



# The NET

Sharing fruits of faith in Derry Diocese

ISSUE 119, JUNE 2026

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See inside...



Marian Procession - Derry



Celebrating Corpus Christi - Crossroads, Killygordon



Celebrating Magnificent Seven - St Catherine's PS, Strabane



“Build up parish communities who pray, discern and mission together.”  
- Bishop Donal (see p4-5)

The ordination of Fr Stephen Baxter in St Columb's Church, Waterside.



Cemetery Care - Lavey



Diocesan Youth Prayer Evening - Creggan



Fan the Flame - Celtic Park



Prayer Walk for Peace - St Columba's PS, Kilrea

People in focus



Fr Eamon McDevitt - Donagheady PP



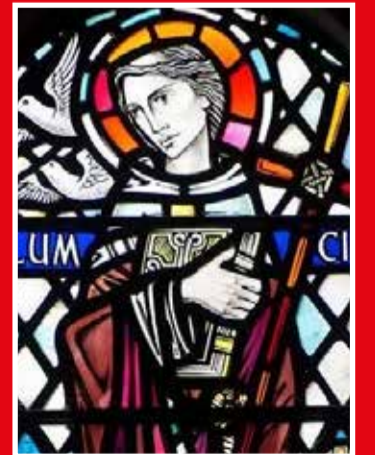
Fr Karl Haan - Culdaff & Clonmany CC



Fr Stephen Baxter, - Waterside, Derry



John Keenan, Derry GAA Chairman



St Colmcille

Also featuring: Young Writers' Section; Fr Stephen Baxter's First Mass; Columbanus Knights' Youth Day on Lough Derg; St Mary's College Girls celebrate May; Buncrana Confirmation Pledge; Claudy Carlo Acutis Retreat; St Joseph's Boys' Trocaire Lenten Campaign; Celebrating St Columba; Clonmany 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars; Iskaheen History Night; Crossroads Cemetery Blessing; Ordination Anniversary Celebrations for Fr Eamon McDevitt & Fr Karl Haan; Children's Catechism Club; Diary Dates & Parish Post-its; Quiz, Features... and much more...

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## John Keenan, Derry GAA Chairman, reflects on the Pope's June prayer intention for the Values of Sport:

*"Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth."*

# Sport as a force for peace, respect and community



John Keenan, Derry GAA Chairman.

FOR generations in Derry, sport has stood for far more than results, trophies or league tables.

At its best, sport brings people together, teaches respect, builds character and strengthens communities. That is why Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for June — that sport would promote peace, solidarity and personal growth — speaks so strongly to us in Derry and across the GAA community.

In every parish and townland throughout our county, the local club is often the heartbeat of the community. Long before young people learn

about winning, they learn about belonging. They gain discipline and teamwork, learn humility in defeat and grace in victory, and come to support one another and to carry responsibility for something greater than themselves.

The GAA has always stood firmly for those values and continues to uphold them in every community it serves.

In a world that can sometimes feel increasingly divided, sport remains one of the few places where people from different backgrounds, traditions and viewpoints can meet on common ground.

A playing field does not ask where you come from; it asks only for effort, respect and commitment. Friendships formed through sport frequently cross barriers that politics and history struggle to overcome.

As Chairperson of Derry GAA, I see each week the extraordinary work being done by volunteers, coaches, parents and club members who give their time not for recognition, but because they believe in young people and in community.

This will be showcased at its best when Derry hosts Féile na


nÓg again this year, welcoming visitors from across the globe. Their contribution goes far beyond sport. They help shape confident, respectful, and resilient individuals.

The Pope's intention also reminds us that sport carries responsibility. Competition must never come at the expense of respect. The true spirit of Gaelic games is seen not only in ambition and determination, but also in fairness, inclusion and care for others. How we conduct ourselves — on the sideline, in the stands and on the pitch — matters.

## Eucharistic Adoration in the Diocese

<b>Aghyaran:</b> Thursdays, 10.30am-12 noon.	Sundays, 2-10 pm, St Mary's Oratory.	<b>Mary's Church, Aughabrack.</b>	7pm, St Mary's Drumagarnier. Concludes with Benediction.	before 7 pm Mass.
<b>Ardstraw West &amp; Castlederg:</b> Fridays, 10.30am -12 noon, St Patrick's Church.	<b>Cappagh:</b> Wednesdays, 8 -9pm, concluding with Night Prayer, and Sundays, 3.30-6.30 pm, in Christ the King, Strathroy.	<b>Donaghmore:</b> Tuesdays, 10.30 am-7.30 pm, St Mary's Church, Sessiaghoneill; Thursdays, after 9.15 am Mass, St Patrick's Church, Crossroads.	<b>Lavey:</b> Fridays, after 9.15 am Mass until 5 pm.	<b>Steelstown:</b> Mondays, from after 10 am Mass until 6.50pm.
<b>Badoney Lower:</b> Tuesdays, after 12 noon Mass until 5 pm, St Patrick's Gortin; and Wednesdays, Mass 7.30 pm, Adoration and Confession until 9 pm, St Mary's, Rouskey.	<b>Claudy:</b> Tuesdays, after 10am Mass until 8 pm, St Patrick's Church, Claudy, and Wednesdays, after 10 Mass until 8 pm, St Joseph's Church, Craighbane.	<b>Drumquin:</b> Wednesdays, 6 pm until Mass at 7.30 pm.	<b>Leckpatrick:</b> Wednesdays from 8.15 am-5 pm.	<b>Strabane (Camus):</b> Every day from 10.30 am-1 pm in the Adoration Chapel (Oasis of Peace), at the back of the Church.
<b>Badoney Upper:</b> Wednesdays, after 7.30 pm evening Mass until 9 pm, St Patrick's Cranagh.	<b>Clonmany:</b> Tuesdays, 7.30 -8.30 pm, the Oratory of the Assumption, Ballyliffin; Wednesdays, 3-4 pm, St Columbcille Village, Cleagh;	<b>Drumragh:</b> Wednesdays, following morning Mass, Sacred Heart Church until 5.30 pm.	<b>Lifford (Murlog):</b> 9.30 am - 12.30 pm	<b>St Columba's Long Tower:</b> Wednesdays, after 10 am Mass until 7.30 pm Mass.
<b>Ballinascreen:</b> First Mondays, from 12 noon-7.30 pm, in Holy Rosary Church, Draperstown.	<b>Coleraine:</b> Wednesdays, in St John's Church, 2-4 pm, with Rosary at 3:45 pm.	<b>Dungiven:</b> Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9am-6 pm, and Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 am-8 pm, in Adoration Chapel.	<b>Limavady:</b> First Sunday of each month from 3-5 pm in Christ the King Church (with Confessions), and on Thursdays in St Mary's Church, from 1-6 pm.	<b>St Eugene's Cathedral:</b> Sundays, 3-6 pm, and Tuesdays, 10.30 am-7.20 pm.
<b>Banagher:</b> Thursdays, 10.30-11.30 am, St Mary's Church, Altinure, and Fridays, 10 -11am, St Joseph's Church, Fincairn.	<b>Coleraine:</b> Wednesdays, in St John's Church, 2-4 pm, with Rosary at 3:45 pm.	<b>Errigal:</b> Mondays, after the 10 am Mass until 2.30 pm, St Mary's Church, Ballerin.	<b>Magilligan:</b> Wednesdays, 3-7 pm; First Sundays, 3-6 pm, St Aidan's Church.	<b>Three Patrons:</b> Tuesdays from 11 am-7 pm in Our Lady's Chapel, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh; Wednesdays from 10.30 am-7 pm, in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, and seven days a week in the Adoration Room in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, from 8 am until 8pm.
<b>Bellaghy:</b> Every Friday, from 10 am until recitation of Rosary at 7.30 pm, in St Mary's Church.	<b>Creggan:</b> Sundays 1.30 pm-6 pm; Mondays 10.30 am - 7 pm; Tue - Sat 10.30 am - 12 pm, Divine Mercy Chapel.	<b>Fahan:</b> Fridays after 10am Mass, St Murá's Parish Church.	<b>Melmount:</b> Mondays, after 10 am Mass until 6 pm.	<b>Urney &amp; Castlefin:</b> Tuesdays, 12 noon-8 pm, St Anthony's Chapel.
<b>Buncrana:</b> Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 6am-10pm, Fridays, 6 am-10 pm and	<b>Donagheady:</b> First Fridays after Mass until 12 noon, St	<b>Greencastle (Tyrone):</b> Thursdays, 6-10 pm, St Patrick's Church.	<b>Moville:</b> Mondays, 2-9 pm, and Wednesdays, 6-9 pm, St Pius X Church.	<b>Waterside:</b> Mondays, 11.30 am-12.30 pm; Wednesdays, 6.30-8.30 pm, Strathfoyle; Thursdays, 1-6 pm, Immaculate Conception Church; Fridays, 1-6 pm, St Columba's Church.
		<b>Greenlough:</b> Thursdays, 9am-5 pm, St Oliver Plunkett's Church.	<b>Newtownstewart:</b> Thursdays, 6.30-7.30 pm, Oratory of Mary, Mother of God.	
		<b>Iskaheen:</b> Tuesdays, from after 10 am Mass until 2 pm, St Patrick's Church.	<b>Sion Mills:</b> Adoration takes place in the side chapel (Oratory) and will be available every day during the Church's opening hours, moving to the main body of the chapel on Fridays, from 11am-6.50 pm, ending with Benediction	
		<b>Kilrea:</b> Mondays, 12 noon -		

Send any additions/amendments via: [editorthenet15@gmail.com](mailto:editorthenet15@gmail.com) or 07809292852.



**The NET**  
Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese

**Supporting us:**

The mission of 'The NET' is to share the fruits of the faith in homes, parishes and schools across the Diocese of Derry, and be a source of hope and encouragement in living our Catholic faith each day.

'The NET' is a Lay Apostolate that has the blessing of our Bishop, Most Rev Donal McKeown.

With no fixed charge to read this publication, donations would be most welcome to help cover costs. Annual accounts will be available to view on request.

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The ministry of

**The NET**

was dedicated to Our Lady, through the intercession of St Maximilian Kolbe, in a ceremony celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown on August 14, 2019.



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Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese

**Contacting us:**

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*Sr Marie of the Home of the Mother Servant Sisters community at Crossroads, Killygordon, Co Donegal, writes about their Corpus Christi celebration...*

# Many moved by devotion during Crossroads Eucharistic Procession

ON Sunday, June 7, the Feast of Corpus Christi, we celebrated with a procession of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in Crossroads, Killygordon. The days and weeks previous to it were spent preparing; going house-to-house to invite people to the procession.

It was the first one to have taken place here in over 40 years. It was beautiful to see the generosity of the people who donated roses from their gardens for the First Holy Communion children to be able to throw to the Blessed Sacrament, during the procession. It was great to see the community coming together to help out in whatever way they could.

On the Sunday morning, as we prepared the floral carpets outside the church doors with some local teenagers who volunteered, it poured out of the Heavens. We prayed the Angelus together, offering up a prayer of petition to Our Lady to clear the skies so that all could come to adore Her Son in

the Blessed Sacrament, and at 3.40 pm - just 20 minutes before the beginning of the procession - the sun came out!

The procession started at 4 pm, in St Patricks' Church, led by Fr Patsy Arkinson, PP, and assisted by Fr Kieran McAteer, PP from the neighbouring parish of Stranorlar.

Sr Rachael Maria, SHM, gave a few opening words, reminding people what Corpus Christi is about and the importance of being conscious of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. She encouraged us not to forget our past, where during the penal times our ancestors walked for miles and risked their lives to get to Mass so that they could receive Our Lord in the Eucharist.

These opening words and the singing from the choir helped us all to enter into a spirit of prayer and recollection for the procession.

From the Church, we made our way to three altars which were prepared outside. Two in

the Church grounds and the other in front of the Parochial House. Readings were read by parishioners, and brief meditations on the Eucharist were given by our two priests that were present.

Afterwards, some children from Dromore National School played hymns on the tin whistle, and members of Sion Mills Pipe Band played 'Faith of our Fathers' on the bagpipes. Then, at each altar, our priests gave us all a blessing with the Blessed Sacrament, as the First Holy Communion children threw rose petals to honour the Lord.

The procession finished inside the Church, with the recitation of the Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the hymn, 'How Great Thou Art' being sung by all present.

It was a truly blessed afternoon and many spoke afterwards about how touched they were by the procession and the devotion given to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

It was beautiful to see the reactions of some of the young children who came to the procession, asking if we had noticed how the Lord had stopped the rain just in time for the procession. They truly saw it as a miracle from Heaven!

Hopefully this will be the first of many Eucharistic processions that take place, not just in Killygordon, but all over Ireland, so that the Lord can go out into the streets and bless every corner of our country!

"With all the strength of my soul, I urge you, young people, to approach the Communion table as often as you can. Feed on this Bread of Angels whence you will draw all the energy you need to fight inner battles. Because true happiness, dear friends, does not consist in the pleasures of the world or in earthly things, but in peace of conscience, which we have only if we are pure in heart and mind." - St Pier Giorgio Frassati



## Ordination to Priesthood...

*As the sun shone with golden beam...*

# Songs of joy filled Derry air for ordination of Fr Stephen Baxter

THE sun shone brightly on former bus driver/inspector, Rev Stephen Baxter, and all who gathered at St Columba's Church, in the Waterside area of Derry, for the joyous occasion of his Ordination to the Priesthood by Most Rev Donal McKeown on Sunday, June 14.

Fittingly, the words "Thou burning sun with golden beam..." rang out during the singing of the hymn, 'All creatures of our God and King', as Deacon Stephen was joined in procession into the church by the servers, concelebrating priests, deacons and Bishop Donal.

Welcoming everyone, the bishop joked that Stephen's last 212 bus was parked up at the station. It so happens that the first priest ordained by Bishop Donal during his episcopacy in the Derry Diocese, Fr Sean O'Donnell, had also been a bus driver before responding to the call to priesthood.

There is something particularly special about an ordination ceremony like this, when one of our own steps forward to commit his life to the priestly ministry inaugurated by the Son of God at The Last Supper, when Jesus instructed His Apostles to "do this in memory of me."

Following the calling and presentation of Rev Stephen by Fr Michael Canny, VG and PP Glendermott, as the candidate for ordination, and his election by the bishop, the people gathered announced their consent, so giving a sense of community involvement as all together they said: "Thanks be to God".

Opening his homily with a reflection on the community Rev Stephen was being ordained into, Bishop Donal spoke of the recent local celebration of the Feast of St Columba, the large lay-organised Eucharistic & Marian Procession in the City, from Creggan to the Gasyard, and the completion of another successful Cursillo weekend, in Termonbacca, as well as the annual Diocesan Knock Pilgrimage that coincided with the highly attended National Rosary

Rally at the International Marian & Eucharistic Shrine there.

He also mentioned the recent "awful pictures of rioting and destruction, mainly in the Belfast area", saying: "Our world is colourful and confused, full of promise and threat."

Going on to comment on the Sunday readings, and instructing Rev Stephen on the duties of a priest, with the Gospel about the harvest being rich but the labourers being few, Bishop Donal said: "The rich harvest is those on whom Jesus took pity – those who were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Stephen, that is where Jesus was moved with pity, calling those who labour and are overburdened. To them He wanted to offer rest.

"Our society is going through a time of huge worry and fragmentation. The secular society promised heaven on earth through the exercise of free choice. It has ended up with a hell on earth for too many who suffer from poverty, mental and physical illness, and a lack of meaning or belonging. And the world agenda seems to be dominated by a small clique of super rich.

"No wonder that many young people are crying out for a sense of direction, identity and community. Don't be overawed by that. Jesus explicitly sends the apostles to the lost sheep. He didn't tell His apostles to fuss over Himself or themselves. His own mission was to the lost and He rallies others to join Him specifically in that mission – and to be amazed at the rich harvest that will come there."

He continued: "In a time of change, there is a temptation to withdraw behind high walls and to seek comfortable certainty there. But the church is not a small, holy huddle for the frightened. It is a missionary community that seeks out the lost and is prepared to be criticised for doing so. Be courageous, Stephen, find ways to reach out to the lost sheep in the parishes where you will work. A priest who is too concerned with Himself is a counter witness.

### Love

"Jesus constantly reached out to those who thought that they were trapped in sickness or disability – the lepers, the sinners. God, in Jesus, wants us to know that we are loved and lovable. It is that love of God on the Cross that you will celebrate each day in the Mass... In Jesus, we have been reconciled to God. We don't have to earn that; all we have to do is to accept that free gift. Stephen, constantly be on the search for ways to do that – from engaging with the hurting to regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation... A parish without regular access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation is starving people of a key way to celebrate reconciliation with God and with one another.

Referring to the First Reading (Exodus 19:2-6), Bishop Donal remarked: "In our rich sacramental tradition, the ordained minister has a unique and indispensable mission. But we are just one of the vocations in the holy nation, the divine kingdom of priests. It is through baptism that we all share in the risen life of Jesus. It is unhealthy when too much is expected of the priest, either by himself or by the parish communities.

"A parish without active lay participation, in structures such as Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils, is working against the building of a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. It is not a question of fearing to trust lay people, it is a question of failing to trust the working of the Holy Spirit, who is active in us together when we can prayerfully discern where God is leading and reforming us. Lay participation in the mission of the church is not just a response to changes in the numbers of clergy. Lay participation and leadership are part of who we are as living cells in the Body of Christ.

"In our lonely, confused world, build up parish communities who pray, discern and mission together. That is what St John Paul II called schools of prayer, promoting a spirituality of communion."

Saying to Rev Stephen that he was being ordained at a time of

renewal, Bishop Donal told him: "Going forward into the unknown is not easy. Just as in the case of many young people now, you will have to deal with situations and new realities for which you have not been trained. There are various extreme agendas and narratives doing the rounds at present. They will want to pull you in different directions, to imprison you in their unbending certainties. Measure each initiative by how well it prioritises the mission to the harassed and dejected, by how clearly it proclaims the free gift of forgiveness given to those who are burdened, and by how actively it builds up the holy people of God, where everyone is a first-born child of the Father and there are no second-class citizens. Avoid the pagan teaching that you must hate some people because they are portrayed as hating you.

"Find in prayer your still point in the midst of a changing world. Accept the love of God that has been given to you in Jesus and give it freely to others. Inspire other young men and women to dedicate their lives to being missionaries of mercy. The world that yearns for love and community, mercy, and hope, needs them more than ever.

"Thank you for your openness to the voice of the Good Shepherd. Let him lead you all the days of your life."

Continuing with the Rite of Ordination, the bishop questioned Rev Stephen on his commitment to priesthood, which was followed by his Promise of Obedience to Bishop Donal and his successors.

Then, upon the people being asked to join in praying that God pour out the gifts of Heaven on the Ordinant, Rev Stephen lay prostrate before the altar while the cantors led the congregation in invocation of the mercy of God and the intercession and help of the Church in Heaven.

### Holy Spirit

This was followed by the actual moment of ordination with the laying on of hands by Bishop Donal and all the concelebrants present, signifying the transmission of



# Ordination to Priesthood...

*continued from page 4*

Christ's priestly power unbroken in succession from the Apostles, down through the ages since, while the Holy Spirit was invoked by all present.

Following the Prayer of Consecration, the newly ordained Fr Stephen removed the stole he wore as a deacon, and was then vested in a priestly stole and chasuble by Fr Pat O'Hagan, Vocations' Director for the Diocese. Fr Stephen's hands were then anointed by Bishop Donal, with the Sacred Chrism sanctifying them for the acts of his priestly ministry.

Fr Stephen's parents, Sadie and Charlie, brought forward a paten and chalice, which was presented to him by Bishop Donal, after bread was placed on the paten, and wine and water in the chalice, for the celebration of Mass. Bishop Donal then warmly embraced Fr Stephen, giving him the Kiss of Peace, before leading the congregation in reciting The Creed, and going on to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The main concelebrating priests on the altar with Bishop Donal and Fr Stephen were Vicar Generals for the Diocese, Fr Michael Canny and Fr Paul McCafferty, and Canon Marcus Holden, Diocese of Southwark. Fr Stephen was supported during the ceremony by Deacon Thomas Hampton, Down & Connor Diocese, and Master of Ceremonies was Fr Chris McDermott. Those who read were Sr Patricia McDonald, of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, and Dr David Stott. The cantors were Fr Malachy Gallagher and Fr Stephen Ward. The servers were Gary Duddy, Jamie McDaid, both of the Derry Diocese, Dearcan O Donnghaile, Raphoe Diocese,

and Edward McKendry, Down & Connor. The wonderful singing and music was that of St Columb's Parish Choir, directed by Markus Michel.

