

Being a part of a faith group is crucial, where you can share your doubts without fear of judgement. Young Catholics should not hesitate to ask questions, as it is comforting to know that you are not alone in your faith journey and that others may share similar questions and experiences. Faith is a lifelong journey, and

yourself as you navigate through periods of doubt. Spiritual growth takes time and effort. Allow yourself the space to explore your questions and seek answers

delve deeper into the teachings of at your own pace. Remember, even the Apostles had moments of doubt, yet they continued to follow Christ and eventually strengthened their faith.

Ultimately, trust in God's plan for you. Doubt can be a means through which God draws you closer to Him. Trust that God will guide you through your uncertainties and lead you to a deeper, more resilient faith.

Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux

THE Little Way Novena in choose your will only. honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux took place from Saturday, May 11 to Sunday, May 19. The theme for order on an island off the coast the Novena was "I choose your of Norway, was able to come to will only".

It began with an Opening miraculous, direct intervention Mass on the Saturday evening, the vigil of the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven, during which Gilchrist told us how she was Fr Shaun Doherty said that we bitterly disappointed when she would hear ascension stories during that week – stories where hope defeats despair. He told us that we are called to move on and keep ascending and help others to she received the prayer –Jesus, I ascend with us. Our lives should always be ascending - going upward - towards the creator. The Sacrament of the Sick was celebrated at this Mass.

On Sunday evening, Bishop reality and miracles happen. Donal told us that the only mission of the Church is to bring the Good News to the ends of the earth. Bishop Donal warned us about a very dangerous temptation. That temptation is to reduce the Divine will to what we want or think that we can manage. Bishop Donal focused so much on St Thérèse's statement to God, the theme of our Novena, I that led Keith to recognise that has it for her people and she

On Monday evening, Sr

Gilchrist, who lives in an enclosed Derry and reveal to us how a of God in her life freed her from self-focus and victimhood. Sr didn't get what she wanted, and how she was sent away to be alone for three days to try to get over her disappointment and there praise you and thank you for the miracles and wonders you work in my life and your perfect plan for me. When we choose the will of God the impossible becomes a

On Tuesday evening, Keith Graham spoke about the evolution of his life and faith that has brought him into the Catholic Church. It was so obvious that that evolution – the unveiling of God's perfect plan continues in his life and is bringing him deeper and deeper into the mystery of God. In our society, it is a miracle

politics and religion are not connected. He has a scientific background which couldn't give him the answer to life's questions, and he recognised that at an early age. It is with God and in God and through God that he is discovering those answers as his life continues to evolve.

On Wednesday evening, Sr Lucia came from Ukraine to speak to us. At no time, up until two years ago, could Sr Lucia ever have imagined that God's will for her would be that she would stav at the frontline in a devastating war. Yet, that is where she is, and the miracle of Sr Lucia is her joy. How can you be joyful in such a horrific reality? The truth is that you will be joyful no matter what if you know that you are doing God's will. People could argue that it is impossible to be joyful. Sr Lucia manifests the fact that no it is not. In the world, it is impossible to be joyful in a war situation. With God, it is not.

When you reveal love and call love forth there is a heavenly joy that can only come from your soul. Sr Lucia has that love. She

Prayer has helped me grow in asking God for guidance by Shea

THANK you for taking the time to read my article, which is about prayer. For me, prayer began as a chore. I had no interest. I only said prayers to have them done because I was a 'catholic'.

However, it developed into a habit of trying to keep connected to God and to develop a relationship with the Lord, so prayer has now become a necessary part of my life. I pray constantly, no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Bringing the Lord into my dayto-day life has become something I strive to do daily. It is an amazing way to minimise stress, worry, anger and other negative feelings and emotions. The Lord asks us to surrender these thoughts to Him, and leave them at the foot of the Cross in prayer, which I encourage you all to try because it will help profoundly, like I've found.

Allowing the Lord to come part of your daily life, whether it is good or bad, is an amazing thing to do. He wants to be part of your whole life, not just a small part, so why not let Him? To me, it makes perfect sense

Prayer has helped me to connect with God and other people in ways I couldn't always do, for example, empathizing with people's struggles that I hadn't



PEACE OF GOD WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL UNDERSTANDING WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS



personally experienced. The Lord gave me the understanding using prayer to ask God about my and wisdom to help and comfort people.

I have also personally grown by own life choices and situations where I just needed guidance.



calls them to be people of love. here. Robert entered so fully into witness to unity and respect, and The very fact that Sr Lucia got to Ireland at all was a miracle in itself. The reason the miracle happened was so obvious when that exists in our Christianity. We we experienced her presence and are brothers and sisters, all of us. heard her witnessing to the love It is a unity not often spoke of, but Pentecost Sunday, and that a of God.

Hope

On Thursday evening, we had the miracle of Joseph Kim. Everything about Joseph is a miracle. His life itself is a miracle. He experienced starvation, homelessness. He escaped from the most fortified country in the world. He travelled through China, homeless. He made it to America. Yet, Joseph doesn't see himself as a victim or even a survivor. He is just full of humility and gratitude. He is so grateful for the gift of life and he wants to live it to the very best of his ability. Joseph made the anything we could possibly think decision to live life well and not up. to squander any of it, to honour his father who tried so hard to protect him and who died of starvation. He wrote a book not on the faith to us and to whom we primarily to tell his story but to reveal how beautiful his sister was. Joseph has every reason to be completely self-focused and yet he is not. Joseph revealed that meet again one day. the impossible can be a reality in life. In some sense, despite all the Sunday, we came together to pain and suffering that Joseph has had to experience in his life unimaginable pain and suffering in him is the most profound and transparent way hope and history you feel as if there is no point, year's Novena as May 10-18, rhyme. Joseph's life reveals the when you are tired and defeat no fruit of hope.

On Friday evening, there was something wonderful about remember

the Novena. He speaks about Thérèse as one he knows so well. Robert reveals the truth of a unity it is real and it is strong and it is powerful. It reveals a miracle. It was impossible not too long ago to share our faith in such a true and respectful and humble way. The Spirit of God breaks down the barriers that we create and makes the impossible a reality. Robert spoke about Thérèse choosing God's will only and how she tells us that we choose God's will only when we surrender and have gratitude. That means that we surrender what we want and what we think we can manage and we give in to God with gratitude, because His will is infinitely better and more wonderful than

On Saturday morning, we celebrated Mass for all those who have died; the ones who handed should be most grateful. A faith that needs cared for and worked at each day. We asked our Lord to take care of them now until we all

On Sunday at 3 pm, Pentecost celebrate the Closing Ceremony of our Novena. Fr Paul Farren told us in his homily that when you feel like giving in, when longer seems that bad, remember Joseph Kim, remember Sr Lucia, Keith Graham's

has it for the soldiers, and she Archdeacon Robert Miller being evolution and Robert Miller's remember St Therese. Remember, as Fr Clerkin told us, that she was cured on a Pentecost Sunday, that she told her father she was entering the monastery on a young boy was cured through her intercession on a Pentecost Sunday.

> Today is Pentecost Sunday - a day of new commitments and miracles. When the old rut of life seems very attractive and a silent faith seems a peaceful option, remember that it is when you choose God's will only that you have true peace and real joy. When you want to reduce your world and reduce God's will to what you want and what you think you can manage, remember the joy of this Novena and the miracles and the ascension stories that revealed the impossible becoming real and miracles happening.

> Remember to always ask for the impossible and believe that it can be a reality. Remember never to abandon hope because hope and history do rhyme in God. Always remember Sr Gilchrist's prayer, remember to give praise and thanks to God for the miracles and wonders He works in your life and His perfect plan for you. It is that perfect plan that makes hope and history rhyme all the time. Remember and be full of gratitude!

Fr Paul gave the dates of next 2025. Save the Date! St Thérèse of Lisieux pray for us.

(Article courtesy of Anne Marie Hickey and Fr Paul Farren.)





















Joyous celebration of Sacred Heart Jubilee Year in Greencastle



THERE was a joyous celebration in the parish of Greencastle, Co Tyrone, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 7, in this Jubilee Year marking the 350th anniversary of the Apparitions of the Heart new. The final revelations about of Jesus to St Margaret Mary of Alacoque in Paray-le-Monial, in the French Bourgogne region.

Young people were very much involved in the celebration, with around 30 children from Our Lady of Lourdes PS joining adult members of the choir in leading the singing during a special Mass only Son to die so that sin and death celebrated by Bishop Donal.

The Bishop, who was joined on the altar by Fr James Devine and Fr Brian Donnelly PP, had earlier blessed a new statue of the Sacred Heart in Broughderg Cemetery, and welcomed the great turnout for we declare each time we recite the the celebration.

During his homily, Bishop Donal reflected on how the Devotion to the Sacred Heart began to flourish 350 years ago, in the 17th century, after the decades of war and turmoil that followed the Reformation.

"In an age of confrontation and condemnation," he noted, "the love of the suffering Jesus - revealed on the Cross - came to the fore as a counterbalance to any angry seemed to be very widespread."

"But it is important to note," he added, "that the revelations to St Margaret Mary Alacoque, between 1673-75, like any other such apparitions, never teach something God are found in the Bible.

"Thus, this Feast celebrates, in a very visual and concrete way, what we have always known about the story of our salvation. We were all made in the Divine image and likeness. When we went astray, God so loved the world that He sent His might be defeated.

"And the Holy Spirit leads the Church to bring that healing mercy to the world. That is the story that links together all the stories of the Bible, and it is the narrative that Creed."

Bishop Donal went on to point out: "The powerful message that is celebrated today is important in every age. In our generation we have confrontation in church and in/between countries, with victory and defeat. However, the Sacred Heart says that God wins the victory over sin and division by superabundant love.

"We live in an age of secularism defence of church teaching that and individualism. We are so focused on ourselves. It is about me.

I decide what everything means. I am self-sufficient. This leads to 'liquid modernity' and a culture of death and decomposing bonds.

"The Sacred Heart calls us to lift our eyes from self-preoccupation to the one who hangs on the cross out of love for us. God helps us to be and to become what we are called to be."

Recalling Pope Francis saying, "Fleeing from a personal and committed relationship with God which, at the same time commits us to serve others is the temptation of our time", Bishop Donal remarked: "The Sacred Heart calls us into relationship with God and with others."

He added: "We live in an age of nothing being wrong and everything being wrong. Right from Adam and Eve, God challenges us to be mature and wise, seeing the world through divine eyes, recognising God as Creator and Lord.

"To Adam and Eve, and to Cain, God says that evil exists, but He always gives us the hope of forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.

"Love made visible on the pierced heart on the cross is a call to recognise the reality of sin and the price of its forgiveness - as well as the abundant grace that pours out from Jesus, the face of the Father's mercy."

At this time of celebration of the Sacred Heart, Bishop Donal encouraged giving thanks "for the love that the Father has lavished upon us by letting us be called God's children (1 Jn)."

He continued: "Let us commit

ourselves to not be ashamed to have signs of our faith around our homes, like the Sacred Heart picture. Promise to keep our prayer focused on the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord (St Paul).

"Ensure that all our discussions about the future of the church take the pierced heart on the Cross as our starting point. Consider keeping the First Friday devotions. Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in vou."

Introduced by St Margaret Mary in the late 17th century, the Devotion to the Sacred Heart was later formally recognized and approved by Pope Clement XIII. The Jubilee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus began on December 25, 2023, the anniversary of the first main apparition, and runs to June 27, 2025, the date of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

Thanking all involved in the various preparations for the Sacred Heart celebration, Fr James had special praise for the children from Our Lady of Lourdes PS who were part of the choir, saying: "There is so much talent in this parish when it comes to music, and it is so nice to hear it in the Church too." He also thanked the children who had read and brought up the Offertory Gifts.

Thanking Fr Brian and Bishop Donal for their attendance, Fr James went on to thank the Bishop for sending him to the parish of Greencastle, saying that he was loving every minute of his time there, which prompted a long applause of appreciation from the congregation.

Afterwards, everyone was invited for refreshments in the local hall.



















eencastle F

Welcome





Pope Francis asks for prayer as he prepares document on Sacred Heart

"We are passing through this propose today, to the whole Church, month dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

December 27 of last year marked the beginning of a period of a world that seems to have lost its celebrations that will end on June 27 heart. next year.

prepare a document that brings preparation, with the intention of together the precious reflections making this document public next of previous Magisterial texts and a September." long history that goes back to the Sacred Scriptures, in order to re- Prayer Network)

this devotion imbued with spiritual beauty.

I believe it will do us great good to the 350th anniversary of the first meditate on various aspects of the manifestation of the Sacred Heart Lord's love, which can illuminate of Jesus to St Margaret Mary the path of ecclesial renewal; but Alacoque. That occasion marked also says something meaningful to

I ask you to accompany me This is why I am pleased to in prayer, during this time of

(Pope Francis – Pope's Worldwide













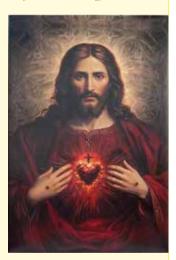
Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by St Margaret Mary Alacoque

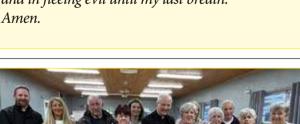
Lord Jesus,

let my heart never rest until it finds You, who are its centre, its love, and its happiness. *By the wound in Your* heart,

pardon the sins that I have committed, whether out of malice or out of evil desires. *Place my weak heart in* your own divine heart,

continually under your protection and guidance, so that I may persevere in doing good and in fleeing evil until my last breath. Amen.









Life in the Spirit... Evelyn Heaney, of the Omagh Charismatic Prayer Group, recalls the guest speaker talks at the Lenten Life in the Spirit Seminars in Christ The King Church, Strathroy... Bathing in abundance of God's Thank God for gift of Salvation and share it with others Love changes us



Fr Charles Cross, Superior, St Gabriel's Retreat, The Graan, Enniskillen.

OMAGH Charismatic prayer group ran 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars as part of the Lenten journey on Thursdays at 7.30 pm, in Him, especially at Holy Mass. conjunction with Holy Mass. They were scheduled to run in the Sacred Heart Church in Omagh, Parish of Drumragh, but were relocated to Christ the King Church, Strathroy, as the Sacred Heart Church was being painted. So, the Prayer Group was very grateful to Fr Kevin McElhennon, PP Cappagh, for facilitating this.

