

Parish of Dunboe, Macosquin, Aghadowey Newsletter

SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER 2021

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Mission Sunday

The month of October provides us with an opportunity to express our gratitude for the contribution we, as Irish people, have made to the mission of the Church to spread the gospel of Christ in different parts of the globe. We remember and give thanks for the courage, the enthusiasm and the generosity of so many women and men.

The readings on Mission Sunday, remind us that it is always God who takes the initiative. In the First Reading from the prophet Jeremiah, the Babylonian exiles are gathered together by God (Jer 31:7-9). The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that whoever is called to serve, it is God who calls; God takes the initiative (Heb 5:1-6). The story of Bartimaeus, The Blind Man of Jericho (Mk. 10,46-52), is also a 'call story.' The call of Jesus is meditated through others. Looked at through the lens of Mark's Gospel, the call of Jesus can come through his preachers and missionaries, even if their understanding is imperfect. It is God who takes the initiative in loving Bartimaeus and calling him to discipleship. His faith is a gift from God. Bartimaeus saw Jesus with the eyes of faith: 'your faith has saved you.' Bartimaeus persistently resisted both the crowd and disciples in order to receive God's healing power mediated through Jesus.

God is doing all sorts of things that we cannot see, measure, control or fully understand. But it is an informed faith that allows you to fall in love with such a God. Bartimaeus is the one who offers the rest of us hope. We hear Bartimaeus' story who is trustingly followed by Jesus, not knowing where the way will lead, and realise that it is Jesus who can heal us of our blindness and let us see things as they really are.

Archbishop Dermot Farrell

Feasts during the Week:

Thursday - St. Simon & Jude: The teaching of the apostles is the living gospel for all to hear. Their authority comes from their fidelity to Christ and his message. St. Jude is the patron saint of useless causes.

Friday - St. Colman: He came from Kilmacduagh, Co Galway, in the seventh century. After studying in Aran, where he founded two churches, on Inis Mór, he returned to make a foundation in Kilmacduagh.

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

OCTOBER- MISSION MONTH

A series of presentations on Mission Today - what mission means in today's society - will be available online, by Zoom, on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings of the month of October. Each presentation is free and will consist of a short talk, discussion on the topic and chance to ask questions. For more information on the individual presentations, the speakers and to receive the Zoom links, visit derrydiocese.org/mission-month

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 28 October. thecatholicpetition.org

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

5 – 7 November, hosted by Catholic Marriage Encounter: Restore Communication, Renew Commitment and Rekindle Romance. This is an online experience (using Zoom), starting on Friday evening at 8.00pm and ending on Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm. Full details on: <https://www.marriageencounter.ie>

ACCORD DERRY

Marriage Preparation Workshops 2022

January 25/26 February 8/9 February 22/23

March 8/9 March 22/23 April 5/6

All of the above courses are Virtual Interactive Courses. They are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7.00pm-9.00pm. Booking online www.accordni.com

Due to demand an extra course is being facilitated on November 23/24, 2021

ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

The Western Health & Social Care Trust Adoption Team is holding an *Information Session* on Monday, 25 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.

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.