Everyone was invited afterwards for refreshments in the Parish Hall, where Bishop Donal and Fr Stephen's mother joined him for the cutting of his ordination cake.

In a message of thanksgiving at the front of his ordination booklet, Fr Stephen expressed appreciation to all who had supported him on the journey, particularly his parents, sisters Jenny and Sharon, and wider Baxter and McCallion families in Derry, Donegal and Galway.

He wrote: "It has been a privilege to have been living in my home parish in these recent years, sharing the many joys and tears of the place which will always be home."

He also paid tribute to Fr Canny, PP Glendermott, and other priests with whom he had spent pastoral placements - Fr Michael McCaughey, Fr Pat O'Hagan, and Fr Francis Bradley - and the many people he had worked with over the years, including those in Translink who "had no small influence" on him.

Thanking those who offered prayers and support over the years, particularly those he had pilgrimaged with in Fatima in October 2019, before he started in seminary, he went on to thank all the seminarians who had journeyed with him in Spain, Ireland and Italy, and helped to form him.

Fr Stephen celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving, in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, the following night, where he also gave his blessing to his parents, family members, and all those gathered.



## Ordination to Priesthood...

*Celebrating 45 years of priesthood, Fr Michael Canny told newly ordained Fr Stephen Baxter at his First Mass...*

### Diocesan priesthood is a great adventure!



Fr Stephen giving his first blessing to his parents following the celebration of his First Mass in St Columb's Cathedral.

THE newly ordained Fr Stephen Baxter returned to St Columb's Church on the night of Monday, June 15, to celebrate his First Mass of Thanksgiving, supported by a number of priests of the Diocese.

Fr Stephen's parents and family circle were joined in the congregation by many Waterside parishioners and visitors from other areas, keen to get the newly ordained priest's blessing and to wish him well.

The homily was delivered by Fr Michael Canny VG, who pointed out that Fr Stephen had decided to become a priest at a time when faith and Christianity in the western world were not seen as important, which the Waterside parish priest believed was primarily because of indifference and that it had no monetary value.

"We must always remember," he noted, "indifference and opposition didn't stop Jesus."

Addressing Fr Stephen, Fr Michael said: "During your life thus far, you have driven buses all over the place and encountered many different people and situations. You are now embarking on a new journey, which began a few years ago when you commenced your studies, and now you will be challenged to put your experience of life, your studies and prayer into living out your vocation as a priest.

"In the first reading that you have chosen for our Mass this evening, we heard the writer remind those of us who serve God say, 'do not

be alarmed when disaster comes, whatever happens accept it, be patient, trust God to uphold you."

He continued: "As diocesan priests we have our own identity, we live and minister among our people. Diocesan priesthood is a great adventure - we have the opportunity to be closely involved in the lives of many people. We share their joy at marriages and the baptism of their children, we are also with them in times of sorrow and sadness, illness and death."

Highlighting that the church "is the people of God moving through history at this time with our many imperfections", Fr Michael pointed out: "God is not ashamed of His people, not afraid of walking with people. Jesus sought to mix with our sins and frailties, He paid for it with His life, but from the cross and rejection came the Resurrection.

"A priest's primary mission is to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus by proclaiming the Resurrection, the Risen Lord Jesus. Proclaiming Resurrection and the promise of new life is central to our mission. This can be done most effectively, not necessarily by words but by way of life."

He went on to tell Fr Stephen: "As diocesan priests, we are not church officials, we do not possess God as if in a suitcase. We are challenged to be close to our people. Failures and disappointments will come that threaten to hold us back. As people of hope, we must never forget that God is always with us.

"Without hope everything is weak and feeble. Christian hope is that humble and strong virtue that sustains us and doesn't let us drown in the many difficulties of life. Hope is portrayed as an anchor. As priests, we are charged with keeping hope alive. Even when God seems absent, even in the darkest moments, faith and hope remind us that God is truly here. Faith and hope are the awareness that we are never alone. God is always with us."

#### God's Field

Closing with some advice for when Fr Stephen receives his first appointment from the bishop in a few weeks, Fr Michael said: "Remember that every place is God's field; the Risen Lord is already present in the place where you will be appointed. In every parish community, there are many people of faith who already know what lies beyond this life, others carry within them memories of the past and there is something within them that has not died out.

"Always try your best to accompany, to be with people at whatever stage they are at on their faith journey. The Lord knows and He waits. In your parish, encourage people regardless of where they are in their faith journey, to walk together in faith, hope and love. Life is a journey of joy and sometimes toil; sometimes we sail with the wind behind us, sometimes it is flat and calm, and sometimes it is stormy.

"In all the many different situations, always aim to reflect God's love, patience and tenderness. There will be many times when you will be pulled in different directions, but be assured that the Risen Jesus is always with us, and, above all, always find time for prayer."

Having just returned from Rome on the Tuesday before his Ordination, Fr Stephen took the opportunity at the end of Mass to thank the many people who had helped with all the preparations for his Ordination and First Mass.

He also noted that Fr Michael Canny and Fr Sean O'Donnell, who both joined him on the altar, had respectively celebrated 45 years and 11 years of priesthood on the

day of his ordination, remarking: "So, I am in good company for June 14."

Members of the Vocations Society of St Joseph presented Fr Stephen with a stole. After Mass, many came forward to receive the new priest's blessing before enjoying some refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Reflecting later on his experience, Fr Stephen said: "My ordination day was something that seemed so distant for so long, even when it was only a matter of months and weeks away. There was a lot of planning involved, which started as early as January. I was still in Rome for most of that time, so I was doing a lot of the work remotely through email and WhatsApp.

"Through all the organisation, there were plenty of people in the Diocese, and especially in the parish, that were so helpful in the weeks leading up to the day itself, taking care of some of the many things that I had forgotten about. When the day came around, I think I had to just relax and be focussed, and pray and hope that everything would fall into place.

"One of the interesting aspects of the ordination day is that, amongst all the prior organisation, all that I had to do was turn up. In effect, almost everything happens around you, so it was important, if I could, to stay relaxed and let the grace of the day just carry me along."

He added: "The first Mass on the Monday night was very different, in the sense that it just 'didn't all happen'. Again, the time and talent of so many people was involved as before, during and after, that made it a special occasion.

"However, standing behind the altar as a deacon is one thing, standing there as a priest is another - to encourage a prayerful and meaningful celebration of the Eucharist. And none of that happens by accident, it requires a bit of preparation and practice, fortunately built up over a period of time in seminary.

"Would I do anything differently looking back over the few days? Not at all, it was a joy to celebrate, particularly in my home parish, with the support, prayer and good wishes that goes along with that."



# Beautiful time of prayer and singing for youth

ON a beautiful May evening, many young people and their families attended St Mary's Church, Creggan, for a time of prayer organised by the Diocesan Youth Team, particularly for those sitting examinations.

All gathered at the outdoor Grotto to Our Lady before being led in candlelight procession by Creggan Parish Priest and Curate, Fr Daniel McFaul and Fr Ignacy Saniuta, and Fr James Devine, as they prayed the Rosary.

A number of young people took turns in leading each decade of the Rosary, and others joined Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Bethany Doherty in leading the singing, as a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, sitting on a floral bed, was carried into the church.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Fr James Devine, CC Greencastle, who recalled Jesus, on the Cross, giving His Mother as a Mother for all. Considering how to live out Marian Devotion, Fr James said: "When Jesus dies on the Cross, there is a moment that His side is pierced and blood and water pour out. What we are told by the great saints and mystics is that this is the birth of the Church, at that moment.

"When a baby is born, out comes blood and water also, and there is usually someone there to receive the child. Well, in that moment, when the Church was born from the side of Christ, Mary, the Mother of the Church, was the one who received it. She takes the Church to

Herself, She holds it in Her heart." He added: "If we are going through a time of darkness, are trying to navigate our way through difficult situations, that is when we turn to Our Lady. She takes our hand and walks with us. That is why Jesus gave us His Mother Mary, to be our Mother too."

Holding up the Rosary as the link with Mother Mary, Fr James said: "When we hold the Rosary in our hands, we are saying, Mary, I take You as my Mother, I need you."

He went on to say: "We pray for suffering to be taken away, but that usually doesn't happen. What Jesus says is that He will be with us to the end of time. The devil wants us to feel abandoned in our spiritual life, but that is a lie. Jesus promised to

be with us always. Pray the Rosary, so that we may discern our way through life."

Then followed a period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Thanking everyone for coming along, Fr Daniel expressed particular appreciation to those attending from the local schools – St John's PS, Holy Child PS, St Joseph's Boys' School and St Cecilia's – and from the local youth club. He also noted that a number of young people from the Diocese were going on pilgrimage together in August, to Fatima, and that there would be an opportunity to meet them afterwards in the community room, where refreshments were served.



# Finding faith in stillness on Lough Derg by Brian McCaffrey

YOUNG adults from across Ireland and beyond gathered on the sacred island of Lough Derg on Saturday, April 25, stepping away from the 'busyness' of daily life to take part in a retreat centred on prayer, reflection, and renewal.

Organised by the Knights of St Columbanus, the retreat, entitled 'In the stillness - faith in a busy world', brought together 42 participants aged 18-35, drawing attendees from across Ireland and as far afield as Glasgow and Seattle. The day was led by Maureen and the Lough Derg team, guiding participants as they crossed the lake to the sacred island of St Patrick's Purgatory.

Following a warm welcome, the retreat began with prayer and a short time of reflection in the McSorley Room overlooking the waters of Lough Derg. Fr Peter O'Kane invited participants to reflect on the words, "It is good for us to be here." Drawing on 1

Kings 19:9-16, he encouraged young people to find a "safe space", like Elijah, where they can rest through the night and be renewed. He reflected that when morning comes, and whatever "wind, fire or earthquake" may arise, we are called to stand still and encounter God in the gentle breeze. He invited all present to take time to discover "the stillness of the Lord" speaking into a busy world, allowing that encounter to animate their faith and draw them closer to God and to one another.

Building on this theme, Mark Harte, an Irish Language Support Officer at Queen's University Belfast and GAA analyst with TG4, reflected on the importance of openness and authenticity. Sharing from his own experience, he encouraged participants to say "yes" to opportunities that add value, and to consider what had drawn them to the retreat. He spoke of the need to "disconnect to

reconnect", inviting young people to learn from the past, plan for the future, and live fully in the present moment.

The day unfolded at a gentle and reflective pace, with time for personal prayer, a guided tour of the island, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, allowing space for both solitude and shared experience. The retreat concluded with the Celebration

of the Eucharist by Fr Anthony Hartnett, of the Diocese of Raphoe, offering participants a fitting opportunity to gather in prayer and thanksgiving at the end of the day.

At the close of the retreat, a short debrief invited participants to reflect on their experience. Several themes emerged. Many spoke of the value of stepping away from routine and making space for stillness. Others highlighted the importance

of being present and open to new experiences, while some reflected on a renewed sense of connection with God, themselves, and others. The welcoming atmosphere and the natural beauty of Lough Derg, an island apart from the busy world, were also frequently noted as central to the experience.

Now in its third year, the initiative continues to offer young adults an opportunity to pause, reflect,

and reconnect with their faith. The organisers expressed their gratitude to Fr Peter O'Kane, Mark Harte and Fr Anthony Hartnett for their contributions to the day, and to Maureen and the Lough Derg team, along with prior Fr La, for their support in making the event possible. They hope to build on its success in the years ahead.



# Marking two decades of Fan the Flame...

## Celtic Park ceremony celebrated call to serve others with God-given gifts



AROUND 3,000 children from across the Diocese, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation during the past school year, happily gathered in Derry's Celtic Park GAA Grounds for the 20th annual 'Fan the Flame' Mass, on Thursday, June 4.

Representing schools from the city as well as parts of counties Derry, Donegal and Tyrone, the young people turned up with their personally decorated T-shirts and flags, reflecting this year's theme, 'Serving others with the gifts God has given me', and adding to the

very colourful occasion the 'Fan the Flame' ceremony always is. In preparation for the Mass, they had also completed reflective journals based on the theme.

With vocal cords warmed up thanks to encouragement from Richard Moore, the children, along with school staff, special guests and volunteers, enthusiastically joined Long Tower Folk Group in singing the opening hymn as the colourful parade of school banners led Bishop Donal and concelebrating priests to the altar erected on the centre of the pitch.

Amongst the guests were the newly elected Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Councillor Grace Uí Niallais, and John Keenan, Chairperson of Doire GAA, who extended a warm welcome to all gathered at Celtic Park.

Pupils from various schools participated in the Liturgy of the Word and Offertory Procession, with schools from the Dungiven Parish leading the congregation in the much-loved 'Fan the Flame' closing hymn, 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands'.

Always a joyful and uplifting celebration, the ceremony is organised by the Diocesan Catechetical Centre, and made possible through the dedication and generosity of volunteers freely giving their time and talents.

The occasion is also an opportunity to encourage young people from Diocesan post primary schools to get involved in supporting the recently confirmed children, and helping to create an experience for them that will surely live long in their memories.



# Marking two decades of Fan the Flame...

## Fan the Flame Mass an inspirational celebration in so many ways *by Gemma Brolly*



FOR several years now, I have had the pleasure and privilege of attending the 'Fan the Flame' Mass with my Rang 7 class. As both a mother and a teacher, it is one of the most uplifting moments of the school year. As someone of faith, I believe more strongly than ever that

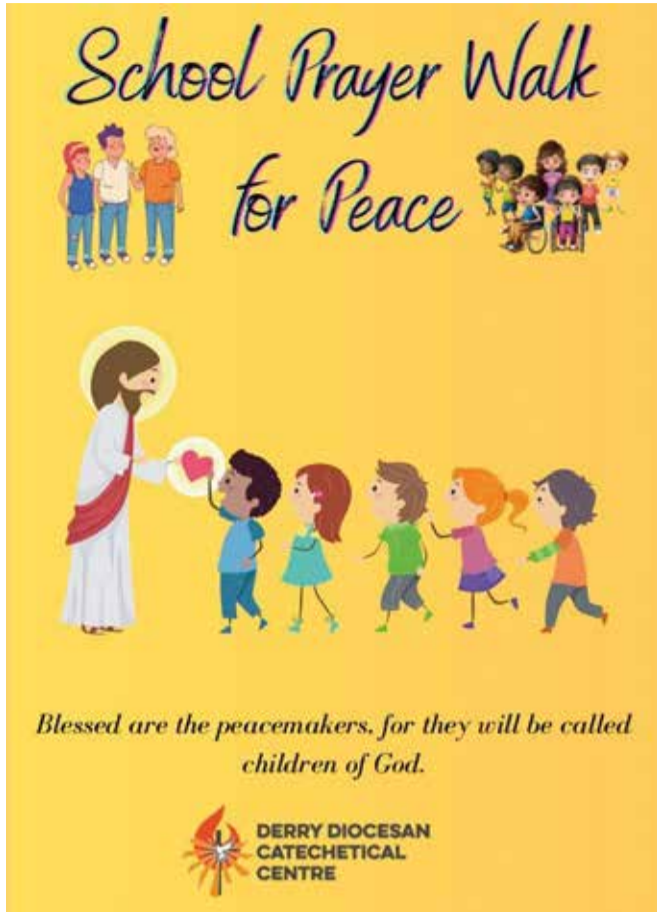
we need courageous voices to safeguard our right to teach religion, and to uphold the right of parents - the primary educators - to ensure that their children have access to religious formation as 'we' decide, not as others decide for us. Each year at 'Fan the Flame', I am struck by the same sense of joy and reverence. Hundreds of children gather together, full of excitement as they reach the end of their primary school journey, listening with such attentiveness to Bishop Donal McKeown's words. They carry banners, wave their red, orange and yellow flags, read, sing and participate with a sincerity that is deeply moving. Even those who may not be familiar with every part of the Mass join in with openness and delight - a reminder that faith, when offered gently and joyfully, draws people in rather than pushing them away. As a primary teacher and a mother, I cannot recall another such 'open air' moment when so many children came together with such joy and excitement as they reach the end of Year

7, listening so attentively to the powerful words of Bishop Donal McKeown. The children play their part beautifully, each one contributing meaningfully with their own personally designed t-shirt. Watching the priests process with the bishop is genuinely heartwarming; children waving enthusiastically, parish priests waving back, and the bishop stopping whenever he can to greet a few lucky pupils. And even though not every child is familiar with the Mass or with receiving Holy Communion, they participate with the same openness and delight - just as Jesus would want. Each year, I find myself wondering whether 'Fan the Flame' could be a catalyst for something more. It creates such a positive, joyfilled memory for our children; could we build on this by inviting them back in Year 8 or 9 for a retreat? As a teacher, I love introducing my class to the stories of Sr Clare Crockett and St Carlo Acutis, young people whose faith and

courage speak so powerfully to this generation. A retreat in postprimary school could help nurture that spark, giving our young people space to grow spiritually as they navigate the challenges of adolescence. We are also blessed with the annual Catholic Schools Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral, another moment when our school communities can come together in faith, even when we join remotely. I want to pay sincere tribute to the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre and to everyone who has worked over the past 20 years to bring Fan the Flame to life, along with every other programme that supports our children. In a world that can feel increasingly uncertain and, at times, frightening, we are fortunate to have such dedication and witness. Our task now is to support one another in our schools, our parishes and our homes, and to continue to 'fan the flame' in home, school, and parish, on these valuable initiatives that help form our children so well as they grow.



# Diocesan Schools Prayer Walk for Peace...



## St Cecilia's girls of Grace & Peace joined in prayer

ON the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, St Cecilia's College pupils from 8Grace and 8Peace1 joined Diocesan schools in a Prayer Walk for Peace.

After praying for their school community and families at the school, they walked to Sr Clare Crockett's resting place, where they prayed for their local community and peace in the country.

The girls concluded their peace walk by visiting Our Lady's Grotto at St Mary's Church, Creggan, where they prayed for peace in the world.

As always," remarked Ms Kearney, "8Grace and 8Peace1 were very reverend, respectful, and prayed beautifully throughout our Walk for Peace."



## Beautiful prayer experience for St John's pupils

THE pupils of 5B took part in the St John's PS, Creggan, Prayer Walk for Peace, which was initiated by the Diocesan Catechetical Centre.

The children walked to a series of 'Prayer Stations' within the

school, where they prayed for peace for themselves, their families, communities, country and world. Thanks to organiser, Miss Mellon, the pupils had a beautiful, prayerful experience.



## St Theresa's PS family responds to call to prayer as peacemakers

PUPILS of St Theresa's PS, Glebe, in Sion Mills Parish, joined in the Diocesan Schools celebration of Our Lady of Fatima with a Prayer Walk for Peace in their local community.

Together, they set off from the school grounds to a beautiful Cross situated next to the local Playgroup, praying along the way at various planned stops for peace in their school family, in their families at home, in their local community, in the country, and across all the

countries of the world. Members of the School Council led in prayer at each 'Station' and, with reverence, everyone prayed to Mary along the way.

Commenting on the occasion, Ms McCool said: "It was a particularly reflective and most reverent first experience for all our pupils and staff, concluding with the Prayer to St Francis, reminding everyone that Jesus calls us to be peacemakers in our own lives every day."



# Diocesan Schools Prayer Walk for Peace...

## St Columba's children reflect on reconciliation

*"What we need is to cultivate peace in our own hearts and in our relationships, to let it blossom in our daily actions, and to work for reconciliation in our homes, our communities, our schools and workplaces." (Pope Leo)*

ON May 13, the pupils of St Columba's PS, Kilrea, celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, a special time to reflect on peace, prayer, and caring for one another.

As part of the celebration, the Primary 7 pupils carefully selected five prayer stations around the school grounds: the May Altar; our

memorial to past pupil, Clíodhna Gorman; by the river; overlooking the fields and windmills; and finally, our seated area in the wildflower garden.

At each station, all the classes were given the opportunity to pause, reflect, pray, and consider how they could promote peace in their own lives and within their school community.

Commenting on the occasion, Ms McKiernan remarked: "It was a calm, reflective experience that encouraged everyone to think about the importance of kindness, respect, and reconciliation."



## Buncrana Confirmation Pledge take-up heartening



BUNCRANA Parish was delighted to welcome a large group of young people to St Mary's Church, Cockhill, keen to take their Confirmation Pledge. Parish Priest, Fr Francis Bradley congratulated them all and prayed that God would bless them as they endeavoured to keep such an important promise in the years ahead. The young people were pupils of Scoil Íosagáin, Scoil Naomh Padraig, Drumfries, St Oran's NS, Cockhill, Gaelscoil Bhun Cranncha, St Egnéy's NS, and Scoil Naomh Iósaf, Illies.