God's Love, was led by Fr Charles Cross, Superior, St Gabriel's Retreat, The Graan, Enniskillen. Fr Cross began by referring to the Gospel

Jesus talks about being a follower of Christ, inviting everyone to be a disciple of Christ as they begin their Lenten journey.

Fr Charles said that the main message of the New Testament is that God is Love. Referring to Pope Benedict's writing 'Deus Caritas Est, he explained that God gives Himself on our behalf all the time, that He gives us life, new horizons and direction and that we need to know God's Love in our hearts.

Quoting from the Apostolic Letter on Liturgical Formation from Pope Francis, 2022, Fr Cross said that we are constantly being invited to a renewed encounter with Jesus through the Church's liturgy, an openness to an encounter with God loved us first, loved us into existence before our response in wanting to go to Mass. We are drawn to go to Mass by Jesus' desire rather than our own desire, so that we can love Him, a living Christ, alive in the mess of our lives, more alive in the Mass than in any other situation. To let God in, we need to rid ourselves of garbage that we The first Seminar, with the theme carry. St Augustine said God can't give us anything if our hands are too full of 'stuff'. We need to let go and let God into our lives. Referring to St Paul's conversion

of the day (Lk 9.22-25), where (Ph 2.7-16), Fr Charles explained that Paul's complete change was because of Christ. St Paul had to surrender to Christ and so do we. Fr Cross reminded us that our faith journey is a work in progress and requires our surrender to Christ so that God can work in our lives. We should progress with optimism and joy, getting rid of fear of the past, realizing our sins are truly forgiven and knowing that we are blessed and loved. Our sins have been forgiven so we should forget our past and live in the present where God is.

> We need to go to God, the God who is the living water. We need to go to the Scriptures, read the booklet 'Finding new Life in the Spirit', bathe ourselves in the abundance of God's love, the God who heals us, who died on the cross for us. We need to let God into all the rooms of our lives, the rooms where we have bitterness, resentment and sorrow, as He knows what these rooms are like anyway. He wants to come into all areas of our lives. St Paul says nothing can come between us and the love of Christ. Jesus changed everything by showing us who God is. Accepting God's love will change us, so we must be open to God's desire to change us, to allow us to progress on our Faith journey.

REV Dr Columba Toman, OP, lifts our minds and draws us into led the second Seminar on the a deeper relationship with Jesus, theme 'Salvation' and spoke of the with joy-filled expectation on our power of the Holy Spirit within Lenten journey. They give us the the gift of Salvation. He reminded us that we received the Holy Spirit of the Holy Spirit, to refocus our in the sacraments of Baptism and hearts and minds, personally, as a Confirmation, and that the Holy Spirit has never left us.

Doing the 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars gives us a chance to reengage with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to allow the gifts which may have remained dormant to become alive and active within us. We may have asked for the guidance of the must forget sins we have confessed, Holy Spirit to help us in an exam or remember that this freedom is free maybe to pass our driving test, but and move forward in the grace of never realized the true power of the forgiveness. Holy Spirit.

Fr Columba reminded us that we during the Seminars refreshes our are the children of God, baptised into the family of God, revealed in alms; the things we are encouraged His church, into the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We should realise what God has done for us and be filled with the gift of with the internal hunger only filled joy. We are responding to God's love because He has loved us first with His Divine love. His plan is that we would be saved to be with Him for all eternity, by the power of of the Spirit is evident in our lives. sanctifying grace. We are saved by are the fruits of the Spirit present the power of Jesus Christ, our King, in us, are we filled with joy, joy our Lord, our Saviour (Jn 3.16), saved from sin for all eternity.

Fr Columba said that through these Seminars the Holy Spirit community, for our country, to

opportunity, through the power community, as a Church, on Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

The gift of Confessions unbinds us, allows us to return to God's full grace, restores the joy of being saved and reassures us that the Lord walks with us all the time, through the Sacred breath of God, but we

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit prayer life, helps us to fast and give to do, especially during Lent. These are weapons against the devil and are also gifts to help us re-engage by the presence of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fr Columba continued by telling us that we need to ask where the life bubbling within us, enabling us to lift others up in the Spirit. We need to pray for each other, for our



Rev Dr Columba Toman OP, Priory Institute

dispel the spirit of darkness and give us courage to speak openly about our Faith. We need to be missioners for the Lord Jesus Christ and share His gift of Joy. We must thank God for the gift of Salvation and share it with others, remembering that Jesus died for the Salvation of mankind.

Fr Columba concluded by saying that the graces of the Seminars will allow us to become more interested in the Faith of Jesus, in Prayer, study of the Scriptures, in participating in the Sacraments and being involved in parish life, directed every step of the way by the Holy Spirit.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Ask for the Living Water of the Holy Spirit and be amazed

Purdy, former BBC NI Political Correspondent and Adoration Sister, and Catholic writer and St Patrick's Pilgrim Guide

Martina began her talk by Gospel of the day, Lk 16.19-31, 'The rich man and Lazarus'. She said that it was a great privilege to be present with us in Christ the King Church, such a beautiful church where we give honour to the King of Kings who gives us the living water for our new life in Christ.

Martina pointed out that God is offering us new life every day, life to the max, free from fear, allowing us no matter what the cost. New life to abandon ourselves and trust in a depends on our relationship with loving God, who gives us freedom Jesus Christ, which is nourished by as children of God. The challenge Prayer, Adoration, Holy Mass, the staying close to the fountain of living water, which provides the new life.

She outlined the many changes in her life over the last 10 years leaving her job as BBC political interviewing correspondent. politicians such as Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams; joining the Convent of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, almost next door to the BBC; going to up her job and devote her life house in Downpatrick they gladly St Patrick who had brought the from asking 'Why Lord' to realizing

speaker for Seminar Downpatrick after the convent totally to God, acknowledging that Three, on New Life, was Martina closed; and now back to her current accepting His plan for our lives is work in Belfast - joking that she has had more fresh starts than the gospel. Stormont.

She said that the changes were difficult and that she may have referring to the challenges of the felt like giving up, but the Lord doesn't give up and He provided new direction in her life when she surrendered herself into His plan.

Continuing, Martina said that the New Life with Christ is forever and that, when it is lived in the power of the Holy Spirit and love of the Father, it is truly amazing. We need to pray, listen to the Holy Spirit and follow His guidance for our lives Sacraments and Works of Charity. In her job as political

correspondent, Martina said that she had felt her life was shallow and self-centered, and that she had prayed fervently to change, especially during Adoration. Doors opened allowing her to do charity life of Christ the cross is the ladder work and help others. Continuing to the New Life. her search for guidance at a retreat in Drumalis, she felt called to give

very difficult, like the rich man in

Reflecting on the Scripture, 'I am the Vine, you are the branches' during that retreat, Martina gave her 'yes' to God and joined the Convent of Adoration along with other young women, becoming Sr Martina of the Blessed Sacrament. This led to five years where her life was filled with joy and peace, praising God in all situations, which changed when the convent had to close because new regulations from Rome deemed it non-viable due to the small numbers.

Adoration

Martina's reaction was 'How could this be?', while Elaine Kelly, her colleague, was more open and, listening in Adoration, heard the words 'Be amazed'. They both prayed for a miracle. Leaving the convent felt like a kind of death and looked like disaster. They felt as if they were on the cross, but in the

Relying on the Scripture Jer 29.11, when they were offered a

Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly with some who organised and attended the Life in the Spirit seminars in Omagh. accepted. While feeling they were Faith to Ireland. Martina and Elaine on the cross, they had people to help, to take them down from the cross and rest in the tomb, which was the house in Downpatick. Martina said that it had taken a lot of faith to surrender to the Holy Spirit and trust in His loving plan. They needed jobs, but wanted a changed again, as they have moved mission, and they found both when back to Belfast. They don't have a they were invited to work in the St convent but pray together every

walk of St Patrick. Reading the Confessions of Diocese of Down and Connor. St Patrick, Martina was struck Elaine now works as a chaplain to by the phrase in paragraph 13, 'Be amazed, all you people great and small who fear God'. Feeling also writes for the Irish Catholic that the phrase, 'Be amazed', was and other publications, as well as confirmation of what Elaine had heard in Adoration, and that it was right to join the St Patrick's Centre;

help to develop the new Camino

have now also gone on mission with Dana, who has written a new Song of St Patrick. They joined her in the lighting of the fire at Slane and praying for a revival of the faith of St Patrick throughout Ireland.

Martina and Elaine's lives have Patrick Centre in Downpatrick, and morning and evening, have daily Mass and Adoration, and work to support the community in the Maghaberry Prison, and they both do parish work, while Martina giving talks in parishes throughout Ireland.

Martina said that she had gone

the need to follow Christ on His terms, rather than clinging to old hopes when a crisis arises, thinking why can't I go back to Convent life. It is easy to go to the door of selfpity and be resentful.

In this situation, Martina went on retreat to Rostrevor and here realized that Hope does not disappoint, as St Paul writes in Rom 5.5. Christian Hope is a supernatural gift from the Holy Spirit.

She concluded by encouraging us to ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit to sustain us as we choose a new life of Prayer and Adoration, following the way of Mary our Mother, St Paul, and St Patrick. Ask for the Living Water of the Holy Spirit and be amazed.

This was a truly inspirational talk.

Life in the Spirit... We receive God's gifts by the grace of the Holy Spirit

from Rosnowlagh Friary, in Co Donegal, led the fourth Seminar, 'Receiving God's Gifts'.

Fr Eugene began by saying that we receive God's Gifts into our souls by the grace of the Holy Spirit, who is really and substantially present within us. God is present in the tabernacle of the heart as really and truly as He is present in the tabernacle in the Church. Christ's real presence in the Blessed Sacrament is a priceless gift, which will be ours eternally in Heaven. We have this gift because of the work of the Holy Spirit.

The external presence is meant to lead us to the internal presence of the Word made flesh within our souls. The Son of God is present outside us in the reality of the human nature He has taken on, yet this same Son of God is present within us substantially according to the divine nature. One presence is not opposed to the other, in fact, they complement each other. The Holy Spirit is an integral element of this.

We are called to respect Christ in the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. Equally so, we are called to respect Him who dwells within our souls and walks with us each day and sustains us in

FR Eugene Barrett OFM, difficult situations. Our Christian life and commitment is about putting Christ in first place in our lives, even before our families and friends. We can only do this by the grace of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, by co-operating with the Spirit of God in us.

Fr Barrett continued by saying that we must see Christ in ourselves, and also in one another. Again, it is through the Spirit of God active in us that we can see the grace of God in each other. He has sealed us for Himself in Baptism and Confirmation.

If we fail to honour the Lord who dwells within us, we run the risk of sinning against Him who saved us. If we fail to respect another person, we run the risk of not respecting God who made that person and also walks with that person. In order to be disciples of Jesus, we have to give Him first place in our lives and in our decisions, and put His values as priorities in our lives. We must be prudent as well as courageous. We must look inside ourselves and preserve the grace that God has given and not lose it.

The inner sanctuary of our hearts is where we meet the Lord personally. It is inaccessible to anyone else but God and me. This is where my conscience is. In

order to reach there to converse with Him, we have to focus, we must be quiet and take time to be alone and allow Him to speak. We need to turn off the TV and radio to hear what God wants to say. While God is present in the Blessed Sacrament and we come to spend time with Him, we also must remember that He dwells within us. We have to withdraw from the distractions of everyday and take time to sit in our homes, or the Church, and get away from the noise and give God a chance to get through to us. This is the work of the Holy Spirit through His gifts.

We cannot return to God unless we first return to ourselves and take time to be at peace with ourselves, and allow His grace to surface with us. God lives with us, He is near, we are the ones that are distant from Him. God's real presence in the inner sanctuary of our souls imposes on us a duty. We must defend this sanctuary, we must adorn this sanctuary and we must go frequently into this sanctuary to worship the Lord, who dwells there.

Christ gave Himself to us so that we might give ourselves to others in charity and love. He accompanies us on our spiritual journey because His gifts live within us. To defend this sanctuary, which is constantly under siege from temptation of all kinds, we must fight against the inclination to sin, above all mortal sin which destroys the sanctuary completely, leaving the soul ruined and desolate. We must also strive to be free from venial sin; small sins which offend God and others, these sins are a slighting of the Lord who dwells there. The avoidance of sin is, of

course, the supremely important thing in the defence of the soul, the sanctuary where God lives within us. Apart from sin, there are other things that can turn the inner sanctuary into a market place: the worries, anxieties and distractions of daily life can very easily overwhelm us, unless we are on guard. We must not let these things distract us from the central and most important aspect of the presence of God within us. We must also try to adorn and ennoble the inner sanctuary with thoughts and noble desires worthy of God. We must acknowledge our own dignity as one made in God's image and likeness, and not behave in a way that is disrespectful to that dignity in word or deed. Lastly, we must go frequently into this sanctuary to

but we must open our hearts to

the guidance and wisdom of the

Holy Spirit if we wish to receive

Fr Eamonn also recounted

a story where it was the First

Friday on which he always visited

the sick of the parish; about 20

calls. He also had a wedding at

1pm, so the schedule was tight.

Following his normal route,

he knocked on a door only to

discover that he was at the wrong

house. The door was opened by a

man who invited him in for tea. He accepted, despite the fact that

he never takes tea in any house

when on his First Friday sick

visitation and that he knew of the

time limitations of that particular

The man was home from

America and, after a chat,

asked Fr Eamonn to hear his

Confession; his first in 42 years.

The Holy Spirit had guided

Fr Eamonn on that day, even

bringing him to the wrong house

despite his familiarity with his

normal route, and so a man was

brought back to the Sacraments

through the plan of the Holy

day, due to the wedding.

and use His gifts.

pay honour to the Divine Guest who dwells there.

Post Communion Reflection

St Paul lists these charisms in Cor12.14, where he teaches us about the proper use of the gifts (charisms) granted to the community for the up building of the community. These charisms have a value only in so far as they build up the community. They should not be a cause of rivalry or tension.

There are a variety of gifts but they come from the same Spirit. and are meant to be used for the glory of God, not our own glory. With these charisms we must watch our ego, otherwise we can "edge God out"; it becomes about me instead of God.

