



Dunboe, Macosquin, Aghadowey Parish Newsletter

SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER 2021

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The greatest commandment of all

Today we hear a very famous Gospel passage which we might dismiss easily because we feel we know it so well. Love God. Love your neighbour. It sounds simple, yet it can be so difficult. Loving God in our world today means being counter-cultural; often we are afraid to even admit that we are believers. Finding time for God can be impossible due to our hectic lifestyles; we are addicted to 'busy' and have become 'time poor'. Yet we can learn to see God in the everyday, right before us, in each task, in nature, in our friends and family. We might ask ourselves today, what prevents me from loving God, for making time for God in my life? For nourishing my relationship with God?

The love of neighbour which Jesus speaks of is a controversial love. It involves a love of people we don't know or like. It is a radical love of those that society wants to dismiss: love of the migrant, love of the homeless family, love of the drug addict, love of the prisoner, love of the earth, love of the climate refugee. Love God and Love thy Neighbour - it sounds so simple yet these are the toughest, most radical lines in the Gospel. It sounds like two commandments and yet they are one, interconnected and inseparable, for to love God we must love our neighbour. And by loving our neighbour we are loving God. Today let us all ask ourselves how we can live more fully this great commandment and be a shining example of Christ's love in the world.

Jane Mellett

World Drawing God Day 2021

World Drawing God Day takes place on Wednesday 3rd November and can be celebrated in parish on Sunday 7th November. We would like to encourage schools, families and parishes to participate in this event and to express where they see God, through art, through music, through dance-in whatever creative way you wish to. To make it easy to participate you can download an ideas kit a <https://www.drawing-god.com/world-drawing-god-day> and share your creativity on social media using the [#drawinggod](https://www.drawing-god.com/world-drawing-god-day) or by emailing a picture of your work of art to drawinggodday@gmail.com where it will be included in a virtual gallery.

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

Anam Cara N.I., the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents living with no surviving children on Tuesday 2 November at 7.00pm. This is a free online event. If you would like to join us please contact info@anamcara.ie or telephone 028 95213120.

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>

Synod 2021/2022

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”. The Synodal Process opened

on 17 October and coincides 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.

In the coming weeks and months information will be shared from both the diocese and parish on planned events and discussions. Information is currently available at www.derrydiocese.org

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

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.

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.