## Celebrating the month of May by St Mary's Girls

THE month of May is a special time in the Church, dedicated to Our Lady, and this year it was marked in a particularly meaningful way by the students of St Mary's College.

On Friday, May 16, we had the wonderful privilege of participating in the Novena to St Thérèse of Lisieux at St Eugene's Cathedral. The novena began on Saturday, May 9 and concluded with a beautiful closing ceremony on Sunday, May 17, drawing many members of the community together in prayer and reflection.

This special opportunity came to us through our music teacher, Mrs Joan Keaveny, who invited us to share our musical gifts as part of the novena. For many of us, this was our very first time attending a novena, and we were delighted to accept the invitation.

On the evening, we performed 'The Magnificat, Pie Jesu' by Andrew Lloyd Webber, and an excerpt from Dvořák's 'New World Symphony'. We were honoured to be joined by vocalists, Mrs Rice

and Ms Annemarie Hickey, whose beautiful singing enriched the experience for all present.

Our student ensemble included Alisha and Erin on flute, Hannah on clarinet, Isabella on violin, with Mrs Keaveny accompanying on piano.

We were deeply moved by the large turnout at the Cathedral. What we had imagined might be a small, quiet gathering, turned out to be a vibrant and prayerful congregation. The atmosphere of

faith, music, and community made the evening truly memorable.

Taking part in the Novena also inspired us to learn more about the life and spirituality of St Thérèse of Lisieux, whose 'little way' of trust and love continues to touch hearts around the world.

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a special occasion. It is an experience we will cherish, and we very much hope to take part again next year.



# St Catherine's PS retirees encouraged to go 'fly a kite' and enjoy blessings of retirement



St Catherine's PS principal, Mrs Bridget Wilders, fourth from left, with the seven retirees.

THE school year came to a close for St Catherine's PS, Strabane, with a very special assembly in the Church of the Immaculate Conception for seven retiring members of staff, who have over 100 years' service to the school between them.

Through song and word, pupils and staff members paid joy-filled tributes to Miss Jennifer Doherty, retired vice-principal; Mrs Dolores Doherty, retired teacher; Mrs Anne Marie McGlynn, retired teacher; Mrs Pauline Doherty, retired classroom assistant; Miss Ina McKane, retired classroom

assistant; Miss Christine Boyle, retired lunch-time supervisor and lollipop lady; and Mrs Clare Kelly, retired clerical officer.

Parish Priest, Fr Michael McCaughey opened the ceremony by welcoming all and wishing those retiring well in the days ahead, thanking them for their contributions to the school living out its motto, 'Achieving Excellence Together'.

He remarked: "There is pain in retirement and change, but there is also promise looking into the future."

St Catherine's Senior Choir were

in fine voice, singing a selection of very appropriate hymns and songs to mark the occasion, such as 'Christ Be Our Light', 'Here I Am, Lord', 'Here's the sunshine', 'When you believe', 'Good luck, good health, God bless you', 'I am a promise', and ending with 'Fly a kite'.

Following an excellent script, two narrator pupils introduced the theme of the Assembly by focusing on the number seven, that being the number of retirees. Highlighting legendary sevens, such as the Seven Dwarfs, the seven Vonn Trapp children, seven continents, seven Wonders of the World, and not forgetting The Magnificent Seven, they then included St Catherine's own Magnificent Seven, describing them as "remarkable individuals who have played their part in shaping our school, our community, and the lives of so many. Each of them brings something different. Each of them leaves something lasting. And together, they make a group that is totally unforgettable."

With 'The Magnificent Seven' theme music playing in the background, seven pupils dressed to represent each of the retirees processed from the back of the Church, causing much delight,

and so followed a very colourful celebration, as seven other pupils carried the names of each of the retirees forward to the altar.

Current members of staff came forward to share special memories of those retiring, with a particularly moving one read by Bronagh Kelly for her mother, Clare, who was retiring as clerical officer after 25 years of service.

Tributes composed from comments made by pupils about what they loved about the retiring staff members were also read.

The narrators then brought the tribute to a close with a special message for the retirees: "You've worked so hard, you've come so far, I hope you know how blessed you are! New tomorrows, brand new plans, all of them are in God's Hands. You'll have more hours in the day, to hope, to dream, to rest, to play. You'll find new ways to be inspired. Congratulations, you're retired!"

With that, the choir burst into singing 'Fly a kite', as the seven retiree child characters enthusiastically waved colourful kites in the air, and the Assembly ended with a standing ovation from all who had thoroughly enjoyed the celebration.





## Claudy College pupils enjoy St Carlo Acutis retreat

YEAR 10 pupils at St Patrick's & St Brigid's College, Claudy, were blessed to take part in a retreat based on the life of St Carlo Acutis. Under the guidance of Parish Faith Facilitator, Charlotte Deeny, they reflected on the qualities of saint, how they can live out these values in their own lives, and the importance of charity. Each session ended with a time of meditation, during which they were encouraged to bring their worries and prayers before God.



## Great response to St Joseph's Boys' Trocaire Lenten campaign

ST Joseph's Boys' School staff and pupils have presented a cheque for £1,800 to Trocaire, following the success of its Lenten fundraising campaign. Thanks to the generosity of pupils, staff, families and members of the community, this financial support will help Trocaire continue its vital work supporting some of the world's most vulnerable communities.



## What the children saw...

### Miss McKane

*A strong, a loving and a steady hand,  
You've guided young hearts across Strabane,  
Through every class your journey grew,  
A faithful friend, so kind and true.  
So honest and fair, with strength so clear,  
A voice of truth we held so dear.  
A pillar of school, both firm and kind,  
A purer heart we will never find.*

### Mrs P Doherty

*With gentle hands and a creative eye,  
You turned simple things into treasures nearby.  
From scraps and colour, your magic would grow,  
Bringing joy and rainbows to the classroom's flow.  
A steady support to the teacher each day,  
With quiet strength in every way.  
So kind and devoted, a support strong and true,  
A loyal, hard worker—we'll dearly miss you.*

### Miss Boyle

*At the crossing each morning, you stood with such care,  
A warm, friendly smile for each child passing there.  
With kindness and laughter, so youthful and bright,  
You made every journey feel safe and just right.  
From canteen to roadside, a friend ever true,  
Our days were made better because of you.*

### Mrs Kelly

*The welcoming smile at St Catherine's front door,  
A kind, gentle presence we'll always adore.  
With patience and warmth, you guided each day,  
Helping our worries to just melt away.  
So organised, so steadfast—a true friend to all,  
Now enjoy precious moments as retirement calls!*

### Mrs McGlynn

*With laughter shining in your eyes,  
You filled each day with joy and surprise.  
From Barrack Street beginnings to St Catherine's halls,  
Your kindness and care have touched us all.  
With endless energy and a smile so true,  
Now may your days be filled with your dogs, who adore you!*

### Mrs D Doherty

*With gentle hands and a caring heart,  
You shaped young lives from the very start.  
With guitar in hand, your songs would flow,  
A melody of warmth for each child to grow.  
Your art and stitches weave love in all you do,  
Now treasure time with your grandchildren who adore you too.*

### Mrs J Doherty

*In St Catherine's School, you've shone so bright,  
Guiding us all with wisdom and light,  
A master of numbers, in maths you inspire,  
Lifting young minds ever higher and higher.  
So organised, so graceful, each task done with care,  
A leader, a teacher beyond all compare.  
From lessons on flight to each child's success,  
You gave every one of us your very best.*

## Young Writers share thoughts...

*HEADING into the active summer months, Cara-leigh writes about the importance of trying to incorporate periods of silence in our busy lives, so as to hear God speak to us.*

*Erin comments on Pope Leo XIV's message to young people, in these times of great challenges for them, to support each other in being "a spark of new humanity", while Alannah writes about the great benefits of community.*

*Highlighting the Mass as central to the Catholic faith, and quoting St John Vianney's comment that if we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy, James encourages educating others on the importance and obligation of attending weekly.*

*Harry reflects on the harmful impact of social media on faith and spiritual life, while Conor writes about the growing revival of Christianity amongst Generation Z, and Niamh comments on the continued interest in Leonardo da Vinci's painting of 'The Last Supper', and its relevance today for young people.*



Farragh Ferry, Derry City Deanery  
 Cara-leigh Doherty - Derry City Deanery  
 Alannah Gormley, Derry City Deanery  
 Nieve Browne, Derry City Deanery  
 John Augustine Joseph, Derry City Deanery  
 James Tourish, Derry City Deanery  
 Erin Whoriskey, Derry City Deanery  
 Ryan Duffy, Derry City Deanery



Bláthnaid McMenamin - Co Tyrone Deanery  
 Ellie Donnelly, Derry City Deanery  
 Clodagh McDermott, Derry City Deanery  
 Seán McLaughlin, Co Tyrone Deanery  
 Niamh Sharkey, Derry City Deanery  
 Harry Mason, Derry City Deanery  
 Conor Sharkey, Derry City Deanery

## Last Supper remains meaningful for young people as it explores important questions

by Niamh

FEW paintings in history have captured the imagination of the world quite like 'The Last Supper' by Leonardo da Vinci. Painted more than 500 years ago, this famous artwork is not only a masterpiece of Renaissance art, but also a powerful reflection on one of the most important moments in Catholic history: the final meal Jesus shared with His disciples before His crucifixion.

Leonardo began creating 'The Last Supper' around 1495 and completed it in 1498. The painting was made on the wall of the dining hall at the monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy. Unlike many traditional paintings of 'The Last Supper', Leonardo chose to show the dramatic moment when Jesus tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. The reaction of each disciple is different. Some look shocked, others confused, and some appear deeply upset.

At the centre of the painting is Jesus, calm and peaceful despite knowing what lies

ahead. Leonardo places Jesus in a position of importance, with the lines of the room drawing the viewer's attention towards Him. His open hands suggest both acceptance and generosity. For Catholics, this moment points towards Jesus' willingness to give Himself for the salvation of humanity.

The painting is closely connected to the Gospel accounts of 'The Last Supper', when Jesus shared bread and wine with His disciples and said: "This is my body" and "This is my blood." These words are remembered by Catholics during the celebration of the Eucharist at Mass. The painting, therefore, reminds believers of the love, sacrifice and promise at the heart of Catholic faith.

One of the most interesting features of Leonardo's work is the way he shows the personalities of the disciples. Instead of presenting them as a group of identical figures, he gives each person a unique reaction. Some

## The Source and Summit...the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

by James

WHAT do you say the Mass really, is? Might it just be another activity on Sunday's itinerary, or an act of obligation attending even out of a sense of tradition? Is our catechesis on the central aspect of our faith all that it should be? Perhaps not, but the good Lord only gives us challenges that He knows we can handle.

Let us first go back to basics. On the Mass, the Council of Trent states: "In this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in the Mass, the same Christ who offered Himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the Cross is contained and offered in an unbloody manner."

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is imperative to our faith; it is our worship of Almighty God. When we come before the altar at Mass, gazing upon the liturgical celebration, we might as well think of ourselves standing at Calvary, with Mary, our dear Mother, and St John, the Apostle, beside us at the foot of the Cross.

The Mass is something that is truly supposed to be supernatural, an extraordinary experience that lifts us out of the worries and concerns of daily life, and grants us a private audience with Christ, our Lord, really and truly present, body, blood, soul and divinity.

As Pope Benedict XIV, then Cardinal Ratzinger, said in 1985: "True liturgy can be recognised by the fact that it liberates from everyday activity, and restores to us both the depths and the heights, silence and singing. True

liturgy is recognisable because it is cosmic, and not limited to a group. It sings with the angels, and is silent with the expectant depths of the universe, and thus, true liturgy redeems the earth."

We should be conscious of not seeking to follow a path, a trap door even, of making alterations to the Mass or attempting to make it more like the worldly experience. The liturgy derives its greatness from what it inherently is, not from what we make of it.

The Church maintains a proud tradition of the use of Latin and Gregorian Chant, both of which we are commanded to preserve (Sacrosanctum Concilium: 36:1 & SC 116). Greater initiatives must be taken by laity and clergy alike, to make use of what our ancestors have passed down to us, not because it is traditional, but because it is timeless. Assisting and participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in a way that adds to its reverence is most certainly a desirable feat. Educating our peers, friends and family on the essential obligation of attending Mass weekly, must be a task forever on our conscience. It is the worship that God expects of us. It does not belittle us in any way to humbly prostrate ourselves before the Good Shepherd, but rather, we are elevated by being in His presence, like the lost sheep upon the shoulders of Christ, being returned to its flock. We must emphasise to all, that no matter how long people have went without going to Mass, our Lord Jesus is always waiting for them



to return home, in His loving embrace.

The sacrificial aspect of the Mass is paramount to the theology of the Eucharistic celebration. St John Vianney wrote: "If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy." It is the remembrance and celebration of Christ offering Himself to us, both in the Passover meal with the Apostles, in which He institutes the Eucharist, but also on the cross, on which He offers His human body on the cross upon Golgotha, for the redemption of the world. The sacrifice, then, is indeed two-fold; we cannot separate the cross from the Eucharist, both are the offerings of our Lord to us, and we have the opportunity, every day if we'd like, to receive our Lord in that way.

An altar is used because

our Lord is the Lamb of God. Traditionally, at Passover, a lamb was sacrificed, but instead for us, Christ fulfils that upon the cross. That sacrifice at the Passover and at the cross is inextricably linked, and crucial to understanding our faith.

St Josemaría Escrivá wrote: "The Mass is long, you say, and I add, because your love is short." May we always be cognizant of the fact that, no matter how long the Holy Mass is, we are with Christ truly present in that tabernacle, and then in front of us on the altar. There is no greater joy, indeed, than to be present with our Lord, and our cheerfulness from that should extend to all we meet, because our hope is in Christ, who will never leave us, and whom we can always meet in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

lean towards Jesus in disbelief, while others turn to their neighbours to ask questions. The scene feels alive, as if the viewer has been invited into the room at that very moment.

The figure of Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, is also significant. Leonardo places him among the other disciples rather than separating him completely from the group. This reflects the painful reality that betrayal came from someone close to Jesus. It also invites people to think about themes such as forgiveness, loyalty and human weakness.

Over the centuries, 'The Last Supper' has faced many challenges. Because Leonardo experimented with a new painting technique rather than using the traditional method of painting on wet plaster, the artwork began to deteriorate.



Several restorations have been carried out to protect it, allowing future generations to continue experiencing its message.

For young people today, 'The Last Supper' remains meaningful because it explores questions that are still important: What does

true friendship mean? How do we respond when things become difficult? How can we show love and kindness to others? Beyond its beauty as a work of art, the painting encourages reflection on Jesus' example of humility, service and self-giving love.

Leonardo's masterpiece has lasted through centuries because it tells a story that continues to speak to people. It is not simply a picture of a meal; it is a reminder of faith, hope and the extraordinary love that Catholics believe Jesus showed to the world.

## Young Writers share thoughts...

### The importance of community

by Alannah

WE live in a world where we are more connected than ever through phones and social media, yet many people still feel lonely. We can spend hours talking online, but that isn't always the same as having people around us who truly know and support us. This is why community matters so much; having a group of people who care about one another can make a huge difference, especially during difficult times.

Whether it is family, friends, neighbours, or people from a church or faith group, being part of a community reminds us that we don't have to face life's challenges alone.

Community is also about helping others. Small acts of kindness,



such as checking in on someone, volunteering, or simply listening when a person needs to talk, can have a bigger impact than we realise. When people support each other, everyone benefits.

For many people, faith plays an important role in building community. Places of worship bring people together from different backgrounds and ages, creating friendships and

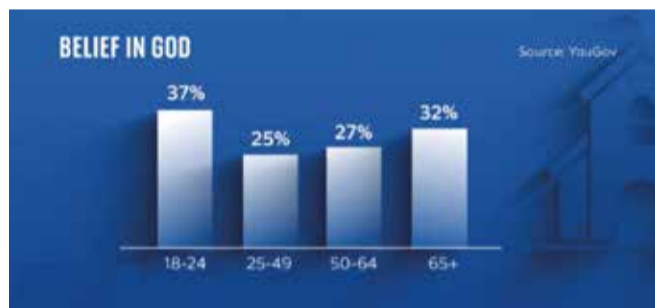
opportunities to serve others. They provide a space where people can feel welcomed, valued, and supported.

In a time when loneliness is becoming more common, strong communities are more important than ever. They remind us that we belong, that we matter, and that even small acts of kindness can make a real difference in someone's life.

### Revival of Christianity amongst Generation Z

by Conor

SIGNIFICANT data shows that a greater proportion of Generation Z (1997-2012) believes in God than many other generations previous, with priests and clerics having reported seeing an increase in young people encountering their religion and becoming more active in their parish, and suggesting that this is likely due to social media and increased isolation.



faith again to account for this lack of community. Many people turn to God to deal with their suffering, as many in this generation suffer from anxiety and depression, and see Christianity as an escape from the brutality of nihilism.

Social media is very fake and addicting, and leaves many people feeling empty, especially those who spend large quantities of time on apps. Social media sees its highest usage amongst Generation Z, so many may be inspired to search for truth and meaning, as they are likely tired of the draining nature of social media. People may feel as if there is a void with the absence

of spirituality in their lives, so Christianity may have filled this void for many.

This can be seen as a positive change, as it will strengthen communities and grant people more hope, despite the worsening conditions of the modern world, and will help people avoid meaninglessness and lack of purpose. It will also inspire people to give to their community and unfortunate individuals, as well as to contribute to the church. This influx in Christianity will lead more people to God's love and eternal life.

### Social media and Catholicism

by Harry

AS Catholics in the 21st century, there are many things in opposition to our faith and the spiritual life, and one that I would like to highlight is social media.

Social media has the potential to expose us to harmful stuff and many influencers who promote sin.

We are all aware of the serious distraction that our phone can be; it can hinder our thoughts, prayer time, or even keep us from spiritual reading that would benefit our faith.

Social media is also very self-centered; it is based on photos of oneself, comments, likes and shares, leaving us at risk of the

serious sin of pride, consistently being "turned in on oneself" (St Augustine).

Social media is fast-paced and can certainly lead to a lack of awareness of God's presence and voice.

In biblical anthropology, we learn that man is a social being and that human connection is a part of human thriving/happiness, allowing us to encounter God by it, but social media can lead to isolation and diminish man as a social being, as God intended.

Lastly, a point that I have heard re-iterated is that we are so glued to social media that we don't go outside and spend hours in nature

anymore. Dr Peter Kwasniewski said that creation was "God's first book". So, spending time in nature can deepen faith.



### Silence in the modern world

by Cara-leigh

SILENCE. A word many people in today's society shrivel at the thought of. So much so, that any lull in a conversation or a slight moment of silence is deemed 'awkward'. But for us in the faith, it is a crucial element to life. Soren Kierkegaard rightly said: "For even if the Word of God were proclaimed in the modern world, how could one hear it with so much noise?"

Many of the saints have spoken about the need for silence in our lives. An example is Mother Teresa, who said: "In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you."

It is only in the silence and stillness that we will grow in greater intimacy with The Lord. Mother Mary Francis, in her book 'Spaces for Silence', describes silence as "a great art". She also explains it is only in silence that we can truly come to know ourselves, claiming that we will remain "a stranger in our own inner court" without it.

We live in a society that loves to keep us distracted so that we cannot think for ourselves or know ourselves. In coming to know ourselves, we will realise how much The Lord loves us, and how we are uniquely created by the artistic hands of God. As Mother Mary Francis said: "Silence will have taught us who we are and Who God is."

While it can be difficult to incorporate silence into our daily life with the mad rush which invades every aspect of our lives, it is important we try. There are practical ways we can do this, such as: taking our earphones out when we are walking alone; intentionally not going on our phone for 20 minutes after we wake up; sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament for 10 minutes; not turning on the radio when in our car...and the list goes on.

We have to be prepared to let ourselves be uncomfortable. We also should not be scared of being bored. By allowing ourselves to

*"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you."  
(Mother Teresa)*

experience both of these on a more regular basis, silence will become more natural to us and less 'awkward'.

Our greatest example is Our Blessed Mother... "But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in Her heart" (Luke 2:19).

### Young people...A spark of a new humanity

by Erin

ON June 6, Pope Leo XIV spoke to over 600,000 young people during a prayer vigil at Plaza de Lima. I was struck by his words and inspired to reflect on them as he spread a message of hope and encouragement for young people and their faith. He recognised the challenges which we face in today's world, including the many distractions and difficulties that young people encounter, and the deep consumerism and self-interest in society.

