



Dunboe, Macosquin
Aghadowey

Parish Newsletter

SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2021

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Widow's Mite

In today's Gospel, Jesus is courageously speaking out against the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of his time. He is encouraging all his followers to engage in a reality check. The hypocrisy of the scribes is in total contrast to the humility and generosity of the widow in the second part of the Gospel. She gives not of what she has to spare, but everything she has. She is freer than the others. We can be quick to make judgements about another person's commitment based on what we see happening on the outside. Those leaders who acquire the best seats and show up in all the frills may not actually be all they appear to be. Jesus is urging us to look into the person's heart for what is there is far more important than all the trappings on the outside. The widow gives everything and this does not have to be about money. We might recall those today who give us their time, their support, who pray from the heart and give of themselves expecting nothing in return. We might thank them, pray for them. We can also look into our own hearts today and challenge our motivations for what we do. Can we give more of ourselves to God or to someone we love? A listening ear, 'wasting time' with people, looking at how we spend our money. Jesus calls us to search our hearts and the hearts of others in today's gospel. The widow models Jesus' way of discipleship in contrast to those in positions of leadership and power.

Jane Mellet

Accord Derry: Marriage Preparation Courses (Pre-marriage courses) on November 23/24; January 25/26; February 8/9; February 22/23; March 8/9; March 22/23; April 5/6. All of these courses are Virtual Interactive Courses. They are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Booking online: www.accordni.com.

A Day Retreat in Memory of All the Faithful Departed will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca on Monday 15 November beginning at 10.30am and finishing at 5.00pm. The cost for the day, including meals is £25. To book please contact the Retreat Centre on 71262512.

DIOCESAN GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE :

A Garden of Remembrance has been constructed in the grounds of Saint Eugene's Cathedral, behind the Lourdes Grotto. It names all the parishes of the diocese and includes prayers for the deceased. Conscious that the pain of loss has, in so many cases, been compounded by the COVID-19 restrictions and the inability of people to give their usual support at a time of death, the Garden will allow us to remember in prayer all those who have died in our diocese since the start of the pandemic.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2023 :

On October 10th, Pope Francis launched the first stage of the process that will lead to the Synod of Bishops' Meeting in October 2023. We are invited to reflect together in prayerful contexts on where the Holy Spirit might be leading the Church in the 21st century. There will be many stages on the journey!

Derry Diocesan Youth will be holding a Youth Event in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry on 21 November, from 12:00noon -3:30pm. This event is for young people in the diocese ages 14 and up to come and get involved with their faith and celebrate world youth day in preparation for World Youth Day in Lisbon 2023. If any young person would like to book, please email lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or message any @derryyouth social media pages. Cost £5 to secure a place at this event; all deposits to be paid before the 16 November.

A NOVEMBER PRAYER FOR THE DEAD ;

O Lord, we thank you for the gift of our loved ones who have died and who we remember during this month of November. We remember especially all those who have died during the past year; those who died from COVID-19, those who died from other natural causes and those who died tragically. We thank you, compassionate God for walking with us in all the dark moments of our grief and loneliness. Even when we find it hard to see you, we know and trust that you are beside us, and in the resurrection of Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, you give us a reason for living; a reason for hoping. Lord, continue to be a light for us, giving us direction and courage in this difficult time. May we live our lives treasuring the memories of those special people we have known and loved and may you help us, Lord, to bring light and hope to others. We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Family Prayer At Home

November A Month To Remember

This booklet contains prayers for November, a family prayer service for use at home and information about a remembrance event at Knock Shrine. This booklet may be of particular interest to families

and those who are housebound. This booklet is also supplied in artwork format for use with commercial printers. For further information visit the Diocesan website:

<https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/november-family-prayer-at-home>

Dromantine Retreat Centre: Bookings are still available for the following preached retreat and workshops: - 21st November 'Broken Open': How difficult times can help us grow. Further information - 028-30821964 or email admin@dromantineconference.com

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. While it is still too early to provide details, 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.

Consider Your Call - Priesthood is the first in an exciting lineup of events aimed at encouraging and supporting young people as they discover more about the definite service God may be calling them to. The project, entitled 'It's Your Call', will be complemented by a suite of online resources to help us learn more about vocation. Over the coming months, the 'It's Your Call' platform will look at five key pathways in life: Single, Married, Ordained, Religious and Consecrated — not just priesthood!

If you would like to learn more about priesthood, or simply support those who are considering this vocation, why not come along to *Consider Your Call - Priesthood* in the Catholic Chaplaincy, Queen's University Belfast on Thursday 11th November 2021 at 6pm after 5.15 Mass.

This project is supported by the Northern Area Committee of the Knights of St Columbanus and is open to people from any diocese.