The gift of communal love (charity) is supreme, and love unites rather than divides. In this perspective, every gift and the manner in which it is exercised should be judged. The Gifts are not to be used for selfglorification but for the good of the community. All must function in harmony, while using the diverse Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Gifts, the The Charisms you pray for, He gives you these for His glory and the good of humanity. Pray for the



Fr Eugene Barrett OFM, Rossnowlagh Friary, Co Donegal.

gifts, pray to be open-minded and open-hearted to receive them, and thank God for them daily, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We are praying for the dramatic gifts of prophecy and tongues, these are good for you and a blessing in your life, but without kindness, generosity and love they are empty. Pray for each other that God will bless the community here and form you into living temples of His Holy Spirit.

Hearts must be open to guidance and wisdom of Holy Spirit to receive and use His gifts

RAPHOE Parish Priest, Fr Eamonn Kelly was the guest speaker for Seminar 5, Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Describing the Holy Spirit as a wonderful gift that we don't give enough attention to in the way that we pray to Jesus and God the Father, Fr Eamonn recalled giving a crucifix to a young boy as a gift for his Confirmation and having put money in the back of the crucifix. The boy seemed unimpressed with the gift and possibly missed out on ever finding the money. We are also in danger of missing out as we limit our expectations of the Holy Spirit's gifts, so Fr Eamonn encouraged us to let the Holy Spirit take charge as we prepared for Holy Mass and the laying on of hands at the end of the evening.

During the homily, Fr Eamonn recalled his meeting with Mother Teresa, describing her wonderful gentleness, kindness, joy, organizational ability, faithfulness and truthfulness. She was a woman alive with the Spirit, seeking nothing for herself, seeking the poor, the marginalized and the broken

in society. Mother Teresa didn't seek international fame, but she used it well to highlight the plight of the poor. Fr Eamonn said that our world needs to open its eyes to the needs of the poor and the marginalized.

He went on to talk about his neighbour, Catherine, who lived in a shack in the village of Frosses. Catherine, like Mother Teresa, had nothing; no running water, electricity or stove. In the eyes of the world, Catherine was a nobody, but when she talked about Jesus you knew she was speaking about a true friend, her constant companion. She attended Mass, not as a duty or social obligation but to meet her friend, Jesus, to be nourished by her friend Jesus who never left her and would give her everything she needed.

When Catherine received Holy Communion, this was a moment of transformation. transfiguration, a moment of Heaven meeting Earth, of the eternal meeting the finite. She was alive with God's Holy Spirit oozing out of her in her kindness and humility. She had a heavenly companion, so she wasn't interested in the radio or newspapers or earthly things. All she was interested in was that Jesus Christ came on this earth and died for her salvation, and that when God the Father called her home, she would be going home to meet her family that has predeceased her and to be in the presence of the most Holy Trinity.

Catherine was the Holy Spirit in action, knowing in the depth of her soul and heart that even when things were going wrong that we are still in communion with our creator God, the one who died on Calvary for us.

Open

Continuing, Fr Eamonn said that whether we are well known like Mother Teresa or unknown like Catherine, the Holy Spirit will use the gifts we already have and will give us more. The Holy Spirit seeks to live in our souls. He will offer gifts but we must open our hearts to the Holy Spirit as He will not force us. We must be holy bold, not afraid of the Holy Spirit in case He changes us. The Holy Spirit will never force us but will use the gifts

that we already have and give us Spirit. more. He will ask, beg and offer,

The Holy Spirit will guide us. He doesn't need our gifts or talents, He has loads of gifts. He just needs our willingness and we must have confidence in the ability given to us by the Holy Spirit.

The disciples chosen by Jesus wouldn't pass an interview today. Peter said that he would follow Jesus to the ends of the earth and then denied Him three times. Thomas doubted the report that Christ had risen and yet Jesus assures them that their ministry will be empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1.8,2.4 and 5.12). In the same way, we should trust in the power of the Holy Spirit as we go forward to do God's work.

We need to know Scripture and the teaching of the Church to be able to share our faith with others, and we can do this through the power of the Holy Spirit. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is another opportunity to commit our lives to the Lord. We need to open our hearts and ask for the grace to do what the Lord asks of us.

At the end of Mass, Fr Eamonn prayed with each



Fr Eamonn Kelly, Raphoe Diocese.

person individually. This was a magnificent blessing for all those present and, indeed, for those watching on the webcam, as the Holy Spirit is not bound by time or space.

We give thanks for the gift of Fr Kelly's priesthood and his generosity in coming from Raphoe every week to share in our Lenten journey through these Seminars. We were truly blessed.

Life in the Spirit...

Growth and transformation will only come about in our lives and Church if we let go and let God

Bishop Donal McKeown lead our final Seminar, 'Growth and Transformation, as we concluded which we searched for renewal.

With us embarking on Holy Week, Bishop Donal began by saying that we should seek to root all growth and transformation in the Resurrection of Jesus in celebrating the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and end of time. We, like the disciples, Holy Saturday, culminating with need to be led by the Holy Spirit. Easter Sunday. As we began Holy Mass, Bishop Donal told us that opening our hearts and souls to where healing was most needed would facilitate growth and situation. transformation for ourselves and others, open our hearts to let God pray in us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

growth and transformation was an interesting topic when there was so much talk about downsizing and stretching resources. Growth nations. Abraham and Sarah may and transformation is a nice have thought, 'be sensible Lord', idea. but is it realistic? Do we and we are told that Sarah laughed. want to be transformed or do we want something that is not too threatening? We need to be Jesus wants us to think big, not transformed in God's way. Jesus with naive optimism but believing wants to show us that growth and transformation is possible for everyone, indeed, it is a command. In the Scriptures, Bishop Donal

noted that Jesus said to the

good news" (Mk 1:5). In order and transformation is for each of to believe the craziness of the us individually, for our parishes promises in the good news, in and the church as a whole. He our Lenten journey; a journey on human terms, transformation is essential.

Jesus also told the apostles to "Go make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28.19-20), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...and surely I am with you always, to the very Growth and transformation lies at the heart of following Jesus, recognizing and acknowledging Jesus in everyone and every

Referring to the scripture reading, Bishop Donal spoke about how Abraham and Sarah were faced with growth and During the homily, he said that transformation in being told that they would have a child, despite their old age, and that Abraham would be the father of many Jesus doesn't tell us to be sensible and you will not be disappointed. in the Divine Promise to us all, which involves forgiveness, healing, restoring values, putting things back together again.

Bishop Donal assured us that

WE were privileged to have disciples "repent and believe the the Divine promise of growth the Holy Spirit. said that 'Be sensible' was never the message of Jesus, who, he added, encourages us to be led by the Spirit. The Spirit will guide us when we experience crosses and He told us to expect crosses, to die to self if we really want growth and transformation.

Asking if we only wanted a Jesus who tells us we are doing grand, Bishop Donal pointed out that Jesus wants growth and transformation for everyone, saying that is the meaning of 'Repent and believe'.

Bishop Donal reminded us that we can't manage the future of the Church, that we are not in charge, and that we must let go and let God and not get in His way. It is God's Church, not ours. We must let God be God in the Church and be God in our lives.

Growth and transformation, he continued, will not happen by us worrying about fewer priests. We must ask, "Lord, what do You want me to do for your Church through the power of the Holy Spirit?" We must open up to the power of the Holy Spirit. Growth and transformation will not come as a result of our efforts or out of our fear of change. It will only come by being born again in the waters of

Praying hearts St Paul (2 Cor 5:17) talks about being a new creation in Christ, which participation in 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars will achieve for us and the Church as a whole, through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit. Growth and transformation will not come promised land found out. We live through long meetings and human plans. Growth and transformation culture of buy, buy, buy and selfcenteredness. will come through praying hearts who ask for the guidance and that only the grace of the Holy Spirit power of the Holy Spirit, and and cherishing the giftedness of all through people who are open to challenge and change.

We must be open to letting the Lord work in our lives. We are all called to be saints by the grace of God; we have no other job in life, said Bishop Donal. We are all called to be saints by opening up to God's grace and to one another, ministering to each other and allowing others to minister to us as well. We are all living in the Body of Christ and we can become of knowing that Jesus is with us saints, not through hard work but always. by sharing the gifts that God has already given us, even with all the crosses and scars that we carry.

He said that Pope Francis encourages us to be less serious, to go out of ourselves, as growth and transformation will not happen if we are locked in ourselves. Growth and transformation means going



Bishop Donal with some members of the Omagh Charismatic Prayer Group at the close of the Life in the Spirit seminars in Omagh.

He recalled one author writing

the Body of Christ is an "antidote

to an age of decomposing bonds

and identity fundamentalism."

Donal

by saying that growth and

transformation will only come

about in our lives and in our

Church if we let go and let God,

remembering that God is in

charge and allowing the Holy

Spirit to lead us, with the security

Omagh Charismatic Prayer

Group is truly grateful to all

the speakers who ministered to

us, and delighted that so many

people were able to be present for

the Seminars in Christ the King

Church, with many also able to

follow the Seminars online as

part of our Lenten Journey. The

concluded

Bishop

Seminars are still accessible on forward, not looking to the past Christ the King webcam under as the Israelites going to the 'recordings'. in a one dimensional culture, a

We were delighted to be able to follow the wishes of Pope Francis. On June 12, 2015, the Holy Father spoke about the 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars, which prepare people to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, when he said to priests and religious, "I ask all of you, each of you, that as part of the stream of grace of the Charismatic Renewal, to organise seminars of Life in the Spirit in your parishes, in your seminaries and schools ...share your teaching on the Baptism of the Spirit, because it is produced by the work of the Holy Spirit through a personal encounter with Jesus, which changes lives."

In a speech on June 8, 2019, to 4,500 members of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Rome, Pope Francis said, "What does the Pope expect of you? I expect this movement to share Baptism in the Spirit with everyone in the Church. It is the grace you have received. Share it!'

















Remembering the late Fr Patrick O'Connor (1940-2023) by his niece, Bernadette McCann



The late Fr Patrick O'Connor, Cullion, Desertmartin

REV Fr Patrick O'Connor was born in Cullion, Desertmartin, Co Derry, at the foot of Slieve Gallion on October 10, 1940. He was the son of John and Kathleen, and the sixth child in a family of nine, including Jackie, Jamie, Sheila, Rosie, Harry, Petie, Brendan and Kathleen.

Cullion and then, at the age of 12 years, he went to St Colmub's College, Derry. He went on to study at All Hallows College, Dublin.

On June 21, 1964, at the age of 23, he was ordained and went on to serve as a priest for 59 years before his passing on June 18, 2023.

Following his ordination, Fr Paddy's first position was as curate at St Mary's, Selby. He then moved curate and also the chaplain for in recognition of his contribution

St James' Hospital, Leeds. From to the Shrine. there, he moved on to be curate at St Joseph's, Brighouse. Fr Paddy's first parish priest

position came from his move to Theresa's and St Anthony's, Sheffield. He remained here for 11 years

In 1990, he was made parish priest of St Mary's Edlington. Fr Paddy, while in Edlington, built a new church. He was extremely proud of this accomplishment and would regularly contact family and friends in Ireland with progress updates. Many family members who visited him there would be taken on a tour, and it was evident

how proud he was of the Church. In 2000, Fr Paddy became parish priest of Sacred Heart, Balby, where he remained until his retirement, when he moved to Mexborough. Over his clerical journey, he celebrated his Silver Jubilee in Sheffield and Desertmartin, his Golden Jubilee in Balby and Fr Paddy went to school in Desertmartin, and would have been due to celebrate his Diamond Jubilee on June 21, 2024.

Fr Paddy came from a generation of hard workers. He was the Diocese of Hallam's Lourdes pilgrimage director from 2008 to 2016. Part of the pilgrimage family for over 30 years, he was their dedicated Chaplain & Hotel Coordinator. Fr Paddy was appointed an Honorary Chaplain of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes to St Patrick's, Leeds, where he was by the Bishop of Tarbes & Lourdes

Fr Paddy, as he was fondly known by family and friends in Ireland, never cut his ties to 'home'. He always described his holidays to Ireland as coming home, namely Cullion, Desertmartin, Co Derry. His Irish culture and traditions he carried with him, with some of his main passions being Gaelic games. As his life moved on and he settled in Yorkshire, he also developed a keen interest in the northern sports. He loved watching rugby, and he was passionate about Leeds United. It didn't end there; he was also known to play a round or two of golf.

He grew up in a strong GAA community and, as a young man, was a keen and active sportsman. He played both for club and college, and it has been told he was 'no Angel' on the pitch. He played club football for St Martin's GAC, Desertmartin, and was an instrumental player in the St Martin's GAC 1959 team. The 1959 team was successful in getting to the county final. Regrettably, Fr Paddy and his cousin, Fr Emmet Fullen, were not permitted to leave All Hallows to participate in the match final. Sadly, it was not to be a favourable result, with St Martin's going on to be defeated.

Fr Paddy loved going to Desertmartin and Derry games when he returned home on holidays. Even when not at home, he kept an interest in club and county. Holidays had been known

to be arranged around football and hurling All-Ireland fixtures.

Although he left home at the age of 12, he always kept strong family bonds, and always looked forward to coming home. While in Desetmartin, his days revolved around spending time with his family and friends. It was the simple things that he enjoyed. He would visit family and neighbours houses, calling in for a game of cards, pool, darts, or to watch a football match. He appreciated time with people, and he also enjoyed walks up his beloved Slieve Gallion Mountain.

No house in Desertmartin was ever as full as his childhood home on a Sunday morning, when the calls were made to spread the word that Fr Paddy was saying Mass. Our family's memory of Fr Paddy will forever be that he was always readily available as a priest and friend to us all. As well as throughout all the good days, like weddings and family celebrations, he was also a rock through hard days when we needed a friend to guide us through our darkest times

Fr Paddy's life path started at the foot of the mountain in Cullion, Desertmartin. He gave almost 60 years of his life to God and made great friends in the Leeds and Hallam dioceses. His life's work is now done and he is back home in Desertmartin in his final resting place, at the foot of Slieve Gallion.



Fr Pat O'Hagan, PP Bellaghy/Adm. Greenlough, back row, second from right, who is celebrating 40 years of priesthood, with some of his classmates after Mass in the College Chapel, Maynooth, on June 11, 2024.

Maynooth celebration of ordination anniversaries



15 members of the 1984 Ordination class attended the Maynooth Union Dinner in the College Refectory, in the company of Jubilarians of the classes of 1964 (Diamond), 1954 (Golden), and 1999 (Silver). Also present were a number of priests celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 35, 45, and 55 years of priestly service.