In response to this, the Pope reminded us to spend time in silence, which will in turn remind us that "ideologies pass away, while truth remains." Although making time for God can seem almost impossible at times, like when we are surrounded by exam stress or excitement for summer plans, this reminds us that we must recognise the constant presence of God in our lives and make time for Him. This offers a hope much stronger and more lasting than any material success.

Pope Leo reminds us that while this search for truth can seem hard, it does not have to be done alone, shown even in the great number of Catholic youths who had gathered in prayer. I know from my own experience that nurturing friendships with people who I can talk to about my faith, attend events together like Camp Veritas, or simply go to Sunday Mass alongside, has led to some of my strongest friendships and



become an important part of my faith journey.

Surrounding myself with people who share my beliefs has helped my own faith to grow and develop over the years. This is part of the Pope's message that, as Catholic young people, we must all work together to be a "spark of new humanity" in the midst of violence, war and controversies throughout the world.

This message also posed a challenge to young people to live out their faith through kindness and charity in service to others, creating a hopeful vision for the future of the Church. The Pope encouraged us to be truly human, not just keeping up appearances, but actively spreading the Gospel in the modern world. Even small actions can make a huge difference, bringing the "leaven of selflessness" into the world. For young people, this could mean standing up for a friend, reaching out to someone

who is lonely, or simply giving our spare change to charity.

It is easy to think that we are insignificant, or that our good actions alone do not mean anything in the long run, but Pope Leo uses Jesus' image of yeast in dough from Matthew 13 to illustrate that these small acts of love have a deep significance, building a more caring society.

These virtues of care and charity lead to the Pope's final message to the Catholic youth - "You can change history. Do it through love." I found this quote powerful as it emphasises that changing the world does not require extraordinary actions, but simply the everyday choice to love and support those around us. It is a reminder that our faith is not just a personal journey, but something that we are called to show through our relationships and actions toward others.

# Marian Procession

Derry emerging as Marian & Eucharistic stronghold as...

## Thousands unite with Guardians of the Faith for third world-wide procession



THERE was a wonderful sense of camaraderie amongst those reverently gathered at St Mary's Church, in Creggan, having travelled from different parts of the Diocese and the island, as well as further afield from countries like America and France, to be part of the first Worldwide Marian Procession on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in the City where the idea was born.

Nick-named the 'Maiden City', where the faithful seem to have claimed 'Lady of Knock' as their anthem, the historic walled City of Derry is emerging as a Marian and Eucharistic stronghold, having already hosted two Worldwide Eucharistic Processions last year, during which Our Lady was also honoured.

And, thanks to the energy and dedication of the City's Guardians of the Faith in promoting the processions far and wide, the faithful in many other countries around the world have taken their lead and organised similar processions in unison.

For its first global Marian Procession on Saturday, June 13, Derry was joined by 550 parishes from six continents, as well as 17 leading Marian Shrines, including Knock, Fatima and Lourdes, and 30,000 watching the live-stream.

Stories of faith and prayers were shared throughout the day amongst the thousands who responded to the call to be part of the latest Eucharistic Procession in the City of the Oaks, where the legendary Irish missionary and Derry Patron Saint, Columba founded a monastery, and Home of the Mother Servant of God, Sr Clare Crockett was born.

St Mary's Church was filled to overflowing, with many having to remain outside in the sunshine for the celebration of 12 noon Mass, before the procession set off towards the Gasyard, in the Bogside.

The main celebrant of the Mass, Fr Roland Colhoun, of the Marian Movement of Priests, opened his homily by declaring: "Derry is leading the world in prayer today!"

He also found it remarkable that the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary fell on June 13 this year, noting that it had been on June 13, 1917, that the Immaculate Heart had been revealed to the children of Fatima.

Delighted to see so many children attending, including the local Holy Child PS Choir, Fr Roland remarked that they were "reminiscent of the three little shepherds of Fatima," and proceeded to give a short account of the June 13 Apparition in 1917.

Pointing out that the Blessed Sacrament would be carried at the front of the procession, he noted: "St Louis Marie de Montfort coined the motto 'To Jesus Through Mary'. Our Lady always points us towards Christ."

He continued: "Rosary processions are powerful expressions of our faith in public... The exercise of communal prayer elevates the district into a place of holiness. We walk under banners with messages of faith, carrying our Rosary beads as instruments of prayer. We venerate the image of Our Lady, adore the Eucharist, and meditate on the mysteries of the Faith, as we process."

### Peace

Encouraging those taking part, he concluded: "Be confident that God does not want you to hide your faith away! Venerable Fr

Patrick Peyton regularly said, 'a world at prayer is a world at peace'. By taking part in the worldwide Marian procession today, you and I are making our contribution to world peace. May the Prince of Peace reign in our hearts and in the hearts of our brothers and sisters across the world."

Fr Roland was joined on the altar by Fr Daniel McFaul, PP Creggan, Fr Barney McGuckian SJ, Fr Brian Akiri Nkom, Calabar Archdiocese, Nigeria, Fr Antonio Maria Diez de Medina, CFR, and Discalced Carmelites, Fr Michael Spain and Fr Cajetan Apeh. And amongst the congregation were the Home of the Mother Servant Sisters, based within the Diocese at Crossroads, Killygordon, Co Donegal, as well as a number of Franciscan Sisters and Brothers of the Renewal, and the recently ordained Limavady native, Fr Conan McGonagle, FSSP.

Following Mass, there was a period of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament was carried from the Church, to begin the walk along various streets enroute to the Gasyard. The local Knights of the Immaculate Heart of Mary had the honour of carrying the canopy sheltering the Blessed Sacrament.

A colourful sight, with a variety of faith-related banners carried high, the procession caught the eye and touched the hearts of many who emerged from their homes



# Marian Procession

*continued from page 16*

and businesses as it passed, alerted by the thousands of voices joined in praying the Rosary, led by the Legion of Mary, and the music that filled the air courtesy of the Ireland Needs Fatima Bagpipers.

The procession paused for a period of Adoration and prayer at Brandywell Grotto, before proceeding to the Gasyard Grounds, where everyone gathered around and reverently knelt on the grass in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, before Fr Roland led them in praying the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary.

Giving thanks for the great turnout and weather for the procession, Fr Roland went on to give thanks for what was also a wonderful way of celebrating his 33 years of priesthood. And, as he led all in singing 'Ave Maria', the sun shone even brighter.

Fr Antonio then led the praying of The Holy Staff of St Benedict Exorcism & Protection Prayer, which was followed by the Act of Consecration to the Most Sacred

Hearts of Jesus and Mary, led by Fr Michael Spain OCD.

There was also a time of singing led by Buncrana father and daughter, Hugh and Maria Doherty, and St John's PS, Creggan, with a song written especially for the Derry Procession - 'The Heart of a Mother' - sung by Sarah McGarrity and Caolan McClelland. The occasion came to a close with a blessing by Fr Roland, after which people stayed on to share their experiences of the day with one another.

Guardians of the Faith have expressed thanks to Bishop Donal for his support for the procession, all the clergy and religious who took part, Holy Child PS Choir and all singers and musicians, the Men's and Women's Rosary Groups who prayed in Guildhall Square prior to the opening Mass, the prayer team, stewards, Knights, flag-bearers, St John's Ambulance, Lumen Christi College, the Gasyard team, Storm Media, Conor Brennan Media, and all the national and international media outlets that covered the event.



# Celebrating St Columba...

## Celebrating St Columba...

# Great time of celebration as Long Tower 80th anniversary of consecration marked on Patron Saint's Feast Day



CELEBRATIONS for the Feast Day of Derry's Patron Saint Columba included marking the 80th anniversary of the Consecration of St Columba's Church, Long Tower, by then Bishop of Derry, Dr Neil Farren, on June 9, 1946.

The consecration date, on Pentecost Sunday that year, had not only marked the 14th centenary of the founding of the City of the Oaks by the Gartan native, but also fell on the anniversary of the Saint's death in Iona in 597.

The Mass of St Columba on the evening of June 9, in recognition of the 80th anniversary, was celebrated by Donegal priest, Fr

John Joe Duffy, PP Creeslough, and he was joined on the altar by Fr Gerard Mongan, Adm Long Tower, Fr John Forbes, Fr Con McLaughlin, Fr Peter McLaughlin, and Fr Colum Clerkin.

During the Consecration ceremony, Bishop Farren had gone round the church anointing with Chrism and incensing 12 crosses painted on the walls, and to commemorate this the candles that the bishop had requested to be lit over the each of the crosses were lit in memory of all those who have worshipped in the Long Tower Church down the centuries.

Commenting on this, Fr John Joe said: "The light of faith symbolised by these candles 80 years ago was handed on, in times of joy and trial. St Colmcille was someone who met the challenges of life and kept the flame of faith alive in his life, and down the generations that flame of faith has been kept alive, as we, here, are keeping it lit as well."

"Sr Clare Crockett also inherited that faith passed down from St Colmcille, and kept it alive too. I see many similarities in both of their lives. They both went

through failures, temptations and weaknesses. They went through trials and challenges and came to know that God was there for them, and they gave themselves to Him. We need to realise that God is our shield and strength."

Referred to as "the dove of the Church", Fr John Joe noted that Colmcille had spent much time before the Eucharist, and that it was said that his face "gave off a heavenly light".

He continued: "Sr Clare also had a heavenly radiance on her face, as we can see from the picture on her prayer card, and she also spent much time before the Eucharist."

"One day, the foundation of this church may disappear, as St Colmcille's monastery did," he went on to remark, adding: "This is the most beautiful parish church in Ireland, but its real beauty is in the hearts of everyone who was baptized in and attended it, and lived the Word in their homes and communities. You are the most important part of this church as the living stones."

"Pope Leo says that what inspired his vocation was the lived-out faith

in his community. You can feel that sense of community here, in Derry, more than in any other place."

He added: "St Columba and Sr Clare faced trials and we have faced trials. They had to dig deep and we have to dig deep, and have the strength and resilience that they had. That resilience comes from knowing Jesus in prayer firstly, and then in community."

At the end of Mass, the priests and people were led by the St Colmcille Band in procession to St Columba's Well for the annual blessing and distribution of Holy Water.

A party in the local school hall afterwards brought a close to the celebrations, which had included a family fun day, a Ceili Mor, and an all-night vigil of Adoration, in the lead up to St Columba's Feast Day. Celebrations on the day began with 7 am Mass at the Hawthorn Tree, followed by a 10 am Mass for Schools and Families. Then, prior to the evening Mass, Vespers was prayed at the Bell Tower in the grounds of Lumen Christi College, followed by the praying of the Rosary in Irish at The Calvary.



## Vespers



# Celebrating St Columba...

## Rosary



## Well Blessing



## Hawthorne Tree Mass



## Ceili Mor



## Clonmany Parish News

Christine Doherty, of Clonmany Pastoral Council, reflects on recent 'Life in The Spirit' seminars hosted by the Parish...

# Holy Spirit helps focus on more missionary calling in parish life



**THE quiet village of Clonmany, nestled in the Inishowen hills, came alive with the very tangible presence of the Holy Spirit over the course of five sun-dappled Wednesday evenings during Eastertide.**

Following on from a very well attended 'Baptised and Sent in Lent' programme this year, the Parish Pastoral Council, led by Parish Priest, Fr John McDevitt, agreed that we should continue with a programme which would further develop and enhance our faith journey. Eastertide, that period of time in the Church between Easter Sunday and Pentecost, was a fitting time to host the 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars.

Ms Marguerite Hamilton, from the Columba Community based in Derry, came to speak to members of the Parish Council initially, providing an overview of the seminars. She also kindly attended Masses a couple of weekends prior to the commencement of the seminars, to speak to the parishioners. This helped to generate a very positive sense of anticipation amongst the community, which was reflected in the number of attendees over the five weeks, with 40-50 attending each week.

The format of the programme consisted of an invitation to share a cup of tea and a biscuit at 7.15pm, which allowed attendees an opportunity to engage with

members of the community who attended each evening, and to generally relax a little before the programme commenced, with a selection of uplifting hymns which rang out in praise and thanksgiving of the Holy Spirit. We were very fortunate to have musicians come in each week to share their talents and gifts of music and song with us - this served only to enrich what proved to be a most blessed experience over the weeks.

A number of speakers - Ms Marguerite Hamilton, Ms Kathleen Devlin and Mrs Ann McCay - presented talks and testimonies each week, all of which reflected on the influence and presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

In week one of the Seminars, Ms Marguerite Hamilton's talk prompted us to reflect on the changing profile of the Church today. While most of us lament the passing and familiarity of the Church we grew up in, we were asked to challenge our own perceptions and to discern what is being asked of us in the present times. Our baptismal call is asking more of us as Christian believers. We are invited to get to know Jesus better - to enter into a 'personal

relationship' with Him, so that we are better equipped to fulfil our baptismal duty to make Jesus more widely known and loved.

The Life in the Spirit Seminars awakened in us an awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts that can be bestowed upon us. When we read the scripture passages, the gifts of the Spirit can help us to know Jesus, through a clearer and more enlightened understanding of His way of life and teachings. We are reminded of God's love, mercy and compassion and, above all, His constancy; He will never abandon us. However, as Marguerite frequently emphasised, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are service gifts, not to be hidden or secreted away, but to be used in the service of others.

In week two, Mrs Ann McCay provided an illuminating insight into the history of the formation of the 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars, and her experience of this whilst holidaying in Canada initially, before becoming involved in the movement which began in Derry in the mid-70s, led by Fr Neal Carlin. Ann's testimony bore witness to how her life was changed irrevocably by her personal encounter with Jesus. Her honest account laid bare her initial resistance and suspicions, which many attendees could relate to, having come to the seminars with no prior experience of the 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars. However, as Ann stated: "God was leading me and guiding me towards a new and valuable experience of my faith, which would shape my life".

The gifts of the Holy Spirit deepened her connection with the Eucharist and increased her receptiveness to the Word of God, enabling Ann to cope with her own life challenges and strengthening her desire to reach out to help others.

Ann also emphasised the

importance of prayer, especially in the context of healing prayer. Prayer helps by re-focussing our minds to the source of all healing - God. Prayer unites us and helps us to walk together in faith.

In week three, Ms Kathleen Devlin continued on the theme of new life in the Spirit and receiving the Gifts of the Spirit. All the gifts of the Spirit are to be used in the service of others, and also towards the renewal and edification of the body of Christ - the Church. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God, given to the Apostles at Pentecost and to all Christian believers if we are prepared to receive it. The Holy Spirit can bring about change and transformation.

In Week Four, two members of the Columba Community would pray over each attendee to receive their chosen gifts of the Spirit. Kathleen asked us to consider preparing ourselves for this change, through prayer, reading the scriptures, Mass attendance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each of the gifts were explained and consideration was given to the Gift of Tongues - a powerful method of prayer.

Whichever gift we discern and ask for, it must be used in the active service of the wider community - God's people. The Holy Spirit will be with us, leading and guiding us on this journey.

Week Four continued with Ann explaining how we might feel after we are prayed over for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We may find that our prayers are more spontaneous, more confident, more perceptive. Praise and Thanksgiving are a huge component of Prayer in the Seminars; we are encouraged to engage in praise in good times and in adversity.

After receiving the charismatic gifts of the Spirit, we must allow ourselves to be open to change, to

have faith and to be patient. God has a plan for each one of us and the time to use our gifts in the service of others will come. Our parish communities will offer plenty of opportunities for us to utilise our gifts, allowing us to be used as instruments in the building up of God's Kingdom.

It was reassuring to hear Ann pronounce that "the particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose" (1 Cor 12:1).

In Week 5 of the 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars in our Parish, Marguerite presented the final talk, focussing on the Growth and Transformation that can only occur after the Prayer for the Blessing of the Holy Spirit, which took place the previous week. The experience of being prayed over and having God's love poured into our hearts was unique for each person - moving, emotional, inspirational, peaceful or, perhaps, no immediate effect was observed. However, our sincerity in asking for the gifts allows a new chapter in our faith development to begin. Like the Apostles at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit brought about significant change on them, so too we hope that we can experience some of that transformation.

Following on from the talks each week, attendees formed small groups, with 1-2 members of the Columba Community included. Group work consisted of approximately 20 minutes of discussion time, with no-one under any obligation to speak if so desired. Topics for discussion included what each attendee hoped for during the five weeks and also a review of the designated scripture readings assigned each week. The scripture readings were printed and offered to each attendee each week. These passages reflected on the theme of the week and included a reading

for each day, thereby inviting us to develop our 'personal relationship' with Jesus by simply spending 10-15 minutes daily in quiet reflection and contemplation of the messages within each scripture passage. Through communal discussion in the groups, it was realised that interpretation of the scripture passages could be as unique as each one of us.

In recent years, we have all become more aware of the Synod on Synodality talks, which remind us of our mission to go out to share the Good News, encouraging us all to participate, learn together, and walk together on this journey, each taking responsibility for passing on the faith. We all have a duty to move from maintenance of the Church and serving of self, to a more missionary calling.

The 'Life in the Spirit' Seminars helped us to ponder the connection between the anxieties and fears of the Apostles in the Upper Room, before they commenced their mission to carry on what Jesus had been preparing them for, and what the Church of today is asking of each of us - to continue to bring Jesus to the world.

The Columba Community made the Holy Spirit come alive in our Parish during Eastertide. The Fruits of the Spirit radiate from each of the members: love; joy; peace; patience; kindness; faithfulness; and gentleness.

As Fr Richard Rohr stated: "Transformed People Transform People." It is hoped that the participants of the Seminars in our Parish have been transformed in some small way by them, and that they will use their gifts generously in the service of others, to the Glory of God's name.

*Come O Holy Spirit, sweet guest of my soul, abide in me and grant that I may ever abide in thee.*

## Iskaheen & Upper Merville Parish News...

# St Patrick's Church history night a wonderful social occasion in Iskaheen by Grainne McCool

THE Adult Faith group in Iskaheen, Drung and Muff Parish, held a very informative and enjoyable evening recently at Iskaheen Chapel. The night was scheduled to be a 'history discussion' on St Patrick's, Iskaheen. What resulted was a lovely social occasion, alongside a very interesting presentation from the group on Iskaheen chapel - its origins, history and evolution to the present day.

The evening was introduced by Marie Lindsay, and the Adult Faith group members each took turn in presenting a part of the chapel's history.

Beginning with a short talk on St Patrick and how he blessed

the whole of Inishowen from Grianán, the group then talked about Monasteries, The Arrival of the Vikings and Normans, the History of the Derry Diocese, The Tudor Conquest and Protestant Reformation, The Penal Laws, Battle of the Boyne, Catholic Emancipation and The Great Famine. All of these areas in history had a part in shaping our parish to what it is today. As the group presented their prepared work, local members of the audience added their knowledge of history too.

As the evening progressed, the group spoke of the actual building that is St Patrick's chapel, its major renovations and the changes to the

chapel in the 20th Century. They talked about Vatican II and the changes brought about, and then brought it back to the very heart of the Iskaheen area, with Fr Eddie McColgan's contribution to the renovations. Fr Eddie, a native of Iskaheen and missionary priest, has left a lasting legacy with not only his work, but his love of his home parish.

The further renovations to the church in 2003 were discussed, as was the old Abbey which dates back to the fifth and 17th centuries.

There was a wealth of knowledge and history in the presentation by the group, but the real knowledge came from the local people. Folks like Margaret Reddin, Thomas

McColgan, and Mura McLaughlin, to name but a few. Memories formed much of the night's discussion and those gathered really were taken on a wonderful historical journey throughout the night. Joe Martin also participated, and was able to clarify a number of points on the local history.

A number of old photographs were collected from locals and were on display throughout the night, and the days that followed. The photos were a visual display of changes made in the chapel over the years - from the old altar, the altar rails, wall heaters and more.

Overall, it was a lovely, sociable evening, with eager historical discussion enjoyed by all. The cup

of tea at the end really allowed for lots of interaction and even more knowledge and memories being shared. No doubt, more events

will take place as the group move forward with their work in the parish.



# Donaghmore Parish News...

## Bishop Donal blesses Crossroads cemetery extension by Warren Thompson-Connolly

BISHOP Donal celebrated the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity in St Patrick's Church, Crossroads, Killygordon on Saturday, May 30.

After Holy Mass, the bishop blessed the new graveyard

extension in the adjoining Churchyard, before helping Parish Priest, Fr Patsy Arkinson with the annual Blessing of the Graves.

The Church was full to capacity during the Vigil Mass, with many more standing outside at family

graves, listening via the outside loudspeakers.

Whilst Bishop Donal and Fr Patsy sprinkled the Graves with Holy Water, the Rosary was prayed by Members of the Legion of Mary.

Afterwards, there was refreshments

in the grounds of the Parochial House, under marquee and canopies, through the help of Gleneely Primary School Parents' Association and with the assistance of the Servant Sisters of The Home of the Mother, who reside in the Parish.



