

Dunboe, Macosquin & Aghadowey Parish Newsletter

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 November 2021

World Day of the Poor

My words will not pass away

This chapter from Mark is part of a farewell speech from Jesus to his followers in the last days of his earthly life. It sounds almost apocalyptic because we are nearing the end of the Church's liturgical year and so the texts we read take this tone. Jesus is revealing to his disciples something about the new order which is coming. He talks about the 'end times' and this can appear frightening at first. However, if we enter into a meditation on this Gospel we might bring to mind something of those moments in our own lives when we felt like our world was ending. Perhaps it was the end of a relationship, the death of a loved one, the end of one stage of your life. Things which seemed so familiar and helped keep us secure suddenly changed. These can be extremely difficult periods of one's life. It is during those times that someone comes to us offering prophecy of better times to come, of words that 'will not pass away'. Jesus is preparing the disciples for what is about to happen to him and with assurance that God's kingdom is far greater than any evil that is about to occur. The passage is often interpreted as referring to the second coming of Christ or his resurrection. Whenever we experience trauma we keep going with the assurance that resurrection is all around us and a new way of being is on the horizon.

Jane Mellett

First Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

Daniel prophesies about the judgment of the last days.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:11-14,18

Jesus' offering for sin has made all to be consecrated perfect forever.

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-32

Jesus teaches about the signs of the coming of the Son of Man.

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.

Alcohol Awareness Week: 16 – 22 November 2021: Theme: 'Alcohol and Relationships'.

Al-Anon provides a free, confidential, non-judgemental support service to individuals and families whose life is or has been affected by someone else drinking. All meetings are listed on the website www.al-anonuk.org.uk, or you can call the Confidential Helpline on 028 90682368 from 10.00am – 1.00pm or 6.00pm – 10.00pm.

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.

YOUTH EVENT

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 £5.00 to secure a place at this event; all deposits to be paid before the 16 November.

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.

A NOVEMBER PRAYER FOR THE DEAD

O Lord, we thank you for the gift of our loved ones who have died. We remember especially all those who have died during the past year. We thank you, compassionate God for walking with us in all the dark moments of our grief and loneliness. 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.

Our Faith - Developing what we were taught in school:

- Was RE just a subject in school? Would you like to really to understand it in practice?
- Are you open to deepening your understanding of your Catholic Faith?
- Do you want to better understand the Mass - the celebration to the Eucharist?
- Would you like to explore, discuss and reflect upon issues and questions of faith, the Church, and how to link faith to your everyday life? The Pathways Adult Faith Programme by Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, addresses these questions and more. This two-year faith development programme, delivered one Saturday per month from October to June is available either in-house at Drumalis or by Zoom videoconferencing. For personal testimonies, full details and enrolment on the programme, visit: www.drumalis.co.uk/pathways

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre Confirmation Preparation Programme: Will take place from the 10th -14th January 2022, to support parents, schools and parishes as they prepare the children in this very important stage of their faith journey. Linking with Filled with Joy, pupil workbook and Disciples of Jesus, parent booklet (available from the Diocesan Catechetical Centre) the programme will consist of,

- Four sessions, 10am -12noon on the catecheticalcentre.org/webcam/. Each day the sessions will include catechesis on different aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation, prayer, creative activities and music.
- A support pack for the four sessions which will be emailed to schools and available on the Catechetical Centre Website
- Short Video reflections on the gift of the Holy Spirit and the impact Confirmation has made on different people.

'Synodal Pathway'

"We have to look at where the Lord is leading us in order for us to be effective in making new disciples for the Lord"

Pope Francis is inviting the faithful all over the world to come with him "on a journey" as a "Synodal Church". The word 'synod' means "walking together" and "indicates a way of being together as Church and 'discerning' how best to spread the Gospel amidst the challenges of life in the 21st century." This Synodal Process entitled, for a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission coincide with the start of the two-year Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland which will lead, in time, to a National Synodal Assembly in Ireland. We pray that the next two years will be a time of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a consultative conversation. This will allow all people - both within the Church and in society at large, to share their insights into the Catholic Church in Ireland - past, present and future - so that we can prepare for a National Synodal Assembly in the coming years. Bishop Donal explains this is the start of our **Synodal Journey**: "We have set ourselves in Ireland a five year period, to look together in a prayerful context where God is leading His Church" In this video, <https://youtu.be/Lhky65OFFEQ>, Bishop Donal McKeown reminds us of the purpose of the Church and outlines the prayerful consultation process of Synodality, of walking together, of listening, of being led by the Holy Spirit to understand where the Lord is leading us!

Starting conversations in our parishes "We have to look at where the Lord is leading us in order for us to be effective in making new disciples for the Lord"

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What happens next? In the coming weeks and months information will be shared here and throughout each parish in the Diocese on planned events and discussions. Watch your Parish Bulletins, your parish website and social media channels.

Prayer for the Synod:

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the original Latin, meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, and is attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For the Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023, we propose to the following simplified version, so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray it more easily.

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;**

**Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.**

**Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.**

Amen.