Strabane, where she passed away peacefully in the company of family on Saturday, June 8, 2024. Commenting on Sr Elizabeth's life, Fr Noel McDermott said: "When we consider the spiritual journey that she made, we can't but be moved by the depth of her experiences and spiritual insights, not to mention the enthusiasm that she retained for life, and above all for God and His Kingdom."

Pondering her secret for "sustaining her commitment to life, and especially to religious life", Fr Noel remarked: "There is no secret. It is to believe in Our Lord and Saviour. It is to want to be a servant of the Church. It is to want to be a herald of the Gospel, plus years in Australia, this move to want to be a servant until one's very last breath, come what may. It is to remain attentive to that still, inner voice she first heard in her family home in Ballyarton over the vears."

> response that took her to Australia, Papua New Guinea, the United States and back here, to Ireland.

> "When she first left, it would that you would never be home. We were blessed when she came to work amongst us in Faughanvale Parish. She also worked as a & St Brigid's, Claudy, and compiled



a lovely school prayer book. She was an encourager and edifier in the sense that she built up and never judged. She took everyone as she found them and encouraged them to become their best selves."

"There is much sorrow because Sr Elizabeth has died," continued Fr Noel, "but there is also much gratitude for her long and healthy life, and how she used and developed her gifts and talents for God, and gratitude for the legacy of her deep faith and for the blessing that she was to all who knew and loved her."

Much loved by her family, some shared their thoughts and memories of Sr Elizabeth afterwards with The Net, describing her as "a small and mighty woman", who "dedicated her whole life to the Sisters of Mercy". They expressed thanks to the carers for the kindness that they had shown to Sr Elizabeth He added: "What we are since she went to live in the celebrating is the generous living convent in Strabane six years ago. out of that response to God's call. A They added: "We have always been extremely proud of her achievements in her missionary work in different countries. Sr Elizabeth held a special place in our family and was loved very much. She will be sorely missed by evervone."

Survived by her brother, Phonsy, Derry, Sr Elizabeth was buried with her parents in the Claudy cemetery. May she rest in peace.

Remembering the late Sr Elizabeth Devine RSM... A small but mighty servant of God

FAMILY and friends of the late Sr Elizabeth Devine RSM gathered in St Patrick's Church, Claudy, on Monday, June 10, for the 93-yearold Mercy Sister's Requiem Mass.

Fr Noel McDermott was the main celebrant and was joined by Fr David O'Kane, PP Claudy, Fr Paddy Doherty, PP Maghera, and Frs Declan and Eugene Boland, Melmount, Strabane.

At the start of the ceremony, Sr Anne Marie McQuaid RSM, Enniskillen, spoke about the life of Sr Elizabeth, who was born on years, because in those days you March 15, 1931, on the family farm in Ballyarton to William and Elizabeth Devine. She was her BA degree and trained as a years. At the end of her term of christened Elizabeth Philomena secondary school teacher. She office, the Archbishop in Perth Patricia Devine on St Patricks Day. was the first woman ever to attend asked her to take responsibility

faith and deeply religious, passing on their faith to their children, Sr Elizabeth believed her call to the missions and religious life was born and nurtured at home.

She had three ambitions in life: to work in a shop; to become a teacher; and to work in the missions to improve the lives of those less fortunate that herself. She got to achieve them all.

Educated in Claudy Primary School until she was 14, Elizabeth got a job in a drapers shop in Derry, which she gave up in 1948 at the age of 17 and volunteered to go to Perth, Australia, to enter a convent of the Sisters of Mercy. On May13, 1948, she joined her two friends, Betty Grant and Josie Hasson, from Claudy, and boarded a sea-liner in London bound for Freemantle. She arrived in the Convent of Mercy in Perth on June 8, 1948, where she remained for 20 were not allowed to come home.

In Perth, Sr Elizabeth gained With her parents strong in their the School of Mines, and studied Physics and Chemistry, achieving first place in Chemistry and second in Physics.

After her final vows in 1954, she began a long teaching career in city and rural areas in Western Australia. She spent three happy years in Papua New Guinea from 1972, when she volunteered for a Mercy mission to promote secondary level education for girls,

before she was recalled to Perth. Sr Elizabeth was then sent to the Jesuit University in St Louis, in America, to take a number of courses to prepare her to work as a formator with young women who were entering the convent. Having completed the course in nine months, she enrolled in and completed the Masters Degree Programme in Scripture and Spirituality at Fordham University, New York.

When she returned to Perth in 1977, Sr Elizabeth was elected by the Sisters as their congregation leader, a position she held for six for the training of lay catechists in the archdiocese, that is, catechists who would go into the government schools and offer classes in religious education to Catholic students. To prepare for this role, Sr Elizabeth went back to the United States and attended Loyola University, Chicago, taking a programme in adult faith development.

Following her return to Perth,

having nursed her mother in the last 10 months of her life, Sr Elizabeth spent 15 years working in the formation of younger Sisters in the archdiocese.

Spirituality

In 2000, she returned to Ireland for a two-year sabbatical to be with her family and to steep herself in Celtic Spirituality and Irish Culture. At the age of 71, after 50 became permanent when she transferred from the Australian Sisters of Mercy to the Sisters of Mercy (Ireland) in the Northern Province.

Sr Elizabeth made her home in Eglinton, and then Derry. She became a pastoral counsellor with young people in St Patrick's and St Brigid's Secondary School, in Claudy. She also acted as Spiritual Director to the Legion of Mary in Tamnaherin, conducted cross have been the generally held view community workshops in human development from her home, and tutored adults and children for examinations until 2018, when she made the decision to move to counsellor for a time in St Patrick's the Sisters of Mercy Convent in

Blessing by Fr John McLaughlin ssc

and not sanctifying, in the line en esa sabiduría que es sobre todo of 'Fiducia', and Pope Francis on Blessing the persons if not the Union, which has raised a certain amount of controversy and dissent in recent months. So I agreed that there would be a Blessing of the Rings, only; as there could not be a Church Marriage celebration in their situation. The moment motivate this article! would be at the end of the evening Mass in one of the chapels on the following Saturday. And sure enough they turned up, bride and groom and sponsors and families, with a number of cars that were rarely seen around that chapel.

26

A little bit taken aback at what was happening, I found myself improvising and having to spend more time indicating "what the short ceremony was Not"...a formal and sacramental marriage in the church. And I struggled to find enough to round off a Blessing of the Rings with sufficient dignity. All the while, the thought was going through my head that the Lord must have a tremendous sense of humour as we put to Him our conditional and unconditional petitions...for Blessing and for inclusion and partial exclusion!

Being invited to bless objects and situations was very common and nowhere more than in Valparaiso, in those days. Sometimes it would be a recently acquired private bus and, on others, a car or taxi or a new home. The faith of the presenters always impressed me and I would try to put a bit of solemnity into the celebration, be it incorporating the family in the prayers or expressed intention and hopes for the occasion.

There was a date sought for the blessing of a new factory for the importers of a cheese product, running through our lives that we Parma with Italian origins, and I was invited to accompany the little community for lunch afterwards. I got down to redact some Prayers of the Faithful and a short Gospel reading, and found a readiness in the workers and management to enter in to the spirit of the celebration. The Blessing with Holy Water at the end seemed to leave everyone happy and able to settle down for a shared dinner, where the conversation flowed!

The great Spanish Sister of the Sacred Heart and professor at the University of Camillas, Dolores Aleijandre, was also a prolific writer on spiritual and pastoral topics. I was a devotee of her thoughts and modern parables. In one of those, she outlined 'Blessing' the Sunday evening Mass in Little From there, they had a vision of the as being offered by everyone and Bray, where the attendance was Plaza Bulnes, where the Flame of I shared recently in the joy of the to all around us, in a particularly challenging way. And why not?

my archived pieces - the typedout reflection she offered on Old Age. The full text I offer below, as a normal Spanish translation of mine would never do it justice: up call! "!Posee la vejez sus valores propios, de grandísimo precio, y triste es confesar que nuestro mundo los

IT was a question of blessing desestima o los ignora. Pensemos profundidad y buen sentido". Old age has its own values of great worth and it is sad to relate that our world underrates and is ignorant of them. We think of that wisdom which is beyond everything, of a depth and very good sense." It is, indeed, amongst the Blessings that

I got rather a distraught call from a catechist in the parish of San Matias, in Puente Alto, whom I knew. There had been an accident in which her husband was involved, and she felt guilty because that morning, due to a disagreement they had not blessed one another at the door as he departed for his workplace. So, the evening wore on and news came that he had got through the accident, which brought a huge relief to her.

On the Feast of Pentecost, as I meditated upon this piece, an act of Divine Providence that afternoon brought me Surprise Pentecost Visitor, which occasioned an extended colloquy, as you might say, on the Holy Spirit whose presence in my own life has been a constant Blessing and motivation. We were able quickly to get beyond what are, after all, only images ("like Tongues... like a rushing Wind") and enter in to the wonder, the unexpected, the Gifts that demand sharing, the healing, the discomfiting, Life in the Spirit seminars, Alpha and renewal, isolation at times, renewed vigor, getting into adulthood, and beyond catechetical learned phrases, that have become rusty and cliched. The evening grew dark and neither I nor my SPV seemed to notice. It is The Blessing were celebrating, and I, on passing well beyond my Diamond Jubilee, was also recalling events that were 'more than human' in the years since that Pentecost Sunday of 1963!

As I recalled recently to a friend, the Sign of Peace always seemed to me so appropriate and grace-full in those celebrations of the Eucharist, particularly at community levels. Of course, there was a little bit of disorder, as people left their seats and looked for a not-so-familiar face to express their blessing. But the choirs sang and the celebrant might also be on his own little foray into the families anxious to show goodwill. I can recall, after my first tour in Chile, and celebrating often distracted, many coming late and leaving early, and making Recently, I found a treasure in my way to the chapel doorway or porch where there was usually a small gathering. The Sign of Peace came for them as a pleasant surprise and maybe a little wake-

Witness



Sister Professor Dolores Aleixandre Universidad de Comillas, Madrid.

people whose lives, witness and

friendship is, indeed, a blessing,

as can be seen more clearly in

these twilight years. One such for

many of my generation in Chile

was Padre Mariano Puga. He

moved around in the poorer areas

and his accordion was so often a

clarion call to join in some action

of solidarity or protest or acclaim.

A qualified architect, multilingual

and passionate in a gentle

manner, Mariano had entered the

priesthood from his university

days and was driven by his work

for, and with, the poor of Santiago.

And it was with the Poor that he

continued to work in formation

and empowerment, though he

would hardly use that word.

'Simpatico' was another word

for that gentle giant whose paths

crossed often with Columbans

at Zonal and Deanery meetings,

and for some of us in the De

Foucauld Fraternity. I can recall

his energy, singing voice in about

five languages and exhortations

during the Month of Nazareth

in Chacao, in the south of Chile.

Especially those songs and hymns

in the Manual Work period, where

he persuaded others to accompany

him up there on the painting of the

roof of the Chapel in Chacao! His

words were news and his opinions,

in the dark times of Pinochet, were

encouraging and often defiant.

He was, at one stage, the world

Responsable for the De Foucauld

fraternities and his journeys, as

he recounted them, were inspiring

One small episode that he

narrated to me occurred when

he was part of a working team of

painters (worker priests were not

unknown in Chile in those years),

making repairs with his team

on the roof of the Church of San

Francisco, in the centre of Santiago.

Liberty was on view at that time.

Observing a national delegation

arriving to lay their floral bouquet

on the plinth there, he felt moved

by the small huddled group to add

something to the occasion. So he

and his companeros set to ringing

the bells of the Church. Following

his story, it occurred to me that this

and challenging.

Robinson, was on a State Visit to Chile! Many books and articles have, in recent times, been written about the Blessing that was Padre Mariano Puga for so many, and especially the Poor in La Victoria, in the southern part of the city!

There was another source of in some of those years. Under the title of 'Ayuda y Esperanza' (Help and Hope), a Catholic their aid and support for aspiring young students. Sra Raquel was the heart of it all, as she interviewed and encouraged the young people a day job and to study at night, which was very demanding. Sergio Munoz, one of those that I had put forward, struggled to keep up at night-school after a long, hard day working as head domo, etc, in a big apartment block.in the barrio alto, the richer part of town. He was the I wrote in an earlier article here in The Net) to go for secondary school level, and getting back to the school in the evening often had eyes of the dedicated teachers. So Sra Raquel was the motivator and the confidant of those like Sergio, who were in receipt of scholarships. Another of that group, also from my parish, just could not sustain the sacrifices (missing the weekend Carrettes with their friends!) and generously commended him later, over a drink, for his endurance . One moment amongst many of that odyssey was what happened images (father of the poor, during the presentation of the Certificate of the Cuarto Ano Medio, where Don Sofonor, his and drying, solace in woe) a post of father, and a man of the soil, simply erupted into tears of joy!

At Columban level, and with the This Grace that scorches us modern means of communication, A Blessing for Pentecost Day Society at the priestly Ordination of the first vocation from Burma, understand about this blessing: as earlier missionaries knew it and it is not for you alone. now Myanmar, a country under siege from an oppressing regime. It is stubborn about this. It is also gratifying for Columbans Do not even try to lay hold of it Ireland and an inspiring figure in can carry it on your own. in his own right. There are a couple must have been the occasion when of others in line for Ordination To bear this blessing, you must

Surely a Blessing for just one of the missionary Societies where young people are coming forward to test their vocations in what were previously mission-receiving countries. Ireland has come to know young Nigerian and Indian priests and sisters now fully integrated into many dioceses here. Another Blessing, surely!

At the turn of the century, Pope John Paul wrote a couple of prophetic Pastoral Letters or Encyclicals, some of which have opened up for us new realities in these early years of the millennium, 'Nuevo Milenio Ineunte', and I admired his thinking on "every stranger as a Blessing", having run up around 18 different pastoral changes of people and places in my own life.

"A spirituality of communion also means an ability to think of our brothers and sisters in faith within the profound unity of the Mystical Body, and therefore Blessing that appealed to me as 'those who are a part of me'. This makes us able to share their iovs and sufferings, to sense their desires and attend to their foundation, some of the church needs, to offer them deep and and missionary groups channelled genuine friendship. A spirituality of communion implies also the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it and prize it as a gift from God: not only as a in their struggles to hold down gift for the brother or sister who has received it directly, but also as a 'gift for me'. A spirituality of communion means, finally, to know how to 'make room' for our brothers and sisters, bearing 'each other's burdens' (Gal 6:2) and resisting the selfish temptations which constantly beset us and first in his family from Talca (as provoke competition, careerism, distrust and jealousy. Let us have no illusions: unless we follow this spiritual path, external structures of communion will serve very him fighting off sleep before the little purpose. They would become mechanisms without a soul, 'masks' of communion rather than its means of expression and growth."