# Lavey Parish News...

## Cemetery Care



# Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries...

## Donagheady thanksgiving for priesthood and legacy of Fr Eamonn McDevitt



THE celebration of Fr Eamon McDevitt's Golden Jubilee in St Patrick's Church, Killenagh, in the Parish of Donagheady, on Friday, June 12, was a time of mixed emotions, as the occasion also brought to mind for the people of Aughabrack and Dunamanagh that their parish priest was soon retiring, and the uncertainty of what lies ahead for them as a parish in this time of change for the Church.

Papal bunting greeted parishioners, family, friends, former parishioners and fellow priests of the 75-year-old, as they entered the church in which he had celebrated the sacraments during his 22 years of ministering as parish priest there, along with St Mary's Church, Aughabrack.

Ordained on June 13, 1976, in Immaculate Conception Church, Strabane, by the late Bishop Edward Daly, Fr Eamon spent the first two years of priesthood at the Irish College, in Rome, before being appointed as curate to Glendermott Parish in 1978. Then followed a 15-year period as a teacher in St Columb's College, Derry, from 1982-1997. Fr Eamon was then appointed to the Limavady Parish in 1997, where he served as curate

until his appointment as Parish Priest of Donagheady in 2004.

Welcoming all to the Mass of Thanksgiving, especially those who had travelled a distance, Fr Eamon wrote in his Golden Jubilee booklet: "I give thanks to God for the many blessings I have received over the years, and I am very grateful for the support and generosity shown to me throughout my ministry. May this celebration be a reminder of God's goodness and of the blessings we share together."

On the night, he recalled being commissioned 50 years ago to go and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, adding: "Thank you God for the gift of priesthood and all here; help us all, priests and laity, to spread the Gospel."

With Bishop Donal presiding, Fr Eamon was joined on the altar by Fr Declan Boland, who delivered the homily, Fr Charlie Keaney, Fr Mickey Doherty, and Deacon Stephen Baxter, whose ordination to priesthood was two days later.

The celebration included a presentation of various symbols reflecting Fr Eamon's life, including: a family photograph taken on the day of his ordination with his family, symbolising the sacred

beginning of his priestly journey, the vows he made before God, and the faithful dedication that has marked his 50 years of ministry; a lighted Candle, symbolising the light of Christ that Fr Eamon carried into homes, hospitals, classrooms and hearts throughout his priesthood; Fr Eamon's Bible, symbolising the Word of God that has guided his preaching, teaching and daily witness to the Gospel; a Stole, symbolising the sacramental ministry entrusted to Fr Eamon - celebrating the Eucharist, offering forgiveness, anointing the sick and accompanying God's people in every season; Fr Eamon's prefect badge from St Columb's College that was treasured by his mother, symbolising the foundations of his vocation, formed in his years as a pupil and his later return as a teacher, where he helped shape the faith and future of the next generation; and a Globe, symbolising the mission to which Fr Eamon was sent, his love of travel, the friendships he has formed across the world, and the many lives he has touched near and far through his priestly witness.

Highlighting the "great summons" just heard in Matthew's Gospel, "Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation", Fr Declan Boland opened his homily by noting how "countless men for over 2,000 years have heard that invitation and followed it, giving their lives selflessly to live and proclaim the Gospel."

He talked about how, growing up in the Parish of Camus, Strabane, with his siblings and late parents,

Denis and Mary, "a young Eamon McDevitt had felt the first stirrings of that call in his heart, nurtured by a faith-filled family home and community, and inspired by the many excellent local priestly role models, particularly Fr Gus Gillespie, and the priests he met at Strathclyde University in Scotland."

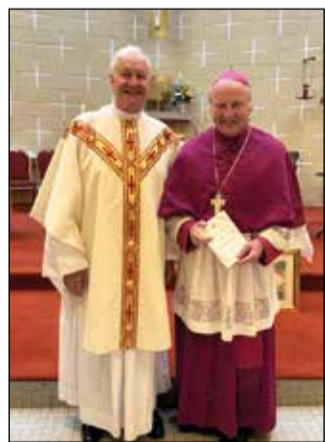
Having worked together for a period in Limavady, Fr Declan, who had been pastor in Fr Eamon's home parish for 26 years, remarked: "God has blessed Fr Eamon with an abundance of gifts and talents. He is one of the most gracious, kind, generous, big-hearted and selfless people you could ever meet. He has been blessed with a spontaneous zest for life, which he brings to every aspect of his priesthood and social life. Nothing fazes him."

He went on to describe Fr Eamon as being equally at home in priestly office and ministry as he was in the world of science, music, opera, cinema, theatre, the arts, the literary world, the ecumenical world, travel, as well as "the gastronomic world", where he was "an exquisite host".

With regards to the ecumenical world, Fr Declan recalled that, often in the company of the brethren from different denominations, "they thought he was one of them - a Protestant Minister - such was his ease of mixing in company. Of course, his choice of clerical outfit would have helped that observation!"

### Changes

Remarking that the church that "shaped Fr Eamon and many of us has changed radically," he said:



# Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries...

*continued from page 22*

“Fifty years have brought huge changes and the Christian faith is now finding a new shape, a new home, new means of expression, new social and cultural roles. We need a new language in which the eternal Gospel must be proclaimed. Many churches in many countries are emptying out, the number of priests precariously dwindling, and the parish network becoming increasingly fractured. If decades of church-wide prayer for priestly vocations has gone unanswered, perhaps God is telling us that He expects us to look for other doors and other solutions, instead of pounding on doors He has closed.”

He continued: “We need a competent contemporary theology, out of which we preach or we run the risk of becoming increasingly marginalised or irrelevant. There is a great interest today in genuine spirituality. Our parishes need to be centres of spirituality where we accompany one another and have the courage to seek God in new and more profound ways.”

“We are preaching in a technologically sophisticated era and that is why the superb encyclical of Pope Leo XIV – ‘Magnifica Humanitas’ (Humanity in its grandeur) - is so hugely significant for us, and so vital as an antidote to the pancake culture we live in; spread wide and thin, but with little depth. We have to explore new directions, open to the future, lest we cling to nostalgia for a language, dress, rituals, customs and structures that are no longer life-giving.”

“In Revelations we hear, ‘Behold I make all things new.’ In Luke 24:5, ‘Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; He has risen.’ The risen Christ is with His Church as ever before; it is up to ourselves and the people of God to find Him in the most unexpected places. We can all start by gladly and genuinely embracing a synodal church, where we walk together, priests and people, young and old, into a future where God awaits all our charisms to be released in the building up of the contemporary church.”

“As priests God has given us a great grace,” added Fr Declan, “He has called and chosen us, it is not of our own doing; of ourselves, we had nothing to make us worthy of that call and that grace. To us

all, like Fr Eamon, You have given Your priesthood, O Lord, and we will accept it and by Your grace be faithful to it all our days. On this Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we are all called to become the fiery heart of love in the world.”

He went on to quote the late Pope Francis: “Here I repeat for the entire church what I have said to the priests and laity at Buenos Aires, ‘I prefer a church that is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out in the streets rather than a church that has become unholy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a church concerned with being at the centre and then ends up being caught in a web of procedures. More than fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules that make us harsh judges, within habits that make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: Give them something to eat (Mk 6:37).”

Fr Declan concluded by highlighting what Pope Francis had offered regarding priests and bishops: “We are not to become dour judges or sour pussies, we should be fearlessly open to the Holy Spirit, messengers full of joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction. We are called to be springs which spill over and refresh others. We have a mission to bring light, healing, blessings and hope to others.”

Congratulating Fr Eamon on his Golden Jubilee, he said: “With you, we rejoice in what the grace of God has accomplished in you, and we thank you for enriching all our lives in so many ways. Going forward, we wish you every grace and blessing, and may you have health and happiness to explore the numerous paths that inevitably will open for you.”

All were invited to refreshments afterwards in Aughbrack Hall, where presentations were made and tributes were paid by various parish and community groups, expressing deep gratitude for the many ways in which Fr Eamon had served the needs of his flock. There was also an exhibition of photographs covering various occasions in his life, particularly during his time in the Parish of Donaghedy.



# Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries...

## Culdaff community celebration of Fr Karl Haan's 45th anniversary



THERE was a lovely gathering in St Mary's Culdaff to celebrate the 45th anniversary of ordination to priesthood of Fr Karl Haan, CC Culdaff & Clonmany.

Fr Karl has served in several parishes in the Diocese, including Creggan, Steelstown, Killygordon, Glenullin, and, for the past 10 years, Bocan, Culdaff.

During the celebration of Mass, he reflected on how times have changed now in the digital age,

and highlighted the importance of living in the present moment and being thankful for friends, parish and the many loyal parishioners.

Looking forward to many more years of service in the Church, Fr Karl pointed out that all belong to the priesthood of Christ through their baptism.

And, he prayed for the love of God to shower hearts and homes, and that each may find a renewal in Christ each day.

Many parishioners joined Fr Karl in the Parish Hall afterwards to congratulate him on the milestone in his priesthood, and wish him continued good health and happiness in his ministry amongst them.



### Pope's monthly intention



The Holy Father has asked for prayer during June for:

**For the values of sport...**  
Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

### Prayer for Priests

Heavenly Father, I ask you to bless our bishops and priests and to confirm them in their vocation of service.

As they stand before us as ministers of Your Sacraments, may they be channels of the love and compassion of the Good Shepherd, who came not be


served but to serve. Give them the grace they need to respond generously to you, and the courage to proclaim your Word of justice, love and truth. Bless, in a special way, Your servant Father, Send your Spirit upon him So that he may always walk in the path of faith, hope and love, in the footsteps of Christ, the eternal priest, who offered Himself on the cross for the life of the world. Amen.

### Remember in prayer:

- Fr James Devine (June 1st)
- All priests (2nd)
- All priests (3rd)
- All priests (4th)
- Fr Peter Devlin (5th)
- Fr Fintan Diggin (6th)
- Fr Brendan Doherty (7th)
- All priests (8th)
- All priests (9th)
- All priests (10th)
- All priests (11th)
- Fr Michael Doherty (12th)
- Fr Patrick Doherty (13th)
- Mgr Andrew Dolan (14th)
- Fr Brian Donnelly (15th)
- Msgr Joseph Donnelly (16th)
- All priests (17th)
- All priests (18th)

- All priests (19th)
- All priests (20th)
- All priests (21st)
- Fr Jack Farrell (22nd)
- All priests (23rd)
- Fr John Farren (24th)

- Fr Neil Farren (25th)
- Fr Paul Farren (26th)
- All Priests (27th)
- Fr John Forbes (28th)
- All priests (29th)
- Fr Paul Fraser (30th)



### A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Lord Jesus, give us happy priests.  
Happy because they know they are called by You and are your friends.  
May those who have been given the grace of a priestly vocation welcome it with gratitude and responsibility.  
May they nourish it with Your Word, Your Sacraments, and Daily Prayer.  
We ask You, Lord, for pastors according to Your will –  
Priests who will seek out the lost, serve the poor, and humbly guide those entrusted to them.  
Mary, Mother of Priests, pray for us.  
St Joseph, Father of Priests, pray for us.

(Based on the words of Pope Leo XIV)

Anyone considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, please talk with your local priest, or contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at (028) 7938 6259 or at 07703444280.

## Ruach...Breath of the Spirit

### Dealing with criticism *by Fr Eamonn Kelly*

WHEN I was a newly ordained priest, one of my older friends surprised me when he declared, "they are all saying that you are wild long at the sermons." It took me quite a while to realise that it was his way of saying that he felt I spoke for too long. He did not want me to think that he was criticising me, so he put the blame on the invisible "they". Indeed, this is quite a common factor when criticism is involved.

We must always remember that just because everybody is doing it, it is not necessarily right. One of the popular occupations for Catholics today is to criticise our Catholic faith. Many Catholics feel that our faith is old-fashioned or out-of-date, and so we have many who like to criticise to show that they are free thinkers and wise beyond the reach of the ordinary person. This fashionable criticism is good to reflect on, not that we should take it on board personally, but so that we may understand where it comes from, for most of it is from a lack of understanding or an unwillingness to step out in faith.

The Church has well defined beliefs, as listed in The Creed, and well worked out explanations that

are well expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In fact, I strongly recommend that every Catholic should have a copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and that it should be a well referenced book. The Incarnation, the resurrection of the dead, and the teaching authority of Jesus Christ, to name a few, are explained in easy-to-read language. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, many holy men and women have helped explain in good detail the teachings of the Church.

It really should not surprise us that many people scorn the Catholic faith. St Luke reminds us: "Remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves." And we should stop being amazed at the way our Catholic faith is ridiculed, mocked and made fun of. At every opportunity, so called experts mock Christianity and denounce our beliefs.

When we examine this mockery, we can go a long way to understanding the scorn. Faith is not easy. To accept that when a person dies, there is a possibility of that person coming back to life is hard. To say that the dead will rise from the grave, that the dead will

leave the tomb, is a huge step to take. In saying and believing these things, we move away from the known, from the scientific and from the felt world. These statements belong to faith. For many people, true faith is a step too far and, rather than take the bold step of believing, they take the easier option of criticism.

The criticism that we speak of here is not the condemnation of bad behaviour, or the pointing out of flaws in believers, or showing the wrongful way of life of someone who is supposed to be a follower of Jesus. This form of criticism is just pointing out realities that should be improved in the individual or group.

St Paul uses in a wee phrase in the Second Letter to the Thessalonians that is worth mentioning – "Faith is not given to everyone." It is important to remember that faith is a gift, believing is not easy and trust in God must grow, day by day and experience by experience. If you do not have faith, I invite you to ask God for the gift. If you experience your faith to be weak, I invite you to ask God to strengthen it. Often the simplest requests are the best. "God, I would like to believe but it seems to be beyond me. Help me." "Lord,

I believe, help my unbelief." "Lord God, open my inner life to what is good and true and life-giving."

It is important that we understand why so many people are willing to criticise, cut down and try to destroy the Catholic faith. The Catholic faith is about offering hope to people in this life and in the life of the world to come. In this life, we speak of hope that Jesus walks with us in our family life, that health can be restored and that we can recover from our hardships. In the life to come, we speak about death not having the final say on our souls, that even sinners like you and I can live forever with God, and that the victory over sin and death by Jesus can be ours through His generosity.

In following Jesus, it is good to remember that we follow One who was rejected and, therefore, we should not be disillusioned that Jesus is rejected in our day. We follow One who was cursed, denounced, branded as insane and spat upon. He listened to what people were saying, but stayed focused on the mission He had from God: to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God. We are called to learn to defend the faith by living it better, and by being



better witnesses to the One who was crucified for speaking about truth and love and forgiveness.

Our Catholic faith does not come from any vague source, but from Jesus. Repeatedly, in the Gospels, we learn about God living as a human being in the birth of Jesus and in the earthly life He lived. In the accounts of the Last Supper, we learn of how Jesus would stay with His people, when He said, "This is My Body, this is My Blood, do this in memory of Me." We hear about the miracles, the cures, the Holy Spirit and about the closeness of God to humanity, which gives us the basis for our hope. All this is

normal for the person who has a living faith, believing realities that we cannot prove.

So, the next time that you hear the Catholic faith being criticised, I invite you to stop and reflect. Try not to add to the spire of criticism, but try to understand. Try to see where the critic is coming from. Try to see how hard faith is for them and for all people. Then pray. Pray that the Lord may give the gift of faith. Pray that Jesus may give a new release of the Holy Spirit, so that the truth of faith may spread. Pray that all may believe in resurrection, in everlasting life and in Jesus, for He has said it and His word is true.

### Colmcille *by Dr Seán Beattie*

TO mark the Feast of Colmcille on June 9, and his Derry connections, the poem 'Return to Colmcille' is printed here. Traditionally, the small streets surrounding St Columb's College were festooned with flags and arches erected to honour the Saint on his Feast Day. The lyrics were written for the Derry people who travelled from Australia with the Colmcille Express in 1988. Many of them had memories of the joyful celebrations on June 9 in their younger days, and the poem is a poignant reminder of growing up in the City.

The theme of exile, the pain of departure from loved ones, and the joys of return are relevant to the life of Colmcille. On his departure to Iona, he stopped at the entrance to Lough Foyle and climbed the cliff to reach a hill top to have one last look upstream. A small cross and a holy well mark the site at the shoreline, and a stone memorial has been erected on the cliff top in his memory at Inishowen Head. Traditionally, this was a place of pilgrimage in August, and some parishioners in Moville Parish still assemble above the shore on August 15 to mark the event. Scotland is visible on a clear day from Inishowen, and it was possible to reach the nearest island, Islay, in a rowing boat in one day, weather permitting.

The words and music were written by Danny McGilloway

and are published in a book, 'There was music there in the Derry air', compiled by Anne Mulkeen Murray and published by Guildhall Press, Derry, in 1989. A Derry native, Danny McGilloway wrote songs and ballads, many of which were published in the local press.

#### Folklore

As Colmcille left Derry, he paused at Redcastle and walked along the shore past Moville. He came across a man sitting on a rock. Colmcille asked him what was the matter, as he seemed to be distressed. The man replied that he had a thorn in the sole of his foot and was in great pain when he walked. Colmcille went to a hole in the rock in which there was water and started to bathe the man's foot. As he did so, the thorn fell out and the man was able to walk again. A spring later was found at the rock and it became a well. To this day, it is known as St Colmcille's Well, and there is a continuous flow of cool, clean water, which is available to everyone.

The story was recorded in the Schools' Folklore Collection in 1937 and is preserved in the archives in University College, Dublin. The primary school student who wrote the story was Moira O'Donnell, Carrick House, Moville. She collected it from Mrs Armour, McKinney's Hotel, Moville (formerly the



St Colmcille - Columba - Donegal, Ireland-Iona. Copyright - welovedonegal.com.

Foyle Hotel in the Square, Moville and currently closed). The well is separate from the holy well mentioned above and is not known as a holy well today, and is not associated with any pilgrimages.

#### Miracles

Water and exile are themes that recur again and again in the folklore of Colmcille. On a mission in Scotland, the Culdaff saint, Buadán, faced the fury of some of the clans. Colmcille is said to have come to his rescue, by breaking off a section of rock which transformed into a boat and brought Buadán safely home to Culdaff. His 'boat' can still be seen below the bridge in the river in the centre of Culdaff. Both the Protestant church and the national school are named after

him.

Adomnán describes a miracle performed by Colmcille among the Picts and their King, Brude, son of Máelchú. The Saint took a white stone from a river and blessed it, so that it was capable of creating cures. When the stone in question was immersed in water, it floated like an apple. King Brude was so impressed that he took possession of the stone and kept it among his treasures. The miracle had another function. An exile from Ireland, Colmcille had to prove his credentials when he arrived among the Picts and such miracles contributed to his acceptance by the ruling elite and the ordinary people.

#### Colmcille Celebrations 2026

Despite the passing of centuries, Colmcille remains an iconic figure

on a national and international platform. In his beloved City, his life was celebrated on his Feast Day on June 9, 2026, with an all-night vigil at St Columba's

Church, Long Tower, an open-air Mass at the Hawthorn Tree, a procession to St Columb's Well, Vespers at the Bell Tower, Lumen Christi, College, and other events.

### Return to Colmcille

*From Victoria, Perth and Sydney in Australia's far-off shore,  
Emigrants that left old Ireland returned to Colmcille once more.  
Young children, men and women, their hearts filled with joy,  
In their homeland shall unite by the banks of the Foyle.*

*All those years long ago, their friends they left behind,  
And the town they loved so dear for wealth and fortune to find.  
Throughout this Maiden City, they sailed far off and wide,  
From the Brandywell, the Bog and all the Waterside.*

#### Chorus

*Here's a warm and friendly welcome  
To the town you love still.  
Here's a warm and friendly welcome  
On your return to Colmcille.*

*Dreams you had of coming home have all now been fulfilled,  
As you tread upon the soil in the town of Colmcille.  
Tears trickle down your face as you gaze all around,  
For the memories you once knew, here's but a few to be found.*

*The old town has changed, changed from peace and harmony,  
The little streets they have gone where once you roamed so free.  
But life still carries on much the same as before,  
For the people of our town who have suffered through the war. **Chorus***

*Those little rows of terraced houses that stood for many years,  
Those little rows of terraced houses have long since disappeared.  
The old folk you remember have all sadly passed away,  
Or some have emigrated or gone their separate ways.*

*Of the old days gone by with friends you can reminisce,  
Reunite with your relations that you so dearly missed.  
The tears they shed for you when you parted long ago,  
Shall turn to joy and laughter among them as you go. **Chorus***

*From Rosemount and the Creggan, in the Bog and Brandywell,  
We greet you one and all in the place where you did dwell.  
May the memories last forever that you take from Colmcille,  
And tell your friends down under about the town you love still. **Chorus.***

# Parish Post-its

For additions/amendments please email: [editorthenet15@gmail.com](mailto:editorthenet15@gmail.com) or message 07809292852

## Aghyaran

**Weekend Mass Times:** 7.30 pm Vigil, and 11 am.

## Ardstraw East

### (Newtownstewart)

**Zoom Catechism:** All are welcome to join Catechism by Zoom on Mondays, from 7.30-8.15 pm. Email: [ardstraweast@derrydiocese.org](mailto:ardstraweast@derrydiocese.org) to get the link. Learn how to answer hard questions.

