

# Parish of Dunboe, Macosquin, Aghadowey Newsletter

Solemnity of Christ the King

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021

## ‘So you are a King?’

Today is the Feast of Christ the King and this Gospel certainly gives us an opportunity to lay aside a lot of cultural baggage we may have about kings, leaders and kingdoms. The Jewish leaders want Jesus executed and so they bring him to Pilate who engages in a debate with Jesus on ‘kingship’. Jesus is accused of claiming to be a ‘king’ and this passage plays on both the political and religious meaning of that word. Pilate is concerned with whether or not Jesus poses a threat to Roman rule, while the Jewish religious leaders are worried about the type of ‘Messiah king’ Jesus claims to be. Through his ministry Jesus has shown them that His kingdom is unlike the one that Pilate, or many other earthly leaders know. It is a kingdom built on love, service, justice, reconciliation and peace. Few ‘kings’ can measure up to this. Jesus is a servant King, a beacon light for today’s world. Who do you know in our world today who is the more living example of this type of kingship? When you look at the world’s political leaders, do they shine like a beacon light striving for peace, justice and care for the earth? On this Feast of Christ the King we celebrate a type of kingship that is a display of radical love. What a different world we would have if all those who hold power and authority led in such a way. Let us pray today that all leaders will be open to listening to the Spirit and strive for a more just world.

*Jane Mellett*

### **Feasts during the Week:**

**Monday - St. Cecilia:** The patroness of music and musicians, was a second or third century Roman Christian martyr. According to tradition, she refused to worship the Roman gods and was beheaded.

**Tuesday - St. Columban:** (also known as Columbanus) was born around 453. He became a monk of Bangor and later principal teacher there. In 591, desiring to ‘go on pilgrimage for Christ’, he set out with twelve companions and came to Burgundy. He established monasteries at Annegray, Lexeuil and Fontaine according to Irish rule. Later he founded Bregenz in Austria and his greatest foundation at Bobbio, near Genoa, where he died in 615. He is remembered as one the greatest of the Irish missionary monks.

**Wednesday - St. Colman:** Was born around 530, probably in West Cork. A bard by profession, he is reputed to have been influenced by St. Brendan to become a priest. His apostolate was to east Cork and his main foundation was at Cloyne.

**Thursday - St. Catherine:** Was martyred in 310 at Alexandria. Her body is venerated at the monastery on Mount Sinai.

**Saturday - St Fergal:** He lived first in France and then in Bavaria, where he founded the monastery of Chiemsee. He was appointed Bishop of Salzburg around 754, leaving a reputation for learning and holiness.

**The Mystery Unfolds:** *Advent Oasis mornings* offered by Thornhill Ministries (Saturday 27 November and 11 December from 11.00am – 12.00 noon) led by Fr. Paschal. Each gentle hour helps us to touch into the mystery of life and God-with-us. To register and for zoom link contact 07736832458 or email [thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org](mailto:thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org)

**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](http://www.accordni.com).

**Mary's Meals - 'Double the Love'** Thanks to your support, Mary's Meals are now bringing joy to over 2 million children with a daily meal in their place of education. Our Double the Love campaign runs until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, all donations up to a total of £1.6 million will be matched by a generous group of private donors. Every little act of love will go that little bit further during this period to help us reach the next child waiting, so please consider supporting this campaign and praying for its success. There are many ways to get involved including choosing one of our Mary's Meals gift cards or setting a place at our Big Family Christmas table- find out more at [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

**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.

**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](http://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/](http://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.

### **PRIORY INSTITUTE**

#### **Online 'Theology' Open Evening**

The Priory Institute invites you to attend a short introductory lecture on theology to find out if studying theology with them is right for you. This Open Evening takes place on Thursday 2 December, at 7.00pm. Question and Answer time available.

For further information, or to register, visit : <https://prioryinstitute.com/events/priory-institute-open-evening/>

[Email: enquiries@prioryinstitute.com](mailto:enquiries@prioryinstitute.com) / telephone 003531 4048124. The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures from the comfort of your own home.

#### **Remembrance Reflection (Novena/November Prayer)**

You can shed tears that they have gone, or you can smile because they have lived. You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all they have left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see them, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember only that they have gone, or you can cherish their memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back. Or you can do what they would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

**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. All these resources can be found at Diocese of Derry website:

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

**Thought for the Week:** The struggle you are in today, is developing the strength you need for tomorrow.

# '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"**

We pray that the next two years will be a time of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a consultative conversation.

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.**