And there is the Blessing to be shared!

Finally, I wished to share, as part of the reflection upon the lifelong Blessing that is the Spirit and pondered over in the Sequence of the Feast with its many alternate consoler, comfort in toil, coolness in the heat, melting and warming Columban, Fr Pat Raleigh:

Here's one thing you must

like Fr Neil Magill, from this part of if you are by yourself, thinking you

There are, of course, many Uachtaran na hEireann, Mary there as their formation advances. first take yourself to a place where



Newly ordained Fr Francis Xavier. first Columban priest from Myanmar (formerly Burma

everyone does not look like you or think like you,

a place where they do not believe precisely as you believe, where their thoughts and ideas and gestures are not exact echoes of vour own.

Bring your sorrow.

Bring your grief.

Bring your fear.

Bring your weariness, your pain, your disgust at how broken

the world is, how fractured, how fragmented by its fighting, its wars, its hungers, its penchant for power, its ceaseless repetition of the history it refuses to rise above.

I will not tell you this blessing will fix all that. But in the place where you have

gathered, wait. Watch. Listen. Lay aside your inability to be surprised, your resistance to what

you do not understand.

See then whether this blessing turns to flame on your tongue, sets you to speaking what you cannot fathom or opens your ear to a language beyond your imagining that comes as a knowing in your bones, a clarity in your heart that tells you this is the reason we were made:

for this ache that finally opens us, for this struggle, this grace that scorches us toward one another and into the blazing day.

(Jan Richardson - From Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons)



Three notable saints - Brigid, Hildegard, Katerie - Bro Mickey MacGarth.

Eternal Echoes... Timeless Truth for today's hearts by Regina Deighan The Four Marks of the Church: A Series (Part 3)... The Church is Catholic

even complacency, causes us to miss important aspects of our faith. When responding at Mass, we can become so used to rattling off the appropriate responses that summarising each of these we can become desensitized to marks to better understand the what we are actually saying and its underlying meaning.

Every Sunday, following the homily, we recite the Nicene Creed - a statement of belief developed by the Early Church Fathers (early bishops) during the ecumenical councils of Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople things is something that we (381 AD) to combat heresy. The text of this prayer includes the words: "I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church." While, perhaps, a small statement, it is key to salvation because this is the means which Christ provided us to enter Heaven - through His Church. religious identity. But what does We know that Christ is God, who founded His Church and promised it would endure until the end of time. He gave specific qualities to this Church so it history and meaning. To truly could be easily identified, namely understand Christ's intention for those we list in the Creed: one, His Church, we must examine holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Of all the Churches that exist, the Catholic Church is the only one that possesses all these Ascension into Heaven, St qualities. Thus, we are faced Ignatius of Antioch was born. with a serious moral choice: We must enter this Church through baptism and live according to Minor, now modern-day Turkey. are meant for all people, no

SOMETIMES repetition, or its teachings because this is Despite severe persecution, St matter what. This leads to a very the instrument through which Christ provides His grace for us to be saved.

> This is the third of four articles words we are reciting, and to recognize that the precious faith we have been given is the one that will guide us on the most direct path to Heaven.

The Church is Catholic

Labelling and categorizing commonly do to organize our thoughts and process the way we understand the world. What words would you use to describe yourself? How would you label or identify yourself? Many of us would likely use the term 'catholic' to describe our this mean? While we are used to using the term 'Roman Catholic' to refer to our practice of the faith, the term 'catholic' has a deep this term 'Catholic'.

In the first century of the Church, shortly after Christ's raised as a Christian, and became an influential bishop in Asia

Carndonagh: the Painter's Way by Dr Seán Beattie

Ignatius remained firm and steadfast in his faith and was a faithful and vigilant leader of his flock

On his way to his martyrdom, he composed a series of letters to bolster the hope and faith of the addressees, as well as provide spiritual and theological insight that could serve as a foundation for the fledgling Church. In one of these letters, St Ignatius referred to this neophyte Church as "katholikos" (from the phrase, "kath' holou:" "on the whole"), meaning 'universal'. Eventually, this adjective became adopted as the name for the one Church founded by Christ; but it is also a term describing the kind of Church that Jesus chose to bequeath to the human race. Along with "one" and "holy," the Church that Christ founded can be identified by its 'catholic', or universal, nature.

Referring to the Church as 'universal' has both social and numerical implications. Socially, the Church is intended for people of both genders, all races, all ages, all nationalities, etc. There is not one specific group for whom Jesus left the gift of His Church. Rather, it is home for all people who are baptized and live in the faith and morals handed on by the Apostles. The teachings

diverse community of people around the world who are bonded in a common deposit of faith, worship, and leadership (the mark, One). In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), Jesus instructs His apostles to make disciples of all nations. While Jesus' first mission is for the Jews, whose Messiah He is, His ministry extends beyond that in His own interactions, such as healing the Roman centurion's servant, or speaking with the Samaritan woman, or curing the Syrophoenician woman. When He commissions His Apostles, they must bring Christ's Gospel to all ends of the earth.

Jesus tells the Apostles, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar'ia and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). If you were to map out the location of each of these places, you would find that you could draw concentric circles for each location, demonstrating an outward movement of the Gospel message - and an outward movement that occurred rapidly. The Truth has a way of being passed along rapidly, even when there are forces fighting against

Numerically, the Catholic Church remains the largest

> her historic associations with the three icons of Irish history. In her own family in Pound St,

with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. but her memory will forever be

simply a denomination of

Christianity. Rather, we are

recognizing the fact that the

Church Christ established is

one meant for everyone, with

universal Truth that applies to

all people, regardless of who

they are or where they are

from. Christ intended this from

the beginning, and His love is

compelling, which is why we

can see the rapid spread of the

Church in the early days and the

continual conversion of people to

To be 'Catholic', then, is to

share the same apostolic deposit

of faith, the same wellspring

of worship in the liturgy and

sacraments, the same call to

holiness through prayer and the

corporal and spiritual works

of mercy, the same patrimony

and ultimate goal. And this

'catholicity' is both synchronic

(shared by all Catholics in this

present age) and diachronic

(shared by all Catholics through

all ages) in its nature. We are,

indeed, a universal Church

reaching the world and the ages

this Truth even today.



THE magnificent Church of tribute to her generosity: the Sacred Heart, Carndonagh, Co Donegal, was opened in 1945, on a prime site overlooking the town and surrounding countryside. At the time, there was only one road with access for parishioners. A property was later donated to provide a second entrance from the town centre. entrance, with vehicle access, was donated her property to provide provide a new entrance. In her very grateful. 98th year, she died in May 2024, reside in Pound St, in the town.

Eulogy for Margaret Teresa Doherty, Pound St, Carndonagh, at her funeral on

May 8, 2024 I have been asked to speak on behalf of the Colgan Heritage Committee about Margaret Teresa. She has been a great source of information to us over opened. He always said that he In recent years, a third many years. In recent times, she could afford to get married in opened thanks to the generosity access from Pound Street to of Margaret Mary Doherty, who the church, now known as the gave her house to the church to Painter's Way, for which we are

So, who were the Painters? the last member of the family to There were four in her family - John, who once played the I was invited by the local trumpet in the Carn Brass Band heritage committee to deliver her and he donated it to the Band eulogy and I am pleased to have before he passed away; there it printed below in The Net, as a were two sisters, Minnie, who

is buried in Carn and Annalene historic connection - Arthur who lived in Largs in Ayreshire, Scotland – where she is buried. Their parents were John and Maggie Doherty.

Margaret's grandparents came from Moville Parish and hence the nickname - the Bunaphobails, the old Irish name for the town. Her grandfather was Willie, from Glencrow, and her mother was Maggie McFeely, from Carrowmena. She had a distinguished connection in the church on her grandfather's side. He was an uncle of the Bishop of Dromore, Bishop Eugene O'Doherty.

Her grandfather was a painter by trade - hence the nickname and he first came to Carn to paint the Colgan Hall in 1914, when it 1916, with the money he made from painting the Colgan Hall. He also helped to paint this church. He had a habit of singing when he was painting and Fr Bonner was not too impressed with this – but I will not go into that story.

A Hedge School Master in her family

Margaret also had another

Gormley (1800-1870) was her great-grandfather, who came from Banagher, Co Derry, as a hedge school teacher as the Penal Laws were coming to an end. He taught, at first, in a slated barn at Hillhead, beside the Presbyterian Church. Later, he moved to a national school. He is buried in Carndonagh and his grave can be seen at the graveyard entrance

opposite the Colgan Hall. As you all know, Margaret dedicated her life to serving the community as a chemist. She earned her qualifications by working in the chemist shop of Hayes Cunningham and Robinson in the Dun Laoghaire branch. She cycled at night to the College of Pharmacy in Mount St. Dublin as part of her studies.

The Three Patriots

Finally, we come to the Three Patriots of Carndonagh. The house beside the Painter's Way has three sculpted heads: Robert Emmet; Henry Grattan; and Wolfe Tone. The sculptor was a cousin of her grandfather's. He later emigrated to America and made a full-time career as a successful sculptor.

Margaret was very proud of



group of Christians on the earth. Because the message is meant for all people, and she embraces people from all walks of life, she is a welcoming Mother where people can find a home.

The Church is not particular to a certain mindset, culture, or group of people. We can find commonality among all, while still maintaining the uniqueness and dignity of each individual member. This is evidenced in the various Marian apparitions that reflect the certain culture to which Mary is appearing, yet the message that she conveys is consistent with the teaching of Christ, no matter the people or the country. For example, Our Lady of Guadalupe's image on the tilma represents her as a Mexican Indigenous and dressed as an Aztec Princess. However, her comforting words to Juan Diego, "Am I not here, I, who am your mother?" are a reminder of Mary as Mother of us all; a teaching for the entire Church established while Jesus is dying on the cross (cf. John 19:26-27). To refer to ourselves as

"catholic" means more than

enshrined in the Painter's Way. We extend our sympathy to her she was the last of the name, family. May she rest in peace.

Schedule of Prayer in St. Eugene's Cathedral **Ordinary** Time

Monday to Friday 8.00am - Morning Mass

10.00am - Morning Mass 12.00noon - Angelus & Rosary 3.00pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet 7.00pm - 7.20pm - Confessions 7.30pm - Evening Mass followed by Rosary & Night Prayer

Saturday

10.00am - Morning Mass (11.30 am - 1.00 pm) (5.30 pm -6.00 pm) (7.00 pm – 7.20 pm) -Confessions 6.15pm - Vigil Mass 7.30pm – Vigil Mass

Sunday

7.00am - Sunday Mass 9.30am – Sunday Mass 11.00am - Sunday Mass 12.30pm - Sunday Mass 7.00pm – Sunday Mass

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sunday 3.00pm – 6.00pm



Tuesday after 10.00am Mass until 7.30pm Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday (11.30 am - 1.00 pm) (5.30 pm - 6.00 pm) (7.00 pm -7.20 pm) Eves of Holy Days (5.30pm -6.00pm) (7.00pm – 7.20pm) Monday - Friday 7.00pm -7.20pm

DEVOTIONS Sunday 6.00pm

Parish Post-its

Aghyaran

Blessed Sacrament takes place meal in An Grainan, Burt, the Eucharistic Cross will take Concert: on Thursdays after 10 am and some shopping time in Mass, and finishes at 12 noon. Letterkenny. Please book pm Vigil, and 11 am.

Ardstraw East

(Newtownstewart) Holy Hour: 6.30 pm, Thursdays, Oratory of Mary, Mother of God. Weekend Mass Times: 11:30 am, St Eugene's Glenock.

Badoney Lower

(Gortin-Rouskey)1 Adoration: Adoration takes places in St Patrick's Gortin, after the 12.30 pm Mass until 5 pm on Tuesdays. Weekend Mass Times: 7.30 pm Vigil, St Patrick's, Gortin; 10 am, St Mary's, Rouskey.

Badoney Upper

Evening Prayer: Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of Hours (Vespers) takes place on Sundays at 7 pm in Sacred Buncrana Heart Church, Plumbridge. 7.30 pm Vigil, St Patrick's place on July 28 at St Mary's Plumbridge.

Ballinascreen

St Pio Mass: Mass in honour of St Pio of Pietrelcina is celebrated on the first Monday of each month at 7.30 pm, in Holy Rosary Church. The Novena prayers and Rosary are recited at 7.10 pm.

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, Holy Rosary; 9 am in St on Sundays 2-10 pm. Columba's Straw; 11 am in St Patrick's, Sixtowns: 12 noon in St Eugene's, Moneyneena.

Ballymagroarty

Adoration: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, every Sunday, from 1.30 - 6 pm.

Padre Pio Prayer: The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group meets on the first Tuesday each month at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry. It starts with the Rosary at 6.45 pm, followed by Mass at 7.15pm, and Novena to St Pio directly afterwards. There will be a first class relic available for veneration.

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil; and 9.30 am, 11 am, and 12.30 pm on Sunday.

Banagher

Blessing of Graves: Blessing at St Peter & St Paul's by someone else's drinking, West Foreglen, Sunday, August meets in St Teresa's Room on 18, at 12noon; and St Mary's Thursdays at 6:45 pm. Church, Altinure, on Sunday, September 8, at 10.30 am. SVP Outing: The SVP summer

1, to Glenveagh National Park, Burt, Inch & Fahan Adoration: Adoration of the Co Donegal, with evening Parish Camino: A walk to Claudy or by Phone 07593954973. Contribution: £15. Adoration & Chaplet:

Adoration of the Blessed Chaplet take place in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn, on Fridays, 10–11 am. Fincairn, 10.30 am in St 11.30 am, St Mura's, Fahan. Mary's Church, Altinure, and

12 noon in St Peter's & St Paul's Cappagh Church, Foreglen.

Bellaghy

Community Café: The Open on Door Community Café is 29, at 10 am, to mark 70 open on the last Sunday of years since the dedication each month, from 11.30 am of Corpus Christi Church, until 1 pm.