**Pope John Paul II Award** – Sessions for Pope John Paul II Award participants take place on Thursdays at 6.30 pm, in the Oratory of Mary, Mother of God.

**Holy Hour:** 6.30 pm, Thursdays, Oratory of Mary, Mother of God.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 11.30 am, St Eugene's Glenock.

## Badoney Lower

### (Gortin-Rouskey)

**Adoration:** Adoration takes place in St Patrick's Gortin, after the 12 noon Mass until 5 pm on Tuesdays, and in St Mary's, Rouskey, after 7.30 pm Mass on Wednesdays, with an opportunity for Confession, until 9 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 7.30 pm Vigil, St Patrick's, Gortin; 10 am, St Mary's, Rouskey.

## Badoney Upper

### (Plumbridge-Cranagh)

**Adoration & Confession:** Adoration and Confessions take place in St Patrick's Cranagh after the 7.30 pm Wednesday evening Mass, until 9 pm, and after the 12 noon Mass on Saturdays in Plumbridge.

**Confessions:** Confessions are available after 11 am Mass on Saturdays in Sacred Heart Church, Plumbridge, and after the 7.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass in St Patrick's Church, Cranagh.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 7.30 pm Vigil, St Patrick's Cranagh; 10 am, Sacred Heart Plumbridge.

## Ballinascreen

**St Pio Mass:** Mass in honour of St Pio of Pietrelcina is celebrated on the first Monday of each month at 7.30 pm, in Holy Rosary Church. The Novena prayers and Rosary are recited at 7.10 pm.

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place in Holy Rosary Church on the First Mondays from 12 noon until 7.30 pm.

**Confessions:** Holy Rosary Church every Saturday at 5.30 pm, before the Vigil Mass.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, Holy Rosary; 9 am in St

Columba's Straw; 11 am in St Patrick's, Sixtowns; 12 noon in St Eugene's, Moneyneena.

## Ballymagroarty

**Adoration:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Holy Family Church, Ballymagroarty, every Sunday, from 1.30 - 6 pm.

**Padre Pio Prayer:** The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group meets on the first Tuesday each month at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry. It starts with the Rosary at 6.45 pm, followed by Mass at 7.15pm, and Novena to St Pio directly afterwards. There will be a first-class relic available for veneration.

**Confessions:** Saturdays from 10.30-11.30 am & 5.15-5.50 pm; Tues & Thurs 6.45-7.10 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil; and 9.30 am, 11 am, and 12.30 pm on Sunday.

## Banagher

**Adoration & Chaplet:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Chaplet take place in St Mary's Church, Altinure, Thursdays, 10.30-11.30 am; St Joseph's Church, Fincairn, on Fridays, 10-11 am.

**Confessions:** St Mary's Church, Altinure, Thursday 10.30 am; St Joseph's Church, Fincairn, Friday 10 am & Saturday 6.30 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 7 pm Vigil in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn, 10.30 am in St Mary's Church, Altinure, and 12 noon in St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen.

## Bellaghy

**Adoration:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in The St Carlo Acutis Adoration Chapel on Fridays from 10 am-8 pm, with the Rosary for Vocations at 7.30 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 5.30 pm Vigil livestreamed to Bellaghy from St Oliver Plunkett's Church, Greenlough; Sunday, 9.45 am in Ballyscullion, and 11 am in Bellaghy, live-streamed to Greenlough.

## Buncrana

**Adoration:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament now takes place in St Mary's Oratory every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 6 am-10 pm, Fridays, 6am-10 pm, and on Sundays 2-10 pm.

**Rosary:** The Rosary is prayed each weekday at 9.30 am in St Mary's Oratory, prior to 10 am Mass.

**Guided Holy Hour:** A Guided Holy Hour of Adoration in Honour of the

Holy Face of Jesus takes place on Sundays, 6-7 pm in St Mary's Oratory. All welcome. Rosary for Priests: Three Rosaries are prayed each Tuesday, between 1-2 pm, in the Oratory for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**AA:** Alcoholics Anonymous Amazing Grace Group, Buncrana, has five meetings per week: Sundays - 8 pm, Tuesdays - 8.30 pm, Thursdays - 11.30 am, Fridays 8.30 pm, and Saturdays at 11.30 am. If you think you may have a problem with alcohol, please come along. Venue for all meetings is St Teresa's Room.

**Al-Anon:** The Al-Anon Group, for anyone whose life is or has been affected by someone else's drinking, meets in St Teresa's Room on Thursdays at 6:45 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** St Mary's Oratory - Vigil 4.30 pm, 8.30 am and 12.30 pm; St Mary's Cockhill - 11am; Star of the Sea, Desertegney - 9.45 am.

## Burt, Inch & Fahan

**Adoration:** Adoration in St Mura's Parish Church, Fahan, takes place each Friday after 10 am Mass.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil, 10.15 am, St Aengus' Burt; 9 am, Our Lady of Lourdes, Inch; 11.30 am, St Mura's, Fahan.

## Cappagh

### (Killyclogher)

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Wednesday from 8-9 pm in Christ the King, Strathroy, concluding with Night Prayer, and on Sunday from 6-7 pm, in Christ the King, with Devotions and Benediction.

**Rosary:** The Rosary is prayed in St Mary's Church, Killyclogher, Monday-Saturday at 9.15 am, and in Corpus Christi, Mountfield every Thursday evening at 8 pm.

**Legion of Mary:** Legion of Mary meets every Monday after 10 am Mass in St Mary's Church, Killyclogher. New members always welcome. Anyone wishing to welcome the Pilgrim Statute of Our Lady into your home and pray the Rosary is asked to contact Rosaleen on 07917421119 to make arrangements with the Legion of Mary, Cappagh Group.

**St Pio Novena Devotions:** Novena devotions through the intercession of St Padre Pio take place on the first Wednesday of the month in Christ the King Church, Strathroy. Rosary at 7 pm,

followed by Mass at 7.30 pm. Veneration and blessing with relic will be available after Mass.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations are prayed on Fridays at 3 pm in St Mary's Killyclogher.

**Confessions:** Confessions are heard on Saturdays after 10 am Mass in St Mary's Killyclogher, and from 5.45-6.25 pm in Christ the King, Strathroy.

**Polish Mass:** Mass is celebrated in Polish in the Church of Christ the King, Strathroy, Omagh, on the first and third Sundays of each month at 10 am.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil, 12 noon, Christ the King, Strathroy; 9 & 11 am, St Mary's, Killyclogher.

## Carndonagh

**Weekend Mass Times:** Vigil 7 pm; Sunday 9 am & 11 am.

## Castlederg & Ardstraw West

**Adoration:** Adoration takes place following 10 am Mass in St Patrick's Church on Fridays, until 12 noon.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil and 11 am, Castlederg; 9.30 am Dregish; and 12.30 pm Drumnabey.

## Claudy

**Living Word:** There is a 'Living Word' gathering in the Upper Room in St Patrick's Church on Thursdays, 7-8.30 pm, for a time of reading and reflection on the Mass readings for the following Sunday. All welcome.

**Rosary:** The Rosary is prayed on the Parish webcam from St Patrick's Church, Monday-Thursday, at 6 pm.

**Divine Office & Chaplet:** The Divine Office (Mid-day Prayer of the Church) and the Divine Mercy Chaplet are prayed on the Parish webcam, from St Patrick's Church, Monday-Friday, at 3 pm.

**Holy Face Devotions:** Holy Face Devotions will be prayed on the Parish webcam in St Patrick's Church, Claudy, every Friday, beginning with Divine Office (Evening Prayer) at 6 pm. All welcome to join.

**Society of St Joseph:** The Vocation Society of St Joseph prayer meeting, in support of religious vocations, takes place on the first Thursday of each month, at 6.30 pm, in the Upper Room, St Patrick's Church.

**Children's Rosary:** Children's Rosary continues in St Patrick's Church, Claudy on the first Saturday of each month, at 2 pm. All are welcome.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil, St Patrick's; 10 am, St Joseph's; 11.30 am St Patrick's.

## Clonleigh (Lifford)

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil, 11 am.

## Clonmany

**Legion of Mary:** The Legion of Mary pray the Rosary every Sunday evening at 6 pm at the Grotto beside St Mary's Church. All are welcome.

**Vocations Society of St Joseph:** The Vocations Society of St Joseph in the parish has eight members and meets on the first Monday of each month. They fundraise at least once a year and contribute a donation to the Society annually.

**Exposition:** Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament in the Oratory of the Assumption, Ballyliffin, on Tuesdays, 7.30-8.30 pm; and in St Mary's (in room behind altar), on Wednesdays, 2.30-3.30 pm, and in St Michael's Church, Urris, on Fridays, 3-6 pm (Rosary at 5.40 pm).

**Confessions:** Confession is available in St Mary's Church from 7 pm on Fridays, in lead up to 7.30 pm Mass 6 pm on Saturdays, in lead up to 6.30 pm Vigil Mass.

**Weekend Mass Times:** St Mary's Church, Clonmany, Vigil 6.30 pm (Rosary at 6.10 pm); Sunday 11:30 am; St Michael's Church, Urris, Sunday, 10 am.

## Coleraine

**Society of St Joseph:** The Society of St Joseph for the support of religious vocations meets on the last Monday of each month at St John's Church Sacristy, after the 10 am morning Mass, and is open to everyone. New members are welcome at any of the meetings, which support praying for and assisting to support the vocation to priesthood and the religious life.

**Exposition:** St John's Church Monday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Wednesdays in St John's Church, from 2-4 pm, with Rosary at 3:45 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, 11 am, St John's; 7.30 pm Vigil, St Mary's Dunboe; 9.45 am, Our Lady of the Assumption, Aghadowey.

## Creggan

**Sycamore:** The Sycamore sessions continue in St Mary's Parochial House Conference Room on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, running from 6-7 pm. The

sessions are an opportunity to explore faith, ask questions and meet people, and include a short film and friendly chat over a cuppa. The next dates are February 27; and March 13 and 27.

**Adoration:** Exposition of Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Divine Mercy Chapel on Sundays from 1.30 pm - 6 pm, Mondays from 10.30 am - 7 pm, and Tuesday - Saturday from 10.30 am - 12 pm.

**Bereavement Support:** Parish Pastoral Bereavement Support. The Parish Pastoral Bereavement Support Group meets on the second Sunday of each month at 3 pm in the Parochial House community room. All are welcome to share a cup of tea, have a chat, remember and talk about their loved one and find support with others experiencing similar feelings. In addition to the group, there is an ongoing opportunity to speak on a one-to-one basis with an experienced grief counsellor. The contact number for more information on the group or to arrange one to one support is 07907085178.

**Polish Mass:** Mass for the Polish community will be celebrated at 4 pm every second and fourth Sunday of the month in the Divine Mercy Chapel, at St Mary's Church.

**Confession:** Monday - Friday 5-5.30 pm, Saturday 10.30 am & 5.30-6.20 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil; 10.30 am; 12.15 pm.

## Culdaff

**Good as New Shop:** St Mary's Church Bocan Redecorating Committee has the 'Good as New Shop' now open in Carndonagh. All proceeds are for the Redecorating Fund.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 8 pm Vigil; 10 am Sunday.

## Desertmartin

**Knit & Natter:** Knit & Natter classes take place in Knocknagin Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm. Bring your own project or you can help with knitting for local charities.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 7.30 pm Vigil in St Patrick's, Keenaught; and 10 am in St Mary's, Coolcalm.

**Confessions:** Saturday evenings in St Patrick's, Keenaught, from 6.30-7.10 pm.

## Donagheady (Aughabrack & Dunamanagh)

**Adoration:** Eucharistic

Adoration takes place in St Mary's, Aughabrack, on First Fridays, after 10 am Mass until 12 noon.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil, St Patrick's, and 10.30 am, St Mary's.

## Donaghmore (Killygordon)

**Holy Hour:** Prayerful reading of the Scriptures & Rosary with the Home of the Mother, Servant Sisters every Tuesday from 6.30-7.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Sessiaghoneill, Ballybofey, and every Thursday from 7-8 pm at St. Patrick's.

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Tuesdays, 10.30 am-7.30 pm, St Mary's Church, Sessiaghoneill; Thursdays, after 9.15 am Mass, St Patrick's Church, Crossroads.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, 10 am, St Patrick's; 8 pm Vigil, 9 am & 11 am, St Mary's Sessiaghoneill.

## Drumquin

**Rosary:** The Rosary is prayed each Tuesday morning at 10 am in St Patrick's Church, Drumquin.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Wednesdays from 6 pm - Mass at 7.30 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** Vigil 6.30 pm, and 11 am.

## Drumragh (Omagh)

**Prayer Group:** The Charismatic Prayer Group meetings take place in The Pastoral Centre on Thursday evenings, with Rosary at 7.30 pm and prayer meeting at 8 pm. All welcome to come and pray.

**Legion of Mary:** The Legion of Mary Men's meetings take place on the first, second and last Monday, and third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm, in St Vincent's Hall (beneath Sacred Heart Church Sacristy). Contact: Sean on 07730671370.

**Adoration:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Sacred Heart Church on Wednesdays following 10 am Mass until 6.30 pm.

**Rosary of Reparation:** On the first Saturday of each month, a Rosary of Reparation will be prayed at 1pm on Main Street, Omagh. All welcome to join.

**Stations of Cross:** The Stations are prayed after 10 am Mass in Sacred Heart Church.

**Confessions:** Confession take place on Saturdays after 10 am Mass in Sacred Heart Church.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 5.30 pm Vigil, 10 am and 12.30 pm, Sacred Heart

# Parish Post-its

Church; 10.30 am, St Mary's Drumragh.

## Dungiven

**Legion of Mary:** The Legion of Mary meets every Tuesday at 7 pm in the Parish Committee Room. New members welcome. If anyone would like to have the Legion of Mary Statue, (Our Lady of Peace), please telephone 078 9552 9563. Many blessings have been bestowed upon those who have taken the statue to their home for a week. And we host the Rosary on the first Monday of each month, at 7 pm, in Emmaus Hall, beside St Patrick's Church. Special intentions are prayed for and light refreshments provided. **Prayer Group:** The St Canice's Charismatic Prayer Group meets each Thursday at 7 pm, in the Conference Room, and invites anyone who wishes to deepen their faith through shared Scripture, Prayer and Praise. **St Pio Healing Mass:** A St Pio Healing Mass is celebrated monthly, on the first Thursday, in St Patrick's Church at 7 pm.

**Society of St Joseph:** The Society of St Joseph's for the support of religious vocations meets on the second Tuesdays of the month in the Committee Room, after 10 am Mass in St Patrick's Church.

**Children's Liturgy:** Children's liturgy recommences on Sunday, October 20 and will continue every third Sunday of the month at 11.30 am Mass. Children from P2-P4 are invited to participate.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross will be prayed after the 10 am Mass on Fridays, in St Patrick's Church.

**Rosary:** The Rosary is prayed on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 9.35 am, in St Patrick's Church.

**Adoration:** Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9 am-6 pm, and Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 am-8 pm, in Adoration Chapel.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, 9 am and 11.30 am, St Patrick's; 10.15 am, St Matthew's; and 4.30 pm, Immaculate Conception.

**Confession:** Confession is available in St Patrick's Church at 11 am on Saturdays.

## Errigal

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Mondays after 10 am Mass in St Mary's Church, Ballerin, until 2.30 pm.

**Rosary & Chaplet:** The

Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are prayed in St Joseph's Church, Glenullin, every Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, St Joseph's Church, Glenullin, and St Mary's Church, 10 am, St Mary's, Ballerin, and 11.30 am in St Joseph's, Glenullin.

## Faughanvale

**Rosary:** The Rosary is prayed every Friday at 7 pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**Vocations Society of St Joseph:** The Faughanvale Branch meets in St Mary's Church on the second Monday of the month (not Jan July, August) following morning Mass. They pray for and sponsor vocations to the priesthood. New members are needed. The meeting only takes less than an hour. **Rosary for Priests and for Vocations:** A Rosary for priests and vocations is recited each Monday before morning Mass.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 5 pm Vigil, 12 noon, Star of the Sea; 6.30 pm Vigil, 10 am, St Mary's.

## Granaghan (Swatragh)

**Weekend Mass Times:** 12 noon & 7 pm Vigils; 10.30 am.

## Greencastle

**Divine Mercy:** The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed on the First Tuesday of every month at 12.15 pm before Mass in St Patrick's Church, Greencastle.

**Adoration:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in St Patrick's Church on Thursdays, 6-10 pm.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross are prayed after 7.30 pm Mass on Fridays in St Patrick's, Greencastle.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, St Patrick's, and 11.30 am, Our Lady of Wayside, Broughderg.

## Greenlough

**Rosary:** Tuesday Night Rosary is prayed at 7.30 pm in the Church.

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place in St Oliver Plunkett's Church from 9 am-5 pm on Thursdays.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 5.30 pm Vigil, live-streamed to Bellaghy; 11 am, live-streamed from Bellaghy.

## Iskaheen, Drung & Muff

**Cemetery Blessings:** The Blessing of the Graves will take place in Drung on Sunday, July 26, at 1.30 pm;

Muff on Sunday, August 9, at 3 pm; and Iskaheen on Sunday, August 9, at 5 pm.

The Blessing of Children's Graveyards will take place on Sunday, August 23, at 1 pm in Ballyargus and at 1.30 pm in Drung.

**Pilgrim Walk:** The Pilgrim Walk to St Patrick's Well and Blessing of the Children's Graveyard will take place on Sunday, August 16, leaving McNally's, Ture, at 3 pm.

**Adoration:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Tuesdays after 10 am Mass, until 2 pm, in St Patrick's Church, Iskaheen.

**Divine Mercy:** Divine Mercy Devotions take place on Wednesdays after 10 am Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Muff.

**Rosary:** The Rosary is prayed before all weekday Masses.

**St Peregrine Novena & Blessing:** The St Peregrine Novena Mass and relic blessing takes place on the First Fridays at 7 pm, alternating between the three parish churches.

**Confessions:** Confessions are available in Iskaheen on Saturdays, 9.45-10 am, and in Muff on Saturdays, 6 pm, and after 6.30 pm Vigil Mass

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil, 11.30 am, Sacred Heart Church, Muff; 8 pm Vigil, 10.15 am, St Columba's, Drung; 9 am, St Patrick's, Iskaheen.

## Kilrea

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Mondays, from 12 noon - 7pm, at St Mary's Drumagarnier. Concludes with Public Prayers.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross are prayed on Sundays in St Anne's Oratory at 7 pm, with Confessions beforehand from 6.30-6.50 pm.

**SVP:** The St Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10 am -1pm. Confession: Confession is available immediately after the 7 pm Vigil Mass in St Anne's Oratory each Saturday. Alternatively, feel free to request the sacrament before or after any weekday Mass.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 7 pm, Vigil, St Anne's Oratory; 10am St Mary's, Drumagarnier; 12 noon, St Mary's, Craigavole.

## Lavey

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Fridays after 9.15 am Mass until 5 pm.

**Confession:** Confessions are heard from 5.15-5.45 pm on Saturdays.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, 9 am and 11 am.

## Leckpatrick

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Wednesdays from 8.30 am Mass until 5.30 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 5 pm Vigil, St Mary's Church, Cloughcor; 9.45 am St Joseph's Church, Glenmornan; 11.15 am, Sacred Heart Church, Derry Road.

## Lifford (Murlog)

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Wednesdays from 8.30 am Mass until 5.30 pm.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross are recited publicly each Friday after 9.30 am Mass in St Patrick's Church, Murlog.

**Adoration:** 9.30 am-12.30 pm.

**Confessions:** Saturday, 6-6.15 pm

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil; 11 am.

## Limavady

**Children's Prayer:** A Children's Prayer Group is held in the Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, on the First Saturday of every month, from 2.30-3.30 pm. All welcome. Contact: Kathy on 07538749627.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place in St Mary's Church on Thursdays, from 1-6 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 4.30 pm Vigil, 9 am, 12 noon, Christ the King Church; 6 pm Vigil, St Finlough's Church; 10.30 am, St Mary's Church.

