

Parish of Dunboe, Macosquin, Aghadowey Newsletter

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 3rd October 2021

Welcome be the will of God

In so many ways life can be read as a series of disappointments. So often we do not receive what we wished for or achieve what we set out to do. Each of us could probably draw up a list of significant times in which things did not go our way or according to our plans. Of course, this is never the whole story, but it is part of everyone's journey. We aspire to so much, we wish to do so many different things, and we yearn so often to be in a different place. Not having our expectations met is not, however, necessarily, a bad thing. Very often, the most interesting things in life come as surprises, as real gifts, as totally unforeseen, and as beyond even our dreams. When we are totally preoccupied with ourselves, our needs, and our wishes, we can, curiously, miss out on seeing, acknowledging, and even enjoying the full spectrum of gifts that are in fact part of our story. We are receiving all the time if only we could see it clearly.

The disciples in our gospel asked Jesus for honoured places in the kingdom of God, and he tells them that not only do they not appreciate the magnitude of what it is they are asking, but he himself is not even in a position to grant their request. That privilege belongs to God the Father, alone. Then, he warns them about seeking power and privilege for themselves; it is not the way of the gospel, which is one of service, solicitude, and surprise. This capacity to welcome the unexpected in all its guises is at the heart of mission. In the West of Ireland – in the face of the difficulties, opportunities, and challenges of life – people used to say: 'Welcome be the will of God!' There is great wisdom and freedom to be had in this attitude to life.

Fr Michael A. Conway

AN AFTERNOON OF EXPLORATION:

Sunday 17th October at 3.00pm: St Eugene's Cathedral is offering an afternoon of discussion and reflection on discerning vocation in our lives, whether it's your vocation to Diocesan Priesthood, Marriage, Single Life, Consecrated Life or Religious Life, we will discuss ways in which we can learn to discern and recognise the voice of God calling us to be prophets of the Gospel. The venue is the Cathedral Hall, Windsor Terrace. For further information please contact St Eugene's Cathedral on 028 71262894 or email: steugenes@btconnect.co.uk.

FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR IN BANAGHER & CLAUDY:

3-year Fixed Term Contract (possibility of extension)

For application packs please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, 028 7126 2302 or payroll@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to payroll@derrydiocese.org no later than 5.00pm on 22.10.2021.

DERRY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2022:

Although mindful of all the uncertainties we face at this time, the Pilgrimage Director and staff have begun planning for a return to Lourdes in early summer 2022. It is intended that the date and duration will be as in recent years and hopefully these will be confirmed and announced by the end of 2021. We ask for the prayers of the people of the diocese so that, by the grace of God and intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, we may return to Lourdes once more.

Parish of Leckpatrick and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Derry City pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 9th – 13th May 2022. Direct flights from Dublin to Lourdes. Cost £575pps. Single room supplement £140 (limited availability). Accompanied by Fr. Gerard Sweeney and Fr. John McDevitt.

Places at limited to 25 people from Leckpatrick Parish. For booking form and further information please contact the Parish Office (028) 71882274.

DROMANTINE RETREAT CENTRE:

The following Workshop will be offered by **Fr Hugh Lagan SMA:**

'Broken Open' Workshop – How difficult times can help us grow. Friday 19th 5pm – Sunday 21st November, 2pm. Cost £200 / €230. Enquiries and reservations: Tel 028 (048 from ROI) 30821964. Email: admin@dromantineconference.com

Adoption & Foster Care: The Western Health & Social Care Trust Adoption Team is holding an Information Session on Monday 25th October at 3.30pm. It will be delivered via Zoom. If you wish to participate, please email your request with your name and telephone number to anita.birney@westerntrust.hscni.net and confirm the email address linked to your Zoom account.

COP26: HEALTHY PLANET/HEALTHY PEOPLE PETITION: Advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable, whose lives are devastated by the climate emergency.

Join with Pope Francis in appealing for Urgent Action on climate change. Please sign the petition online before 28th October. thecatholicpetition.org

The Bible and The Virgin Mary: Fr Kevin McElhennon is presenting a 12-week reflection and study on the role of Mary in our faith. Choice of evenings or mornings, from Wednesday 20th October (evening)/Thursday 21st October (morning). Venue: Killyclogher Parish Hall. Full details at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-bible-and-the-virgin-mary>. Register your participation at info@cappaghparish.com or Tel: (028) 8224 3375.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND :

5th – 7th November, starting on Friday evening at 8pm and ending on Sunday afternoon at 2:30pm. Hosted by Catholic Marriage Encounter this is an online experience (using Zoom). Full details on: <https://www.marriageencounter.ie>

PRAYER FOR OUR PROTECTION

We ask for prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus. Placing all our trust in the Lord, and asking Our Lady to intercede for us, we invite everyone to pray these prayers:

Extract from Saint Patrick's Breastplate

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.