(Plumbridge-Cranagh) pm Vigil in Bellaghy, 10 am afterwards. All are invited in Ballyscullion, and 11 am in Any photos or memorabilia Bellaghy.

Graveyard Weekend Mass Times: Graveyard Sunday will take corpuschristi70@outlook.com Cranagh; 10 am, Sacred Heart Church in Cockhill, and on Eucharistic Adoration takes August 4 in Star of the Sea, place on Wednesday from Desertegney, both at 3 pm. Garden Fete: The annual Strathroy, concluding with Garden Fete will take place on Sunday, August 25.

Adoration: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament now takes every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 6 am-10 pm, and

each weekday at 9.30 am in St Pm. Mary's Oratory, prior to 10 am Mass.

Guided Holy Hour: A Guided Holy Hour of Adoration in Honour of the members always welcome. Holy Face of Jesus takes place on Sundays, 6-7 pm in St Mary's Oratory. All welcome. Rosary for Priests: Three Rosaries are prayed each Wednesday of the month Tuesday, between 1-2 pm, in in Christ the King Church, the Oratory for vocations to Strathroy. Rosary at 7 pm, the priesthood and religious life.

Amazing Grace Group, Mass. Buncrana, has five meetings Polish per week: Sundays - 8 pm, celebrated in Polish in the - 11.30 am, Fridays 8.30 pm, Strathroy, Omagh, on the first and Saturdays at 11.30 am. and third Sunday's of each Coleraine If you think you may have a month at 10 am. Al-Anon: The Al-Anon Mary's, Killyclogher; Group, for anyone whose

Mary's Oratory - Vigil 6 until 12 noon. pm, 9 am and 12.30 pm; St Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm outing is on Thursday, August Mary's Cockhill – Vigil 7 pm,

and 11am; Star of the Sea, Vigil and 11 am, Castlederg; vocation to priesthood and Desertegney – 10 am. pm Drumnabey.

Church, Craigbane.

Sunday. All welcome.

pm. All are welcome.

Joseph's; 11.30 am St Patrick's.

Saturday, August 3, led by Fr

Louise 00353 86 0567455.

Other Jubilee Events:

Family of Families Jubilee

Archbishop Eamon Martin

celebrating Golden Jubilee

Mass on Sunday, August 25,

at St John's Church Sacristy,

after the 10 am morning

Mass, and is open to everyone.

New members are welcome

Clonleigh (Lifford)

place on Sunday, August 11, seminarian,

leaving the water tank at 1pm. McGonagle will be in concert Weekend Mass Times: 7.30 with any committee member The Rosary will be said on the in Craigbane Hall on Sunday, way up. Everyone is welcome to this parish event. Adoration: Adoration in St Mura's Parish Church, Fahan, Adoration: Adoration of the Sacrament and Divine Mercy takes place each Friday after Blessed Sacrament takes place

10 am Mass. Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, 10.15 am, St Aengus' Weekend Mass Times: 7 pm Burt; 9 am, Our Lady of on Wednesdays in St Joseph's Vigil in St Joseph's Church, Lourdes, Inch; 7.15 pm Vigil,

(Killyclogher)

Corpus Christi Church 70th: Mass will be celebrated Sunday, September Mountfield. Refreshments Weekend Mass Times: 7 in the Community Centre from celebrations in the church, such as baptism and wedding photos will be Sunday: gratefully received. Contact Eucharistic Adoration: 8-9 pm in Christ the King, Night Prayer, and on Sunday

from 3.30-6.30 pm, in Christ the King. Rosary: The Rosary is place in St Mary's Oratory prayed in St Mary's Church, Killyclogher, Monday-Saturday at 9.15 am, and in

Corpus Christi, Mountfield Rosary: The Rosary is prayed every Thursday evening at 8 Legion of Mary: Legion of Mary meets every Monday after 10 am Mass in St Mary's Church, Killyclogher. New

St Pio Novena Devotions: Novena devotions through the intercession of St Padre Pio take place on the first followed by Mass as 7.30 pm. Veneration and blessing with AA: Alcoholics Anonymous relic will be available after

pm. Mass: Mass is Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 Tuesdays - 8.30 pm, Thursdays Church of Christ The King, pm Vigil, 10 am.

Lough Derg: A Parish problem with alcohol, please Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 Pilgrimage to Lough Derg come along. Venue for all pm Vigil, 12 noon, Christ The will take place on Saturday, meetings is St Teresa's Room. King, Strathroy; 9 & 11 am, St September 7.

of the Graves takes place life is or has been affected Castlederg & Ardstraw

Adoration: Adoration takes place following 10 am Mass in Weekend Mass Times: St St Patrick's Church on Fridays,

and assisting to support the Drumquin.

9.30 am Dregish; and 12.30 the religious life.

Exposition: St John's Church Monday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Wednesdays in St John's Church, from 2-4 pm. with Rosary at 3:45 pm.

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, 11 am, St John's; 7.30 July 28, from 7.30-9.30 pm, as pm Vigil, St Mary's Dunboe; part of his Seminarian Appeal 9.45 am, Our Lady of the Fund. Refreshments included. Assumption, Aghadowey.

from after the 10 am Mass Creggan

Limavady

Conan

Adoration: Exposition of until 8 pm on Tuesdays in St Blessed Sacrament takes place Patrick's Church, Claudy, and in the Divine Mercy Chapel on Sundays from 1.30 pm - 6 Living Word: There is a pm. Mondays from 10.30 am -'Living Word' gathering in the 7 pm, and Tuesday – Saturday Upper Room in St Patrick's from 10.30 am - 12 pm.

Church on Thursdays, 7-8.30 Bereavement Support: pm , for a time of reading Parish Pastoral Bereavement and reflection on the Mass Support. The Parish Pastoral readings for the following Bereavement Support Group meets on the second Sunday Children's Rosary: Children's of each month at 3 pm in the Rosary continues in St Patrick's Parochial House community Church, Claudy on the first room. All are welcome to share a cup of tea, have a chat, Saturday of each month, at 2 remember and talk about their loved one and find support Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 with others experiencing pm Vigil, St Patrick's; 10 am, St similar feelings. In addition to the group, there is an ongoing opportunity to speak on a one-to-one basis with an Knock Pilgrimage: The experienced grief counsellor. Parish Annual Pilgrimage The contact number for more to Knock will take place on information on the group or to arrange one to one support Colm O'Doherty. Bus leaves is 07907085178.

Murlog Church car park at Polish Mass: Mass for the 7.30 am. Mass celebrated by Polish community will be Fr Colm in the Apparition celebrated at 4 pm every Chapel at 12.30 pm. Cost: €30 per person for bus and evening second and fourth Sunday of the month in the Divine meal. To book telephone Mercy Chapel, at St Mary's James on 00353 85 8767999/ Church.

Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 pm Vigil; 10.30 am; 12.15 pm.

BBQ at Parish Communit Centre, Saturday, August 24; Culdaff

Weekend Mass Times: 8 pm Vigil; 10 am Sunday.

followed by refreshments Desertmartin

in Clonleigh Social Centre; Knit & Natter: Knit & Jubilee Walk to old Clonleigh Natter classes take place in Graveyard in September; Knocknagin Hall on Tuesdays Celebration of parish schools, at 7.30 pm. Bring your own Group meets each Thursday at October; Annual Mass for the project or you can help with Dead, Monday, November knitting for local charities. 4, at 7 pm, with special Weekend Mass Times: remembrance of those who 7.30 pm Vigil in St Patrick's, have died in the past 60 years; Keenaught; and 10 am in St and Nativity Concert on Mary's, Coolcalm. Sunday, December 15, at 7

Donagheady (Aughabrack & Dunamanagh) Adoration:

Eucharistic Adoration takes place in St Patrick's Church after 10 am Mass on Saturdays, until 12 noon, and on Mondays from 7-8 pm.

SJYP Meet: St Joseph's Young Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 Priests' Society meets on the pm Vigil, St Patrick's, and last Monday of each month 10.30 am, St Mary's.

Drumquin

Rosary: The Rosary is prayed at any of the meetings, each Tuesday morning at 10 Chaplet are prayed in St which support praying for am in St Patrick's Church, Joseph's Church, Glenullin,

Termonbacca Derry

THE NET | JUNE 2024

Ages 8-14 Monday 20th July- Friday 2nd August 2024 12pm-4pm EIS

Vigil, and 10 am, St Mary's, Ballerin, and 11.30 am in

Glenullin GAA Hall.

Faughanvale

The Fr Jack Cycle: The annual Charismatic Prayer Group Fr Jack Cycle takes place on meetings take place in The Sunday, August 4. Registration Pastoral Centre on Thursday at St Anne's Hall from 9.15 evenings, with Rosary at 7.30 am. Leaving from there at 10 pm and prayer meeting at 8 am, cycling to The Drift Inn, pm. All welcome to come and Buncrana, where there will be refreshments. Raffle and live Legion of Mary: The Legion music. Proceeds in aid of Foyle

Tuesday of each month at every Friday at 7 pm in Star of

Sacristy). Contact: Sean on pm Vigil, 12 noon, Star of the Sea; 6.30 pm Vigil, 10 am, St Mary's.

> Weekend Mass Times: 12 noon & 7 pm Vigils; 10.30 am.

Greencastle

Divine Mercy: The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed on the First Tuesday of every month at 12.15 pm before Mass in St Patrick's Church, Greencastle.

Adoration: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in St Patrick's Church after 7.30 pm Mass on Mondays, with Confessions.

Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross are prayed after 7.30 pm Mass on Fridays in St Patrick's, Greencastle.

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, St Patrick's, and 11.30 Room, and invites anyone am, Our Lady of Wayside, Broughderg.

Greenlough

Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration takes place in St Oliver Plunkett's Church from 9 am-5 pm on Thursdays Cemetery Sunday: Cemetery Sunday will take place on July 14

Weekend Mass Times: 5.30 pm Vigil, and 9 am.

Iskaheen, Drung & Muff

Blessing of Graves: The Blessing of the Graves will take place in Drung on Sunday, July 28, at 3 pm, in Muff on Sunday, August 11, at 3 pm, and in Iskaheen on Sunday,

Grames Selatarer Adoration: every Wednesday evening at

Friendship Eucharistic place on Wednesdays from 6 pm – Mass at 7.30 pm.

Eucharistic Adoration takes 6.30 pm. Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm

Weekend Mass Times: Vigil 6.30 pm, and 11 am.

Drumragh (Omagh)

Praver Group:

of Mary Men's meetings take Hospice. Contact - Andrew place on the first, second Barr 07791760237. and last Monday, and third Rosary: The Rosary is prayed 7.30 pm, in St Vincent's Hall the Sea Church. (beneath Sacred Heart Church Weekend Mass Times: 5

07730671370. Adoration: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Sacred Heart Church on Granaghan (Swatragh) Wednesdays following 10 am Mass.

Rosary of Reparation: On the first Saturday of each month, a Rosary of Reparation will be prayed at 1pm on Main Street, Omagh. All welcome to ioin.

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, 9 am and 12 noon, Sacred Heart Church; 10.30 am, St Mary's Drumragh.

Dungiven Mass Rock: Mass will be celebrated at the Mass Rock in

Glenshane Forest on Sunday, August 4, at 3 pm. **Prayer Group:** The St Canice's Charismatic Prayer 7 pm, in the Parish Committee

who wishes to deepen their faith through shared Scripture, Praver and Praise.

St Pio Healing Mass: A St Pio Healing Mass is celebrated monthly, on the first Tuesday, in St Patrick's Church at 7 pm. Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, 9 am and 11.30 am, St Patrick's; 10.15 am, St Matthew's: and 4.30 pm, Immaculate Conception.

Errigal

Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Mondays after 10 am Mass in St Mary's Church, Ballerin, until 2.30 pm. Rosary & Chaplet: The Rosary and Divine Mercy

August 11, at 5 pm.

Adoration: Exposition of Leckpatrick the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Tuesdays after 10 am Mass until 2 pm in St Patrick's Church, Iskaheen.

Divine Mercy: Divine Mercy Devotions take place on Wednesdays after 10 am Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Muff. St Peregrine: The St Peregrine 11.30am, Novena Prayer and veneration Church, Derry Road. of relic takes place on the first Friday of each month, alternating between the three churches.

Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 pm Vigil, 11.30 am, Sacred Heart Church, Muff; 8 pm Vigil, 10.15 am, St Columba's, Drung; 9 am, St Patrick's, Iskaheen.

Kilrea

Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays, from 12 noon - 7pm, at St Mary's Drumagarner. Concludes with Benediction. Stations of the Cross: The Anne's Oratory at 7 pm, with 10.30 am, St Mary's Church. Confessions beforehand from 6.30-6.50 pm.

SVP: The St Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10 am -1pm. Weekend Mass Times: 7 pm, Vigil, St Anne's Oratory; 10am St Marv's, Drumagarner; 12 noon, St Mary's, Craigavole.

Killygordon

Eucharistic Adoration: Adoration takes place in St Patrick's Church, Crossroads, every Thursday after 9.15 am Mass.

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, 10 am, St Patrick's; 8 pm Vigil, 9 am & 11 am, St Mary's Sessiaghoneill.

Lavey

Ice-cream Sunday: & Tea/Coffee Desserts (Knickerbocker Glory, Icecream Sundaes), will be served after 6 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, August 10, and the 11 am Sunday Mass on St. Mary's Church. August 11. Tea/Coffee & Traybakes will be served after 9 am Mass. All Weekend Masses will be celebrated in Lavey/Termoneeny Centre. All Welcome! Donations in aid of the Parish Building Fund.

Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Fridays after 9.15 am Mass Adoration until 5 pm. Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, 9 am and 11 am.

part of his Seminarian Appeal For

Silent Retreat: Fr Stephen gmail.com

... other Diary Dates

Seminarian Fund Concert: Quinn ocd will lead a Silent

Limavady seminarian, Conan Retreat at Termonbacca Retreat

McGonagle will be in concert Centre, Derry, from August

in Craigbane Hall on Sunday, 9-11. Open to both men and

July 28, from 7.30-9.30 pm, as women, the total cost is £90.

Fund. Refreshments included. contact 028 71 262512, or

email

Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration takes place on prayed after 10 am Mass on Wednesdays after 10 am Mass until 5.30 pm.

Church, Sacred Heart

Limavady

Adoration: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Sundays in Christ the King (with Confessions) from 3-5 pm.