## Maghera

**Holy Face of Jesus:** The Holy Face of Jesus prayers take place every Tuesday after the 9.30 am Mass and Divine Mercy.

**Pray & Play:** The Maghera Parish Pray and Play for Parents, Grandparents & Tots (three years old and younger) meets every Friday, in the Fairhill Youth Centre, after the 10 am Mass. It runs from 10.30 am until 12 noon.

**Confession:** Daily after morning Mass (except Sunday and Holydays), and St Mary's at 7 pm on Wednesdays (before evening Mass) and Saturdays at 11am/12noon and 5.30pm/6.15pm

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil and 11.30 am, St Mary's; 9.30 am, St Patrick's.

## Magilligan

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place in St Aidan's Church on Wednesdays, from 3-7 pm, and on the First Sundays

from 3-6 pm.

## Malin

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, and 10.30 am, St Patrick's Church; Vigil 8 pm, Star of the Sea Church; 9 am, St. Mary's Church.

## Melmount

**Adoration:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the church on Mondays after 10.30 am - 6.30 pm (Benediction at 6.30 pm if priest available).

**Confessions:** Second and fourth Saturdays at 11.30 am in St Mary's; for First Fridays - after Mass Thursday & Friday mornings (if no funeral) and after First Friday evening Mass.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 7 pm Vigil, 11.30 am.

## Moville

**Music:** Music continues on Thursday evenings at 8 pm in Moville Men's Shed. Love Music? Just Show Up! Singers, players, and socialisers alike are all welcome for a relaxing evening at one of the few Shed activities open to both men and women.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross are prayed after 10 am Mass on Fridays.

**Prayer:** The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited in St Pius X Church, Moville, at 7.30 pm every day, from Sunday-Thursday.

**Adoration:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Mondays, from 2-9 pm, and Wednesdays, 6-9 pm, in St Pius X Church.

**Confessions:** Confessions will be heard in St Pius X Church on Saturdays from 5.45-6.15 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil, 10 am, St Pius X Church. 11.30 am on alternate Sundays in St Mary's Ballybrack, and St Columba's Ballinacrae.

## Sion Mills

**Bible Study:** A Bible Study group meets on Wednesday evenings, from 7-8 pm, in the parish room next to Sion Mills Church. This group shares on the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday.

**Adoration:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Fridays, from 10.30 am - 6.30 pm (ending with Benediction if priest available). The Blessed Sacrament can also be adored in the Adoration Room in St Theresa's anytime while the Church is open.

**Legion of Mary:** The Legion of Mary meets in the Green Room, behind the church, each Monday evening at 7.30

pm. This is open not only to members of the Legion but to anyone interested in joining. Anyone can come along to the start of the meeting for the Rosary.

**Confessions:** First, third and fifth Saturdays at 10.30 am in St Theresa's.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 5.30 pm Vigil; 9.30 am.

## Steelstown & Culmore

**Lectio Divina:** Lectio Divina is a way of praying the Scriptures together and takes place every Wednesday after 10 am Mass, in the Parish Conference Room. All welcome.

**Adoration:** Mondays after 10 am Mass until 6.50 pm.

**Stations of the Cross:** Come along to reflect on the Way of the Cross on Fridays at 7.30 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.30 pm Vigil; 9 am, 11 am, and 12:15 pm.

## Strabane (Camus)

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Wednesdays from 8.30 am Mass until 5.30 pm.

**Stations of Cross:** Stations of the Cross are recited publicly each Friday after 10 am Mass in Immaculate Conception Church.

**Adoration:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every day, from 10.30 am-1 pm, in the Adoration Chapel (Oasis of Peace), which is situated at the back of the Church.

**Prayer Group:** The Contemplative Prayer Group meets on Mondays at 8 pm in the Prayer Room in the Parochial House. All welcome. Entry by Parish Priest's front door.

**Society of St Joseph:** The St John Vianney branch of the Society of St Joseph (the three combined Strabane parishes) meets on the first Tuesday of the month, excluding January, July and August, with Rosary in the church after 10 am Mass and continues in St Patrick's Hall. More people are encouraged to join in this prayer for new students to join the priesthood. The Society assists Irish and overseas student. Please contact Margaret Harte on 028 71 883159.

**Padre Pio Mass:** The Padre Pio Mass takes place in the Church on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, with Rosary beforehand at 6.40 pm.

**Grotto Rosary:** The Rosary is recited at the Grotto on the last Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, 9.45 am & 12.15 pm.

## Templemore - St

### Eugene's

**Parish Pilgrimage:** There will be a Parish Pilgrimage to Doon Well & Ards Friary, Co Donegal, on Wednesday, July 22. The cost of £40 includes transport and meals, with morning tea in Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, and lunch in The Carrigart Hotel. Bus departs the Cathedral at 9.30 am. Pre-booking only. Call into the Parish Office to book or contact via telephone: 028 71 262894; or email: cathedral@derrydiocese.org.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Sunday, there is Eucharistic Adoration from 3-6 pm and every Tuesday from 10.30 am until 7.20 pm.

**Matt Talbot Mass:** The Matt Talbot, Freedom from addiction Mass takes place on the first Monday of each month at 7.30 pm in St Eugene's Cathedral.

**St Dymphna Mass:** The St Dymphna Mass with Anointing of the Sick takes place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. This Mass is to give thanks to God for positive mental health and to pray for those who are struggling with mental health issues and those who care for them.

**Cathedral Club:** The Cathedral Club meets after the 10 am Mass each Thursday in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is welcome to this parish social group. Refreshments will be served.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.15 pm & 7.30 pm Vigils; 9.30 am, 11 am, 12.30 pm & 7 pm.

## Templemore - Long

### Tower

**'From St Columba to Sister Clare':** Evening of Prayer in St Columba's Church, Long Tower on the first Thursday of each month, at 7 pm for Rosary (Confessions available), then 7.30pm Mass, followed by mini vigil to midnight for healing and intercession. At this Mass, we will pray for the cause of Sr Clare in the Monastic site where St Columba knelt and prayed. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Mental Health Mass:** A monthly Mass for Mental Health, and a mini-Vigil to midnight, takes place on the first Thursdays at 7.30 pm. This Mass is to give thanks to God for positive mental health, and to pray for those struggling with mental health issues and those who care for them. After Mass, Adoration will follow until midnight.

**Purple Hearts:** The Purple Hearts group gathers every Tuesday in Aras

## Parish Post-its

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Cholmcille after 10 am Mass in Long Tower, for a cuppa, conversation, and some activities such as dancing, knitting, bingo and organising day trips. All welcome.

**Long Tower & Brandywell Memories:** A collection of old cine film transferred to DVD, taken from 1950's onward. The pack contains a double DVD with many clips of Derry in the 50s up to 80s. Much of the footage was filmed in the Brandywell area and the Long Tower School. Cost £10, available from Parish Office and Aras Cholmcille.

**Children's Rosary:** Children's Rosary takes place in the Long Tower on the First Friday of every month, at 3.30 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, 10 am & 12 noon.

**Siopa Cholmcille:** St Columba's Gift Shop in Aras Cholmcille has a variety of Confirmation/First Holy Communion gifts & cards, candles, Rosary beads, books, occasion cards and other gifts & mementos available. The shop is open after 10am morning Mass during the week. For enquiries, please contact Sheila Doyle/Jim Doherty via (parish office 028-7126230 or Sacristy 028-71261946) who will be happy to help.

**Cloisters Café:** Cloisters Café in Aras Cholmcille (Wee Nuns building), in the grounds of Long Tower Church, is a cosy place to relax and have a bite to eat or a cuppa and a cake! The café is open Tuesday – Saturday, from 10 am to 3 pm.

### Three Patrons

**New Course:** The Parish is running a course entitled, "Genesis (1-11) and Church Teaching" on Thursdays in the Kildare Room, St Brigid's, Carnhill, from 7-8 pm. All are welcome; bring along a Bible and come discover how these ancient stories speak powerfully to our faith today.

**Children's Rosary:** Children's Rosary takes place in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, on the second Saturday of the month, at 2 pm.

**Legion of Mary:** The Legion of Mary meets on Mondays, from 1-3 pm in the Meeting Room at St Joseph's Church, Galliagh.

**Folk Group:** The Carnhill Folk Group meets on Mondays from 7-8.30 pm in St Brigid's Church.

**St Brigid's Choir:** The 10.30 am St Brigid's Choir meets on Thursdays from 5-5.30 pm in St Brigid's Church.

**Bible Study:** Bible Study takes place on Tuesdays after 11 am Mass in the Meeting Room, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh.

**Men's Bible Study:** Men's Bible Study takes place in the Upper Room in St Brigid's Chapel, Carnhill, on Tuesdays from 7.30-8.30 pm.

**Women's Bible Study:** Women's Bible Study takes place on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm, in the Upper Room, St Brigid's Church, Carnhill. God Club: God Club is an opportunity for teenagers to learn together about their faith. It takes place in the Kildare Room, Carnhill, on Saturdays from 11.30 am until 12.30 pm.

**Family/Youth Mass:** A Family/Youth Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's

Church, Galliagh. Everyone is welcome.

**Be Still:** Be Still is a Men's Prayer and Friendship Group that meets every Thursday night from 8.15-10 pm in Our Lady's Chapel, within St Joseph's Church building, Galliagh. Its mission as a group is to provide a safe place where men can pray and share in a confidential and supportive setting. All men are welcome.

**Holy Hour:** A Holy Hour for the Unborn & Expectant Mothers takes place on Thursdays at 7 pm in Our Lady's Chapel, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. All welcome.

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration takes place in Our Lady's Chapel, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh, on Tuesdays from 11 am until 7 pm. It also takes place seven days a week in the Adoration Room in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, from 8 am until 8 pm, and in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, on Wednesdays from 10.30 am – 7 pm.

**Youth Prayer Group:** A Youth Prayer Group takes place on Thursdays, from 7.30-8.30 pm, in St Pio Centre, Galliagh.

**First Saturday:** On the First Saturday of each month, after 11 am Mass in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, there is Adoration and Rosary, ending with Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3 pm.

**Living Disciples:** Living Disciples meet on Tuesdays at 7.30-8.30 pm in St Pio House, St Joseph's Church grounds, for Praise & Worship, friendship and a cup of tea. All welcome.

**Holy Face Devotions:** Devotions to the Holy Face

of Jesus takes place every Tuesday after 11 am Mass in Our Lady's Chapel, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. All welcome

**St Pio Mass:** A monthly Mass in honour of St Pio takes place on the first Monday at 7 pm in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn.

**Healing Night:** A Healing Night with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal takes place monthly on the first Friday, from 7-10 pm, in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh. Everyone welcome.

**Holy Souls Prayer:** Under The Gaze of Our Lady of Montligeon, the Holy Souls of Purgatory Prayer Meeting takes place on Mondays after 11 am Mass in Our Lady's Chapel, within St Joseph's Church, Galliagh, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The Group also meet in Termonbacca on the last Wednesday of every month, from 12.30-1.30 pm.

**Vocations Society:** The Vocations Society of St Joseph hold monthly meetings on First Fridays after 10 am Mass, in the Emmaus Room, Pennyburn. New members welcome.

**Women's Laugh & Craft:** The Women's Laugh & Craft Group meets every Monday from 7-9 pm in the Kildare Room, St Brigid's, Carnhill. £3 per class. Spaces limited. St Pio Café: St Pio's Café, in the St Pio Centre, Galliagh, is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11.30 am-2.30 pm.

**Confessions:** Confessions takes place in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh, on Tuesdays from 6.15-6.45 pm and Sundays from 5.30-6 pm; in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, on Wednesdays

from 6.15-6.45 pm, and Saturdays from 5.15-5.45 pm; and in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill, on Thursdays from 6.15-6.45 pm, and Saturdays after 11 am Mass and from 4-4.30 pm.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6.15 pm Vigil & 9.45 am, St Patrick's, Pennyburn; 5 pm Vigil, 10.30 am & 12.30 pm St Brigid's, Carnhill; 11 am, 12.30 pm (An tAifreann Naofa), and 6.30 pm Youth Mass, St Joseph's Galliagh.

### Urney & Castletinn

**First Saturdays:** The First Saturday Devotion and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament take place in St Columba's Church, Doneyloop, from 12 noon until 1 pm on the First Saturday of each month.

**Adoration:** Weekly Eucharistic Adoration takes place in St Anthony's Chapel

every Tuesday, from 12 noon until 8 pm.

**Cenacle:** The Cenacle for Priests takes place every Tuesday in St Anthony's Chapel immediately after the 7 pm Mass.

**Weekend Mass Times:** 6 pm Vigil, St Columba's, Doneyloop; 10.30 am, St Mary's Castletinn.

### Waterside & Strathfoyle

**Lectio Divina:** Reflect on the Scriptures with Lectio Divina in the side chapel in St Columba's Church, Chapel Road, on Thursday nights, starting at 8.15 pm – after evening Mass.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** There is Eucharistic Adoration in St Oliver Plunkett Church, Strathfoyle, on Mondays from 11.30 am – 12.30 pm, and Wednesdays

from 6.30-8.30 pm; in Immaculate Conception Church on Thursdays, 1-6 pm; and in St Columba's Church on Fridays, 1-6 pm.

**Confessions:** St Columba's – Saturday after 10 am Mass, Monday-Friday 7-7.25 pm, before evening Mass; Immaculate Conception – Saturdays 5.30-5.55 pm, before Vigil Mass; St Oliver Plunkett – Saturdays 5.30-5.55 pm, before the Vigil Mass.

**Weekend Mass Times:** St Columba's, Saturdays, 10 am and 7 pm Vigil, Sundays, 10 am, 12.30 pm, 6 pm; Immaculate Conception, Saturdays, 6 pm Vigil, Sundays, 10.15 am & 12.15 pm; St Oliver Plunkett, Saturdays, 6 pm Vigil and 11.15 am; St Mary's Oratory, Sundays, 9.15 am.

## ...other Diary Dates

### Youth 2000 Summer Ball:

Youth 2000 are hosting a 30+ Reunion Ball on July 25 at the Osprey Hotel, Naas, with Holy Mass celebrated beforehand at 4 pm in Newbridge. Last year, Youth 2000 celebrated its 35th anniversary. Since Youth 2000 arrived in Ireland, many people have been impacted by its work and mission, with many personal encounters of Jesus in the Eucharist and life-long friendships. Many beautiful vocations have also been discovered and nourished through Youth 2000. This event is a wonderful opportunity for all friends, benefactors, former volunteers and retreatants to gather to reminisce and celebrate all that Youth 2000 has given. It is also an opportunity to find out more about how to support this generation of Youth 2000 volunteers and leaders. Tickets are now available through Eventbrite using the link in our bio. More information is also available on our website at youth2000.ie

**Derry Search Youth Group:** The monthly Search prayer meeting takes place on the first Sunday of each month, at 7 pm Everyone is welcome whether you have been before or not. It will start with a cup of tea, then open the prayer meeting with a theme to reflect on. The meeting is in the Search centre at Iona Business Park, Southway.

**Anam Óg:** This faith-based youth group, for those aged 8-14 years, meets on Sundays in Termonbacca, Derry, to explore the faith through fun and friendship, from 6-7.15 pm. We are always open to

to attend.

**St Therese Prayer Hour:** This year, it is 100 years since St Therese of Lisieux was declared a Saint. In order to mark this wonderful occasion, the Carmelites at Termonbacca Retreat Centre, in Derry, have built a new chapel which holds a first-class relic of St Therese. There is a weekly prayer hour on Mondays in the Termonbacca St Therese Chapel, which contains first-

new members or anyone who wants to give it a try. If anyone wishes to sign their child up, you can do so at this link: <https://forms.gle/RFFF9kffzE5yBtq8A>

**BLESSING OF GREENLOUGH'S GROTTTO**  
Dedicated to OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED BY  
**The Most Reverend Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry and Fr. Pat O'Hagan, Parish Priest**  
SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
Followed by REFRESHMENTS in the BANN VALLEY HALL

**FR JACK GALLAGHER Memorial Cycle**  
SUNDAY 02 AUGUST 2026  
£15.00 ENTRY  
Leaving from St Anne's Hall, Faughanvale to The Drift Inn Bunclraha  
Registration from 9.15am - Cycle starts 10am  
Music by Carphonics, refreshments & raffle will take place on the day  
For more info contact Andrew Barr, T: 0779 1760237  
All proceeds in aid of Foyle Hospice

POWERFUL CATHOLIC TESTIMONY, NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE AND SPENT 2 HOURS IN PURGATORY. PROFOUND SPIRITUAL VISIONS.  
By his STRIPES we are HEALED  
Mary McDonagh, Rhonda McColgan, Tony O'Leary, Neal McDonagh, Damien Richardson, Denis O'Leary, Daraagh Keenan, Mike Dwyne  
SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 10AM  
MASS ST JOSEPH'S CHAPEL FAIRVIEW ROAD, GALLIAGH DERRY T: 8148 8NU  
EVENT STARTS AFTER HOLY MASS IN ST PIO HOUSE  
FOOD PROVIDED | DONATIONS WELCOME

# Parish Post-its

## ...other Diary Dates cont.

class relic of St Therese, praying for her intercession, particularly praying for world peace. The prayer will be from 7.30-8.30 pm and everyone is welcome to come along and join in.

**Ladies' Bible Study:** Ladies interested in coming to a deeper understanding of scripture are welcome to come along to the Ladies' Bible Study in Termonbacca, Derry, every Tuesday evening from 8:30-9:30 pm. It is led by Fr Stephen Quinn ocd, who is currently working through the Gospel of Mark, which is the Gospel for Mass for this year. This Bible Study is open to all women who are interested in coming along. There is no need to book, you can simply show up. For further information contact Termonbacca on 028 71 262512.

**Servant Sisters:** The Sisters of the Home of the Mother are hosting weekly formation meetings

on Tuesdays, at 7.30 pm, in the Parochial House at Cross, Killygordon, (F93PN0X), and the weekly Holy Hours on Thursdays at 7 pm.

**Holy Souls Prayer:** Under The Gaze of Our Lady of Montligeon, the Holy Souls of Purgatory Prayer Meeting takes place on Mondays after 11 am Mass in Our Lady's Chapel, within St Joseph's Church, Galliagh, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The Group will also meet in Termonbacca on the last Wednesday of every month, from 12.30-1.30 pm.

**Polish Mass:** Mass for the Polish community is celebrated in the Church of Christ The King, Strathroy, Omagh, on the first and third Sundays of each month at 10 am, and at 9.30 am every second and fourth Sunday in the Divine Mercy Chapel, at St Mary's Church, Creggan, in Derry City.

**Stations of Cross:** On the First Friday of each month, after 10 am Mass in St Eugene's, there is a silent procession from the Cathedral to St Columba's Church, Long Tower, meditating on the Stations of the Cross.

**Coastal Rosary:** Rosary on the Coast for world peace and the protection of unborn babies takes place at Lisfannon Beach, Buncrana, on the first Sunday of every month at 3 pm, and at Benone Strand on the third Sunday of every month, at 3 pm.

**Men's Rosary:** The Men's Rosary takes place on the first Saturday of every month at Market Street, Omagh (opposite Primark) and at the side of O'Neill's Sports Store, near Guildhall Square, at 1 pm. All Welcome!

**Sr Clare Mass:** Mass in honour of Sr Clare Crockett is celebrated on the second Sunday of each month, at 7 pm, in Termonbacca. All welcome. The Mass is streamed live via Termonbacca YouTube

channel.

**Reading with the Carmelites:** The Carmelite Fathers at Termonbacca hold a monthly session of 'Reading with the Carmelite Saints', to explore learning friendship with Christ through the example of the Carmelite Saints. It takes place on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm.

**Healing Night:** The monthly Healing Night with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh, in Derry, takes place on the First Friday of each month, at 7 pm.

**Sr Clare Rosary:** The Sr Clare Rosary continues every Monday night, at 8.30 pm, in St Joseph's Room, at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca.

**Matt Talbot Society:** The Matt Talbot Society Mass, praying for those suffering from addiction, is offered for those enrolled on the first Monday of every month in St Eugene's Cathedral, at 7.30 pm.

## Diocesan Diary

**Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage:** There will be a Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima for young people aged 16+, for five nights from August 3-8. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £820 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more info or to book contact bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org 00442871264087.