Prayer: Children's Α Children's Praver Group is held in the Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, on the First Saturday of every month, from 2.30-3.30 pm. All welcome. Contact: Kathy on Blessed Sacrament takes place 07538749627.

Weekend Mass Times: 4.30 pm Vigil, 9 am, 12 noon, Stations of the Cross are Christ the King Church; 6 pm Legion of Mary: The Legion prayed on Sundays in St Vigil, St Finlough's Church; of Mary meets in the Green

Maghera

Pray & Play: The Maghera Parish Pray and Play for Parents, Grandparents & Tots (three years old and younger) meets every Friday, in the Fairhill Youth Centre, after the 10 am Mass. It runs from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 Steelstown & Culmore

pm Vigil and 11.30 am, St Lectio Mary's; 9.30 am, St Patrick's.

Malin

Graves' Blessing: Blessing of the Graves takes place on Sunday, August 11, at St Patrick's Church, Aughaclay after 10.30am Mass, and at St Mary's Church, Lagg, at 3 pm. Sports Day: Malin Head Sports Day will be on Sunday, August 18.

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, and 10.30 am, St Patrick's Church; Vigil 8 pm, Star of the Sea Church; 9 am,

Melmount

Exposition: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the church on Mondays after 10 am Mass until 6 pm. The Rosary will be recited prior to closure of Adoration at approximately 5.40 pm. Everyone is welcome. Weekend Mass Times: 7 pm

Vigil, 10.30 am and 12.30 pm.

information/booking

termonbaccaderry@

Moville

Stations of the Cross are Fridays.

Cloughcor; 10 am St Joseph's Moville, at 7.30 pm every day. Glenmornan; from Sunday - Friday. Adoration: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place SJYP Society: The St John on Mondays, from 2-9 pm,

and Wednesdays, 6-9 pm, in St Pius X Church. Weekend Mass Times: 7 pm Vigil, 10 am, St Pius X Church. 12 noon on Sundays as follows 3rd Sundays; St Columba's Ballinacrae, 2nd and 4th Sundays; St Pius X 5th Sunday.

Sion Mills

Adoration: Exposition of the on Fridays, from 11 am-6.50 pm, ending with Benediction before 7 pm Mass. Room, behind the church,

each Monday evening at 7.30 pm. This is open not only to members of the Legion but to anyone interested in joining. Anyone can come along to the start of the meeting for the Rosary. Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil; 9 am & 11 am.

Divina: Lectio Divina is a way of praying the Scriptures together and takes place every Wednesday after 10 am Mass, in the Parish Conference Room. All welcome

Adoration: Fridays after 10 am Mass until 6.50 pm. Stations of the Cross: Come along to reflect on the Way of the Cross on Fridays at 7.30

pm. Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 pm Vigil; 9 am, 11 am, and 12:15 pm.

Strabane (Camus) Adoration: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes

FR Eamonn Kelly, priest of for, Mary's Meals. Raphoe Diocese, is involved with Mary's Meals, a charity he says: "We are now launching hours, collect, take a sponsor you. My contact details Bridge and Peace Bridge in that presently feeds 2,429,182 Step by Step to Feed the Next card or promote the walk. It are: Eamonn Kelly (Rev), Derry, meeting at Sainsburys

education each school day. to raise awareness of, and funds

place all day in the Adoration who care for them. Stations of the Cross: The Chapel (Oasis of Peace), Cathedral Club: the Church.

Praver Group: The pm Vigil, St Mary's Church, recited in St Pius X Church, in the Prayer Room in the served. Parochial House. All welcome. Entry by Parish Priest's front door. 11 am, 12.30 pm & 7 pm.

> Vianney branch of the Templemore – Long St Joseph's Young Priests' Society (the three combined Strabane parishes) meets on the first Tuesday of the month, be held for all Eucharistic excluding January, July and Ministers and - St Mary's Ballybrack, 1st and August, with Rosary in the church after 10 am Mass and July 27, at 6 pm. continues in St Patrick's Hall. More people are encouraged to join in this prayer for

Tower

Commissioning Mass: A

Mass of Commissioning will

present and new, on Saturday,

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm

Bible Study takes place in the

Upper Room in St Brigid's

Mass:

Mass

Α

Vigil, 10 am & 12 noon.

Three Patrons

welcome.

Readers,

new students to join the priesthood. The Society assists Irish and overseas student. Please contact Margaret Harte on 028 71 883159.

Chapel, Carnhill, on Tuesdays Padre Pio Mass: The at 7.30 pm. Padre Pio Mass takes place God Club: God Club is an in the Church on the first opportunity for 16-30 year Wednesday of the month at 7 olds to learn together about pm, with Rosary beforehand their faith. It takes place in St at 6.40 pm. Pio House, in the grounds of Grotto Rosary: The Rosary

St Joseph's Church, Galliagh, is recited at the Grotto on the on Sundays from 7.30-9 pm last Sunday of each month. on Sundays. Evervone is welcome. Family/Youth Weekend Mass Times: 6.30 Family/Youth

pm Vigil, 10 am & 12 noon.

Templemore – St **Eugene's**

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Sunday, there is Eucharistic Adoration from 3-6 pm and every Tuesday from 10.30 am until 7.20 pm. Matt Talbott Mass: The Matt Talbot, Freedom from addiction Mass takes place on the first Monday of each month at 7.30 pm in St Eugene's Cathedral.

St Dymphna Mass: The St Dympna Mass with Anointing for the Unborn & Expectant of the Sick takes place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. This Mass is to give thanks to God for positive Church, mental health and to pray for welcome. those who are struggling with mental health issues and those Adoration

Step by step to feed the next child

In a message regarding this, Knock Shrine have taken place from August 7 to 15 August 15. provides a meal.

Procession to the Shrine. Anointing of the Sick will take pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick deeper understanding of coming along. There is no need Pioneers, along with friends place at 2.30 pm and Mass will takes place on Sunday, July 28. scripture are welcome to book, you can simply show and relations of people who be celebrated by Papal Nuncio, Masses hourly on the summit along to the Ladies' Bible up. For further information are living "one day at a time" Archbishop Montemayor, at 8 am-2 pm. Confessions Study in Termonbacca, Derry, contact Termonbacca on 028 3 pm, followed by the Rosary available from 7.30am-2 pm. every Tuesday evening from 71 262512.

The Joseph's Church, Galliagh, on per class. Spaces limited. which is situated at the back of Cathedral Club meets after the Mondays after 11 am Mass, Weekend Mass Times: 6 10 am Mass each Thursday in concluding with a Youth 2000 pm Vigil, 9.45 am & 12.15 the Cathedral Hall. Everyone Holy Hour from 7-8 pm. It pm, St Patrick's, Pennyburn; Prayer: The Rosary and Contemplative Prayer Group is welcome to this parish social also takes place seven days a 6 pm Vigil, 10.30 am &12.30 Weekend Mass Times: 6 Divine Mercy Chaplet will be meets on Mondays at 8 pm group. Refreshments will be week in the Adoration Room pm St Brigid's, Carnhill; 7.15 Weekend Mass Times: 6.15 pm & 7.30 pm Vigils; 9.30 am, Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, Galliagh. on Wednesdays from 10.45

am – 6.45 pm. First Saturday: On the First

Saturday of each month, after 11 am Mass in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, there is with Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3 pm.

Living Disciples: Living Disciples meet on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in St Pio House, St Joseph's Church grounds, for Praise & Worship, friendship and a cup of tea. All welcome. Men's Bible Study: Men's Holv Face Devotions: Devotions to the Holy Face of Jesus takes place every Tuesday after 11 am Mass in Our Lady's Chapel, St

> Joseph's Church, Galliagh. All welcome St Pio Mass: A monthly Mass in honour of St Pio takes place on the first Monday at

7 pm in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn. Healing Night: A Healing Night with the Franciscan

is Friars of the Renewal takes celebrated every Sunday place monthly on the first at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's Friday, from 7-10 pm, in St Church, Galliagh. Everyone is Ioseph's Church, Galliagh. Everyone welcome. Be Still: Be Still is a Men's Holv Souls Prayer: Praying

Prayer and Friendship Group for the Holy Souls, Our that meets every Thursday Lady of Montligeon Prayer night from 8-9.15 pm in Group meets on Wednesdays Our Lady's Chapel, within after 9.15 am Mass in the St Joseph's Church building, room adjacent to St Brigid's Galliagh. Its mission as a group Parochial House, Carnhill, in is to provide a safe place where the presence of the Blessed men can pray and share in a Sacrament. confidential and supportive Vocations Society: The

setting. All men are welcome. Vocations Society of St Joseph Holy Hour: A Holy Hour hold monthly meetings on First Fridays after 10 am Mothers takes place on Mass, in the Emmaus Room, Thursdays at 7 pm in Our Pennyburn. New members Lady's Chapel, St Joseph's welcome

All Women's Laugh & Craft: The Women's Laugh & Craft Eucharistic Group meets every Monday place from 7.30 -9 pm in the Kildare

in Our Lady's Chapel, St Room, St Brigid's, Carnhill. £3

29

in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, pm Vigil, 9 am, 11 am & 6.30 from 8 am until 6 pm, and in St pm Youth Mass, St Joseph's

Urney & Castlefinn

First Saturdays: The First Saturday Devotion and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place Adoration and Rosary, ending in St Columba's Church, Doneyloop, from 12 noon until 1 pm on the First Saturday of each month.

Adoration: Weekly Eucharistic Adoration takes place in St Anthony's Chapel every Tuesday, from 12 noon until 8 pm.

Cenacle: The Cenacle for Priests takes place every Tuesday in St Anthony's Chapel immediately after the 7 pm Mass.

Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, St Columba's, Doneyloop; 10.30 am, St Mary's Castlefinn.

Waterside &

Strathfoyle

Vocations Holy Hour: There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood in St Columb's Church on Wednesday, July 17, at 8 pm. All welcome.

Eucharistic Adoration: There is Eucharistic Adoration in St Oliver Plunkett Church, Strathfoyle, on Monday mornings, and on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 pm. All welcome.

Lectio Divina: Reflect on the Scriptures with Lectio Divina in the side chapel in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, on Thursday nights, starting at 8 pm.

Weekend Mass Times: 7 pm Vigil, 10 am, 12.30 pm & 6 pm, St Columb's; 6 pm Vigil, 10.15 am & 12.15 pm, Immaculate Conception; 6 pm Vigil, 11.15 am, St Oliver Plunkett; 9.15 am, St Mary's Oratory.

Galliagh.

takes

Adoration:

help us create new walks, join information, or to get involved, 'Two Bridges Walk' on Sunday, us for a day or half-day or a few I would love to hear from August 11, over the Foyle children in their place of Child 2024. We have walks costs €22 to give a child a meal Parochial House, Convoy, Car Park at 11.45 am to originating in many counties, each day in school for a school Co Donegal, F93HX2R, begin the walk. The distance For the past 11 years, walks to north and south. All walks go year and every 11 cents raised earnonnkelly1949@gmail.com is about five miles. You can register for the walk at Bit.ly/ "If you would like more Mary's Meals are organising a stepbystepwalk

Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock Day for Grandparents and knockshrine.ie for those advice on the pilgrimage, visit currently working through the Shrine will take place on the Elderly will be marked at who would like to participate westportparish.ie/reek-sunday Gospel of Mark, which is the Gospel for Mass for this year. Ladies' Bible Study: Ladies This Bible Study is open to all Reek Sunday: The national interested in coming to a women who are interested in

Sunday, July 21. Mass will be Knock Shrine with the annual online. celebrated at 3.pm, followed National by a Eucharistic Blessing and Pilgrimage on Sunday, July 28.

with addiction, are welcome.

Grandparents'

"We are seeking people to

or 087 9077985." Procession. The ceremony If you would like to see some 8:30-9:30 pm. It is led by Fr Pioneer Pilgrimage: The Grandparents' Day: World will be live-streamed on relevant information and Stephen Quinn ocd, who is

Lord, I am not worthy Fr Johnny Doherty CSsR



Fr Johnny Doherty CSsR

ONE of the lovely memories I have of growing up in Carndonagh, Co Donegal, is of the annual Corpus Christi procession held at this time of the year. The sun was always shining - although I am sure it often rained, but I don't remember those times! The whole parish turned out, with everyone joining in with the prayers and singing as the priests carried the Blessed Sacrament around the town in solemn procession. There was a great sense of joy and happiness in the air.

I can remember taking part in the procession as an Altar Server for a number of years and then as part of the St McCartan Brass Band, led famously by Michael Galbraith, for a few years. Never did music sound so good as when we came down past our home on Bridge Street and I could see my parents proudly applauding the band.

The good old days I have often heard it said that the only good thing about the good old days is that they are gone forever! I can appreciate what that means and agree with it. But the truth is that those were good times for me and for so many other people around me.

Looking back, I often wonder how my parents did what they did for us. We had so little materially and it must have been very difficult for them. But it certainly was not difficult for us because we thought we had everything. And in a way we had. We had a home that was comfortable, with love and affection. And we had a community that was held together by faith and hope.

Things have changed

So much has changed since those days in the 1950s. There have been great developments in society in Ireland, as in every other country in the Western world. Most people are better off financially now than they were then. Housing is much better, as indeed are working conditions, health care, schools, general facilities, and so on.

Other things though may not be so good in the changes. Loneliness is often identified as one of the major causes of death today. People are more isolated from each other, often even within the home because of technology like phones, computers etc, and there is more breakdown of relationships in marriage and in family life.

An old saying

There is a saying that 'to live is live fully'. Another saying that can go side-by-side with this is: 'The

more things change the more they remain the same'.

Change is inevitable, change is necessary, change is to be welcomed. But, in the process of change, we have to keep our eye on the things that never change: the sacredness of life, especially human life; the need for love; the equal dignity of every human person made in the image and likeness of God.

Corpus Christi

One of the things that does not change, or rather that remains the same no matter how much other things change around it, is God's extraordinary love for each of us. This is symbolised by the Feast of Corpus Christi with which we begin this month of June.

At the heart of our Christian faith is the revelation that 'God so loved the world that He gave us His own Son'. God continues to give us His Son day after day, week after week, in the Eucharist which Christ established for us at the Last Supper.

Because of changes in society and also in the practice of the Church, we may no longer have the Corpus Christi procession to mark this wonderful truth. But we still have the invitation from Christ – 'Come to me'; 'Take, and eat, this is My Body'.

We have the amazing opportunity every week and, indeed, every day to become one with Christ and, in Him, with God the Father in the Mass. And also in the Blessed Sacrament reserved in all of our Catholic Churches we have Christ praying for us continuously, in which we can visit to change; and to change often is to Him and pray with Him and to Him.

Our responsibility In the celebration of Mass, there are many very important moments for us to be aware of so that we can appreciate the wonder of what we are doing and what moments is just before we receive Holy Communion. In response to the Sacred Host being held up for us, we say: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. Only say the word, and my

soul shall be healed" is not because we are bad people but because we acknowledge the awesomeness of the gift that is being given and the love with which we are being called. It is our responsibility to make sure that we do not take this for granted, and receive Christ carelessly, or without real devotion. It is not because we are worthy that we How extraordinary!

Amen

In Communion, the Minister of the Eucharist holds up the Host before each one of us and says the words: "The Body of Christ". And each of us says: "Amen". This is an act of faith in the real presence of Christ in this host. It means: "Yes, I believe you are truly present, and you are giving yourself to me". It is truly awesome. And we can miss the moment because of all kinds of us.

A double Amen

In the tradition of the Church

means 'Yes, I believe'. But it also

means 'Yes, we are'. By receiving

Body of Christ. This began for each of us in our Baptism. Each time we receive Christ in the Eucharist we are confirmed in this reality, and we are strengthened to be sent we have been given. One of those out after Mass to live as the Body of Christ in our relationships of Marriage, of family life, of parish community life, and of social life with the world in which we live.

the Body of Christ, we become the

The Domestic Church

Just as Christ is truly present in "Lord, I am not worthy." This the Blessed Sacrament, so He is truly present in the love that unites members of the family with one another. Christ is present in the love of a husband and wife in the Sacrament of Marriage. And in our Catholic Tradition, we call the home, the family, the Domestic Church. He has promised that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there are called to receive Christ. But it with them". Because of our is because we are so greatly loved. Baptism, we are always gathered in His name. He is always with us. We make Christ present. That is an amazing power of love.

However, the attitude that we have for the Eucharist needs to be the same attitude we have for one another. Part of that attitude is 'Lord, I am not worthy'. In Marriage, no one is worthy of the love of this other person for them. They do not have to be. All they have to do is return that love and new life grows.

In family life, no one is worthy distractions within us and around of the miracle of a child, any child. The response has to be a deep love and reverence for her or him. No one is worthy of the love of parents. It just calls for a this Amen is a double Amen. It response of gratitude that draws us into affection for these wonderful people.

and new living opportunities in

Praver for Priests

Heavenly Father, I ask you to bless

our bishops and priests and to

their host countries..

The Lord's Day - Sunday

Sunday is given to us so that we can begin fresh at the beginning of a new week with God and with one another. And, as human beings, we need this constant fresh start if we are to grow into all that we can be.

It is a new beginning each week with the Eucharist, which we need if we are to grow in our faith. It is not just that we should go to Mass on a Sunday/Saturday Vigil. We also need to put ourselves into it, especially growing into a sense of the wonder of this most extraordinary gift, and how we can give thanks and praise to God for it and for all God's wonderful gifts

It is a new beginning with your love for one another in marriage, which is essential if you are to avoid taking your love for granted and so taking one another for granted. So many marriages deteriorate into this soul-less life together when affection is let go of and when communication becomes lifeless

It is a new beginning with your family life when each one can learn again and again to appreciate the goodness of each member of the family, and learn over and over again to bring joy and gladness to one another.

And it is a new beginning with the community of the Church, when we again pledge ourselves to be the presence of Christ in the world in which we live, so that the power of His love can be more and more set free to change and save this world and bring it into the Kingdom of God.

Lord, I am not worthy. Only say the Word and we will be more alive to you and to one another.

Carmelite Book Club by Aoife O'Neill

Retreat Centre on Thursday, July 18, at 7.30 pm.

club is to explore learning about or by the Carmelite Saints, friendship with Christ through we hope to get encouragement the example of the Carmelite and growth in our own spiritual Saints. The Carmelite vocation is

THE Carmelite Book Club committed to a life of 'allegiance is 'The Story of a Soul' by St will meet again in Termonbacca to Jesus Christ', as a Friend and Therese of Lisieux. Companion along the way.

Through the reading and The purpose of the book discussion of various books journey today. The current book

Everyone is welcome to come

along and join us. If you have any further queries please contact Aoife on 028 71262512 or termonbaccaderry@gmail.com



The Holy Father has asked for

violence, may find welcome

All priests (2nd) All priests (3rd) All priests (4th) Fr Peter Devlin (5th) Fr Fintan Diggin (6th) Fr Brendan Doherty (7th) All priests (8th) All priests (9th) Fr John Doherty (10th) All priests (11th) Fr Michael Doherty (12th) Fr Patrick Doherty (13th) Mgr Andrew Dolan (14th) Fr Brian Donnelly (15th) Msgr Joseph Donnelly (16th) Fr Liam Donnelly (17th) All priests (18th) All priests (19th) All priests (20th) All priests (21st) Fr Jack Farrell (22nd) Fr John Farren (24th) Fr Neil Farren (25th) Fr Paul Farren (26th) All Priests (27th) Fr John Forbes (28th) Fr Eddie Gallagher (29th) Fr Paul Fraser (30th)

Pope's monthly intention

prayer during June for:

Those fleeing their own countries Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and

confirm them in their vocation of service. As they stand before us as ministers of Your Sacraments, may they be channels of the love and compassion of the Good Shepherd, who came not be served but to serve Give them the grace they need to

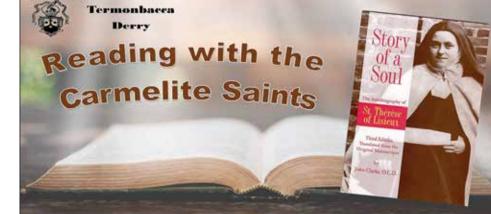
> respond generously to you, and the courage to proclaim your Word of justice, love and truth. Bless, in a special way, Your servant Father, Send your Spirit upon him So that he may always walk in the path of faith, hope

in the footsteps of Christ, the eternal priest, who offered All priests (23rd) Himself on the cross for the life of the world. Amen.

Remember in prayer this month:

Fr James Devine (June 1st)

30



Join us as we explore learning friendship with Christ through the example of the Carmelite Saints on Thursday 18th July 2024 at 7:30pm Termonbacca Carmelite Retreat Centre, Derry

Children's Catechism Club - C3 by Veronica Harley

HELLO children. Welcome to the month of June and the lovely summer days. This month is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This year we celebrate this beautiful feast day on June 7 and, on the following day, we rejoice a t the Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 8. God is Love and the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the human sign of God's love for us. Jesus' Sacred Heart is overflowing with love for all humanity.



The Immaculate Heart of Mary leads us closer to God and shows us how we should love Him. Mary's heart is Immaculate, this means that it is pure and without sin (CCC 411), and that she is the only fully human person who can love God in the way that He should be loved. Devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart allows us to honour her holiness (CCC 971) and unites us closer to God (CCC 969).

Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mary, My Mother. I give to your Immaculate Heart, my body and my soul, my thoughts and my actions. *I* want to be what you want me to be and do just what you want me to do. *I am not afraid because you are* always with me. Help me to love your Son Jesus, with all my heart and above all things. Take my hand in yours so I can always be with you.

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You. Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your Kingdom come.

Take my hand in yours so I can always be with you.

Corpus Christi

The glorious Feast of Corpus Christi is celebrated after Trinity Sunday. It usually falls between late May and June. The name 'Corpus Christi' is the Latin for 'Body of Christ' - the Feast of the Holy Eucharist. The actual feast day of the Eucharist is Holy Thursday, the Last



Supper. But because of the sad events which are recalled in Holy Week, the Eucharist is given its own special day to celebrate - Corpus Christi. One practice of devotion which allows us to show great homage to Christ is Eucharistic Adoration.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Catholic Church has developed the beautiful practice of Eucharistic Adoration. This practice is centuries old, dating back to the apostles, when the Eucharist was carried into the homes of those people who could not attend Mass. Eucharistic Adoration is a sign of devotion and worship of Jesus, who is truly present - Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity - in the Eucharist.



The Holy Eucharist is placed in a very special vessel called a 'monstrance'. This is made of a precious metal and is shaped like the sun to symbolise the resurrection of Jesus. The centre of the monstrance has a round glass window through which the sacred Host can be seen. Behind the glass is a round container called a 'lunette. The lunette holds the host securely in place. When the Host is not in the monstrance for adoration, it is kept safely in its lunette, within a strong container known as a 'pyx', in the Tabernacle.

When the monstrance contains the sacred Host, the priest will not touch the vessel with his bare hands. Out of respect for the Eucharist, the priest holds the monstrance with a humeral veil', a wide band of cloth that covers his shoulders (humera) and has pleats on the inside, in which he places his hands. A humeral veil is a liturgical vestment normally made of silk or gold cloth, and is used by priests during Benediction of the



We are invited to come and spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. When we come to spend time with Jesus in the Host, we praise and adore Him. We thank Him for all the wonderful things in our lives and the many gifts He has given us. When the angel appeared to the children at Fatima, he showed them how they should worship Jesus in the Eucharist. He bent low in worship until his forehead touched the ground. He taught the children a beautiful prayer to say to Jesus. Please try to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and spend some precious time with Him.



Saints of the Month St Justin Martyr – June 1 St Kevin – June 3 St Columba – June 9 St. Irenaeus – June 28

The Nativity of John the **Baptist**

The Nativity of John the Baptist is celebrated on June 24. This celebration comes three months after the Feast of the Annunciation,

Quiz Time with Lawrence

- **1.** Phasmophobia is a fear of what?
- 2. Which is the largest of the Channel Islands? 3. What County recently won the Ulster Senior Football
- Championship? 4. In 1980, singer Brian Johnson became the frontman
- for what rock band? 5. In 2012, 'The Holiday Heist' became the fifth film in
- what iconic movie franchise?
- 6. What US car dealership, hugely popular in the 1960s and 70s, still has its headquarters and main manufacturing plant located in Auburn Hills, Michigan?
- 7. What snooker player won his first world title at this year's Championship in Sheffield's Crucible Theatre?
- 8. Who replaced Humza Yousaf as First Minister of Scotland in early May this year?
- 9. What singer/songwriter plays a 50-year old guitar named 'Trigger'?
- 10. What river flows through Galway in the west of Ireland?
- **11.** In what year did Derry's Altnagelvin Hospital open? **12.** What William Shakespeare play features a nobleman who convinces a gypsy by the name of Christopher



when the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she was to be the Mother of God and that her cousin Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy. It is six months before the celebration of Christmas, the Birth of Jesus. The Nativity of John the Baptist is one of the oldest festivals in the Church. It is listed in the Council of Agde in 506AD as a day of rest and, like Christmas, was celebrated with three Masses: a vigil, at dawn and at midday.

Ordinarily, the day of a saint's death is celebrated as the designated feast day because it marks the person's dies natalis, his/her 'birthday' into eternal life. There are two exceptions to this rule: the June 2024 - p -Children's Catechism Club - C3 by Veronica Harley-14 birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist. Catholic tradition and belief teach that Mary was free from original sin from the moment of her existence, her conception, and that John was cleansed of original sin while in the womb of his mother, when Elizabeth met the Blessed Virgin (Luke 1:45) and was filled with the Holy Spirit (CCC 717).

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus (CCC 523). He called people to a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and always pointed towards the One who was coming, Jesus Christ. Christ would baptise with the Holy Spirit (CCC 608). John's message continues to call each one of us today to ensure that our lives are living

witnesses pointing to Jesus.

The Year of Prayer 2024

The 'YOUCAT for Kids' tells us how we can pray before our meals. We should thank God for the food that we have, for the people who prepared it and for everyone sitting at the table with us. (Q147)



Thank you for the world so sweet. Thank you for the food we eat. Thank you for the birds that sing. Thank you, God, for everything. Amen

We are also told that we should say Quick Prayers' throughout the day, like text messages to God, so that we keep our connection with Him. "Ouick prayers are like little pushes for our soul" so that we don't forget about God during the day.

> Quick Prayers Thank you so much Lord! Jesus, I need you! Bless my friends. Help me! I'm sorry God, forgive me! Lord. bless me!

It also tells us how we can pray in the evening to God and to try to talk in our own words (Q148). It is good to think about our day and to thank God for everything He has given us. We should ask God to forgive us for the times during the day when we have sinned and not shown love to others, and ask for His blessing during the night.

Sly that he, too, is a nobleman.

- 13. Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of former US President John F Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline, is the current US Ambassador to what country?
- 14. Which English football club plays their home games at Oakwell Stadium?
- 15. The Mariana Trench, at over six and a half miles below sea level is the lowest natural point on earth. In what ocean is it located?
- 16. Who played the TV role of Glaswegian troublemaker Rab C Nesbitt?
- **17.** What is the US state capital city of Virginia?
- 18. How many 'numbered' playing cards are there in a regular deck?
- 19. South African landmark, Table Mountain, overlooks which major city?
- 20. In the English language, to what does the prefix 'poly' translate at the start of a word?
- 21. Owner, Elon Musk changed the name of his social media platform Twitter to what new name?
- **22.** What is the national language of Brazil? **23.** Who are the current European football champions
- ahead of this summer's 2024 renewal?
- 24. What was Elvis Presley's middle name?
- 25. What, in January 2023, became the latest country to adopt the euro as its currency?

Quiz Answers: 1, Ghosts; 2, Jersey; 3, Donegal; 4, AC/DC; 5, Home Alone; 6, Chrysler; 7, Kyren Wilson; 8, John Swinney; 9, Willie Nelson; 10, The Corrib; 11, 1960; 12, The Taming of the Shrew; 13, Australia; 14, Barnsley; 15, The Western Pacific; 16, Gregor Fisher; 17, Richmond; 18, 36; 19, Cape Town; 20, Many; 21, 'X'; 22, Portuguese; 23, Italy; 24, Aaron; 25, Croatia.



Fanning the Flame in Celtic Park 2024

Greenlough, Iskaheen, Killyclogher, Killygordon, Kilrea, Lavey, Leckpatrick, Lifford, Limavady, Maghera, Magilligan, Malin, Melmount,

wtownstewart, Omagh, Plumbridge, Sion Mills, Steelestown, Strabane, Swatragh, Templemore - Long Tower and St Eugene's, Three Patrons, Waterside

Moville, Ne