**Derry Lough Derg Pilgrimage:** The Diocesan Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg will take place from Friday, July 24 to

Sunday, July 26. A bus will travel there from St Eugene's Cathedral, via Strabane and Lifford. The cost is £95/110 Euros, including bus transport. Pilgrims can use their own transport if they wish. A booking form and full details are available at: derrydiocese/lough-derg.

**Accord Derry:** Marriage Preparation Workshops will take place in September and November as follows - September 25/26 and November 20/21. These courses are now online for booking at www.accordni.com. Please note that Accord Derry will not be facilitating courses during October or December.

## DDS Daily Masses 2025-2026

### St Eugene's

17 Jan, 9 Mar, 29 Apr, 19 Jun, 9 Aug, 29 Sep, 19 Nov

### St Columba's

18 Jan, 10 Mar, 30 Apr 20 Jun, 10 Aug, 30 Sep, 20 Nov

### The Three Patrons

19 Jan, 11 Mar, 1 May, 21 Jun, 11 Aug, 1 Oct, 21 Nov

### St Mary's, Creggan

30 Nov 2025, 20 Jan, 12 Mar, 2 May, 22 Jun, 12 Aug, 2 Oct, 22 Nov

### Our Lady of Lourdes

1 Dec 2025, 21 Jan, 13 Mar, 3 May, 23 Jun, 13 Aug, 3 Oct, 23 Nov

### Holy Family

2 Dec, 2025, 22 Jan, 14 Mar, 4 May, 24 Jun, 14 Aug, 4 Oct, 24 Nov

### Culmore

3 Dec 2025, 23 Jan, 15 Mar, 5 May, 25 Jun, 15 Aug, 5 Oct, 25 Nov

### Glendermott

4 Dec 2025, 24 Jan, 16 Mar, 6 May, 26 Jun, 16 Aug, 6 Oct, 26 Nov

### Donagheady

5 Dec 2025, 25 Jan, 17 Mar, 7 May, 27 Jun, 17 Aug, 7 Oct, 27 Nov

### Leckpatrick

6 Dec 2025, 26 Jan, 18 Mar, 8 May, 28 Jun, 18 Aug, 8 Oct, 28 Nov

### Ardmore

7 Dec 2025, 27 Jan, 19 Mar, 9 May, 29 Jun, 19 Aug, 9 Oct

### Strathfoyle

8 Dec 2025, 28 Jan, 20 Mar, 10 May, 30 Jun, 20 Aug, 10 Oct

### Camus

9 Dec 2025, 29 Jan, 21 Mar, 11 May, 1 Jul, 21 Aug, 11 Oct

### Urney & Castlefin

10 Dec 2025, 30 Jan, 22 Mar, 12 May, 2 Jul, 22 Aug, 12 Oct

### Mourne

11 Dec 2025, 31 Jan, 23 Mar, 13 May, 3 Jul, 23 Aug, 13 Oct

### Donaghmore

12 Dec 2025, 1 Feb, 24 Mar, 14 May, 4 Jul, 24 Aug, 14 Oct

### Termonamongan

13 Dec 2025, 2 Feb, 25 Mar, 15 May, 5 Jul, 25 Aug, 15 Oct

### Langfield

14 Dec 2025, 3 Feb, 26 Mar, 16 May, 6 Jul, 26 Aug, 16 Oct

### Sion Mills

15 Dec 2025, 4 Feb, 27 Mar, 17 May, 7 Jul, 27 Aug, 17 Oct

### Ardstraw East

16 Dec 2025, 5 Feb, 28 Mar, 18 May, 8 Jul, 28 Aug, 18 Oct

### Ardstraw W & C'derg

17 Dec 2025, 6 Feb, 29 Mar, 19 May, 9 Jul, 29 Aug, 19 Oct

### Clonleigh

18 Dec 2025, 7 Feb, 30 Mar, 20 May, 10 Jul, 30 Aug, 20 Oct

### Drumragh

19 Dec 2025, 8 Feb, 31 Mar, 21 May, 11 Jul, 31 Aug, 21 Oct

### Cappagh

20 Dec 2025, 9 Feb, 1 Apr, 22 May, 12 Jul, 1 Sep, 22 Oct

### Greencastle

21 Dec 2025, 10 Feb, 23 May, 13 Jul, 2 Sep, 23 Oct

### Badoney Lower

22 Dec 2025, 11 Feb, 24 May, 14 Jul, 3 Sep, 24 Oct

### Badoney Upper

23 Dec 2025, 12 Feb, 25 May, 15 Jul, 4 Sep, 25 Oct

### Maghera

24 Dec 2025, 13 Feb, 5 Apr, 26 May, 16 Jul, 5 Sep, 26 Oct

### Desertmartin

25 Dec 2025, 14 Feb, 6 Apr, 27 May, 17 Jul, 6 Sep, 27 Oct

### Faughanvale

26 Dec 2025, 15 Feb, 7 Apr, 28 May, 18 Jul, 7 Sep, 28 Oct

### Claudy

27 Dec 2025, 16 Feb, 8 Apr, 29 May 19 Jul, 8 Sep, 29 Oct

### Banagher

28 Dec 2025, 17 Feb, 9 Apr, 30 May 20 Jul, 9 Sep, 30 Oct

### Ballinascreen

29 Dec 2025, 18 Feb 10 Apr, 31 May 21 Jul, 10 Sep, 31 Oct

### Dungiven

30 Dec 2025, 19 Feb, 11 Apr, 1 Jun, 22 Jul, 11 Sep, 1 Nov

### Limavady

31 Dec 2025, 20 Feb, 12 Apr, 2 Jun, 23 Jul, 12 Sep, 2 Nov

### Magilligan

1 Jan, 21 Feb, 13 Apr, 3 Jun, 24 Jul, 13 Sep, 3 Nov

### Coleraine

2 Jan, 22 Feb, 14 Apr, 4 Jun, 25 Jul, 14 Sep, 4 Nov

### Garvagh

3 Jan, 23 Feb, 15 Apr, 5 Jun, 26 Jul, 15 Sep, 5 Nov

### Kilrea

4 Jan, 24 Feb, 16 Apr, 6 Jun, 27 Jul, 16 Sep, 6 Nov

### Greenlough

5 Jan, 25 Feb, 17 Apr, 7 Jun, 28 Jul, 17 Sep, 7 Nov

### Bellaghy

6 Jan, 26 Feb, 18 Apr, 8 Jun, 29 Jul, 18 Sep, 8 Nov

### Lavey

7 Jan, 27 Feb, 19 Apr, 9 Jun, 30 Jul, 19 Sep, 9 Nov

### Moville

8 Jan, 28 Feb, 20 Apr, 10 Jun, 31 Jul, 20 Sep, 10 Nov

### Granaghan

9 Jan, 1 Mar, 21 Apr, 11 Jun, 1 Aug, 21 Sep, 11 Nov

### Buncrana

10 Jan, 2 Mar, 22 Apr, 12 Jun, 2 Aug, 22 Sep, 12 Nov

### Fahan

11 Jan, 3 Mar, 23 Apr, 13 Jun, 3 Aug, 23 Sep, 13 Nov

### Clonmany

12 Jan, 4 Mar, 24 Apr, 14 Jun, 4 Aug, 24 Sep, 14 Nov

### Carndonagh

13 Jan, 5 Mar, 25 Apr, 15 Jun, 5 Aug, 25 Sep, 15 Nov

### Malin

14 Jan, 6 Mar, 26 Apr, 16 Jun, 6 Aug, 26 Sep, 16 Nov

### Iskaheen

15 Jan, 7 Mar, 27 Apr, 17 Jun, 7 Aug, 27 Sep, 17 Nov

### Culdaff

16 Jan, 8 Mar, 28 Apr 18 Jun, 8 Aug, 28 Sep, 18 Nov

### 1ST FRIDAY MASS FOR LIVING MEMBERS 2025 / 2026

Magilligan 12/5/25

Granaghan 1/2/26

Termonamongan 2/6/26

Ardstraw West /Castlederg 3/6/26

Cappagh 4/10/26

Donagheady 5/1/26

Donaghmore 6/5/26

Langfield 7/3/26

Badoney Lower 8/7/26

Greencastle 9/4/26

Leckpatrick 10/2/26

Clonleigh 11/6/26

## Forty Hours - June & July

Sun 7 June	St Mary's, Killyclogher	Cappagh
Sun 7 June	St Patrick's	Aghyaran
Sun 7 June	Oratory of Mary, Mother of God	Newtownstewart
Sun 14 June	St Mary's	Lavey
Sun 14 June	St Mary's, Aughabrack	Donagheady
Sun 14 June	Our Lady of the Assumption,	Aghadowey, Coleraine
Sun 21 June	St Columba's	Glendermott
Sun 21 June	St Aengus, Burt	Fahan
Sun 21 June	Sacred Heart	Carndonagh
Sun 28 June	St Joseph's, Craigbane	Claudy
Sun 28 June	St Patrick's, Cranagh	Badoney Upper (Plumbridge)
Sun 28 June	St Eugene's, Moneyneena	Ballinascreen
Sun 5 July	St Patrick's, Aghaclay	Malin
Sun 5 July	St Mary's	Bellaghy
Sun 12 July	St Columba's, Ballinacree	Moville
Sun 12 July	St Mary's	Fahan
Sun 19 July	St Mary's, Knockmoyle	Cappagh
Sun 19 July	St Mary's Oratory	Buncrana
Sun 26 July	Star of the Sea, Malin Head	Malin
Sun 26 July	St Patrick's	Clonleigh

# Infinite possibilities *Fr Johnny Doherty CSSR*

I was talking recently to a woman who had a cataract removed from one of her eyes just the day before. She had resisted the procedure for a good while. She thought that her eyesight was fine, and any defects in it were due to age. Now that she had the cataract removed, she could not believe the difference it made. She could see colours that she did not believe existed. And she could make out details of things that she had forgotten were there. Things were going to get even better because she had drops to put into her eye every day for the next couple of weeks. She cannot wait to get the second eye done!

## An old saying

There is an old saying that goes like this: "You do not see things as they are. You see things as you are." This saying was literally true for the woman I was talking to. The cataract was determining how much she could see, and all the time she thought that this was all there was to see.

But this saying is true in much more than our physical eyesight. It is true because of our moods, for example. If you are in good form on a day, everything looks good. Even the rain cannot get you down. If you are in bad form on another day, for whatever reason, everything annoys you. Even the sunshine gets on your nerves and you pull the curtains in your house because the sun is getting to you! Very often it is not the weather that needs to change. There is nothing we can do about that. It is we that need to change and we can deal with that.

## Life experiences

Our life experiences can also dictate to us how we see things

around us in our life. This is particularly true of the hurts of our lives, when these bring anger into our hearts.

Most, if not all, of us get angry at times. This anger can be justified, especially when it is in a good cause like justice or fairness or truth. But there is an anger that can distort everything for us. This needs to be dealt with, a bit like the cataract in our physical eye.

In one of his Letters, St Paul wrote: "Never let the sun go down on your anger." He does not just mean that we should put our anger away for the night and we'll sleep better! Of course, that would be worthwhile in itself. What he does mean is that we have no right to get up today with yesterday's anger. But how often we get up not just with yesterday's anger, but with last week's, or last month's, or last year's, and sometimes even much further back!

## Cold anger

It is this cold anger that prevents people from moving forward to build a bright future. It affects the individual. But it also affects families, and communities, and even whole nations. And so, we have the kind of world that we are experiencing today. It has given rise to the service of Anger Management for individuals to work through chronic anger. It has also made possible the many services of counselling for couples and families to help restore love and peace to many homes and families. And, of course, there have been many efforts at Peace and Reconciliation developed that help communities and nations to let go of the past and build together a future based on mutual respect and forgiveness.

## Word of God for June

This month of June was introduced for us, as Catholics, with the celebration of the Feast of The Most Holy Trinity on Sunday, May 31. This Feast comes immediately after the Feast of Pentecost, when we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Church. This is significant because it highlights that the first place the Holy Spirit brings us is into a recognition of the True God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – three Persons in One God. This mystery is so profound that we cannot ever explain the meaning of it. And yet, we can know the truth of it through the revelation given to us by Christ in the Scriptures.

## Our limitations

It is in the face of this mystery that we can see the truth of the old saying mentioned before: "You do not see things as they are. You see things as you are." Our minds and hearts are finite and limited, no matter how great we know them to be. They cannot reach into this mystery except through the help of the mystery itself, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is one who, like the doctor removing a cataract from an eye, helps us to see far beyond ourselves and right into the heart of God. Christ tells us what to look for as He speaks to us throughout the Gospels, and now also through the teaching of the Church, with over 2,000 years of prayer and reflection and discernment.

## God – Creator/Father

Language is one of the greatest gifts that we have as human beings. It is through language that we

communicate with one another. And it is through language that we grow in wisdom and in knowledge.

But language is also one of our limitations when we come to think about and talk about God. We talk about God as male, both as one and as each person of the Trinity. But God is pure spirit. Gender does not come into the reality of God, and yet we have to communicate in words that mean something to us. One of the major tasks that the Church has today is to translate our language into inclusive language, so that we can honour God properly.

Having said all that, we look at how we honour God as our Creator. That is how we meet God first in the Book of Genesis. We depend on God for everything, including life itself. Then Jesus teaches us that we can call God 'Father' because that is a word we can understand. Jesus also speaks of God as 'Mother' because, again, we can understand that. What Jesus is saying is that God, our Creator, is not something far away from us but is very close to us, because of the love that God has for each of us personally. As St Alphonsus de Liguori, the Founder of our Redemptorist Congregation, said: "God loves us with a mad love." We are always in God's mind and heart. Do we believe this?

## God – Redeemer/Son

In Jesus of Nazareth, God has entered fully into our human nature and lived fully our human existence in everything, but He did not sin. In His life, Jesus showed us what God is like through His compassion and kindness; through His caring for the lost and the last; through His forgiveness of sinners

In His death, Jesus showed the extent of God's love for us. As the

Gospel tells us on the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity: "God loved the world so much that God has given us God's own Son."

And, in His Resurrection, Christ has heralded in the new life that God has for all humanity – eternal life of joy and happiness, as we journey forever more deeply into the wondrous mystery of our God and God's love for all of us.

## God – the Sanctifier/Holy Spirit

Now we, the Church of today, the Body of Christ spread throughout the world, continue Christ's Mission of bringing Christ's salvation to the world. We are held together as one by the Holy Spirit, who continues to teach us about Christ and about our Creator God.

The Holy Spirit also fills us with the gifts that are needed for gathering all of humanity and all of creation into the Kingdom of God. Our responsibility is to use these gifts that are in us in ways that bring peace and joy; forgiveness and reconciliation; healing and hope.

It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we celebrate the Eucharist which is the source and summit of our spirituality. And each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are sent out to bring the salvation of Christ to the world we live in.

This begins with the Church in our homes through the love of husband and wife in the Sacrament of Matrimony; the dedication of parents to their children and the love of children for their parents and each other in the Domestic Church; and the building up of the true community in our parishes and other faith communities. A true faith community is where each one generously shares their



Fr. Johnny Doherty CSSR

gifts with the community; and where there is room for everyone to flourish as they are.

## Conclusion

During this month of June, we have the opportunity of growing closer to God who loves us with a passionate love – our God, who is Father/Creator; Son/Redeemer; and Holy Spirit/Sanctifier. We can let the Holy Spirit especially remove the spiritual cataracts that are in our spiritual eyes and that prevent us from seeing the wonderful truth of God, and of God's creation of ourselves as God's image. Those same cataracts prevent us from seeing the goodness and beauty of one another in our homes and communities. The result of this is that we set great limits to our love for one another, and so we set limits to God's love for us and in us.

## Family prayer for June

I suggest that you make the following prayer a daily prayer, especially for yourselves as families during this month...

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

## Reflections from a Catholic perspective... Navigating spiritual frustration and finding healing

# When a promise made in prayer becomes a call to change

by Sinéad Strong

THERE are moments in life when prayer is not polished or planned. It rises from a place of fear, need, and honest desperation. In those moments, I may find myself whispering a promise to God: "Lord, if You help me through this, I will change." But when the answer comes, I am often faced with another question: Will I honour what I said when I was on my knees?

I think many of us know this struggle. When life is heavy, we ask God for guidance, healing, provision, forgiveness, or a breakthrough. We promise to pray more, to let go of bitterness, to serve more faithfully, to return to Him with our whole heart, or to walk away from something we know that is not good for us. In those difficult moments, we can unite our trials with Mary at the foot of the Cross, standing with Her in

trust, sorrow, and hope.

Yet, after the answer comes, the promise can begin to feel costly. The heart starts to make excuses. I may tell myself that I was emotional, that I did not really mean it in that way, or that God understands if I delay. But deep down, the conscience remembers. The Holy Spirit gently brings back to mind what was spoken in sincerity, and Jesus speaks within the heart, inviting me to listen and respond.

This is where prayer becomes more than a request. It becomes a place of surrender, perseverance, and fortitude. God is not only interested in answering my need; He is also interested in changing my heart. He wants to renew my mind, purify my motives, and teach me to live with integrity before Him, one faithful step at a time.

Answered prayer should not only bring relief; it should bring

me closer to obedience. If I asked God for help and He heard me, then my response should not be forgetfulness but gratitude. One of the deepest ways I can show gratitude is by keeping the promise that I made and allowing that promise to shape my daily life. As St Francis of Assisi is often quoted as saying, "Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible. Suddenly you are doing the impossible."

That begins today. I do not need to wait for the perfect time, the perfect feeling, or the perfect strength. I should not put off until tomorrow what I can do today. Sometimes the first act of obedience is small: A prayer said faithfully; an apology offered; a temptation resisted; a kindness shown; or a commitment quietly kept. But small acts of faith, placed in God's hands, can become channels of the Lord's love.

The call to action is simple, but it is not always easy; begin with the promise already placed before you. Do not wait for a dramatic sign if God has already shown you the next faithful step. If you promised to pray, set aside the time today. If you promised to forgive, ask for the grace to begin. If you promised to serve, look for the person in front of you who needs kindness. If you promised to change, take one honest step away from what weakens your soul and one step towards what strengthens your faith.

Each day offers a new opportunity to live what we have prayed. We can bring our weakness to Jesus, stand with Mary in trust, and ask the Holy Spirit for perseverance. We do not have to do everything at once. We simply have to begin, and then begin again when we fail.

Faithfulness is often built in

hidden places, through quiet decisions that no one else sees but God. And God, who sees what is done in love, will not be outdone in generosity.

So, my prayer is not only, "Lord, answer me." My prayer is also, "Lord, change me." Give me a renewed mind, a willing spirit, and an honest heart. Help me not to run from the promises that I made in weakness, but to walk into them with faith. Doing the things that I told God I would do will always be worth it. What He asks of me is not meant to burden me. It is often the very path He uses to bless me, refine me, and draw me nearer to Himself. I want to believe the living Word of God, listen for the voice of Jesus within, and allow my life to become a channel of His love.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for hearing me when I call to You. Give me the courage to keep



the promises that I have made in prayer. Unite my trials with Mary at the foot of the Cross, and teach me perseverance, humility, and trust. Renew my mind, strengthen my will, and help me to listen when You speak within my heart. Make me a channel of Your love today. Help me to do what is necessary, what is possible, and, by Your grace, what once seemed impossible. Amen.

# Children's Catechism Club - C3

## by Veronica Harley

HELLO children. Welcome to the month of June and the lovely summer days. This month is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This year we celebrate this beautiful feast day on June 12, and on the following day we rejoice at the Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 13. God is Love and the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the human sign of God's love for us. Jesus' Sacred Heart is overflowing with love for all humanity.



### Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You.  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me.  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your Kingdom come.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary leads us closer to God and shows us how we should love Him. Mary's heart is immaculate; this means that it is pure and without sin (CCC 411), and that she is the only fully human person who can love God in the way that He should be loved. Devotion to Mary's Immaculate heart allows us to honour Her holiness (CCC 971) and unites us closer to God (CCC 969).

### Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mary, My Mother. I give to your Immaculate Heart, my body and my soul, my thoughts and my actions.

I want to be what you want me to be and do just what you want me to do.

I am not afraid because you are always with me. Help me to love your Son, Jesus, with all my heart and above all things.

Take my hand in yours so I can always be with you.



### Corpus Christi

The glorious Feast of Corpus Christi is celebrated after Trinity Sunday. It usually falls between late May and June. The name 'Corpus Christi' is the Latin for 'Body of Christ' – the Feast of the Holy Eucharist. The actual Feast Day of the Eucharist is Holy Thursday, the Last Supper. But because of the sad events which are recalled in Holy

Week, the Eucharist is given its own special day to celebrate – Corpus Christi. One practice of devotion which allows us to show great homage to Christ is Eucharistic Adoration.



### Eucharistic Adoration

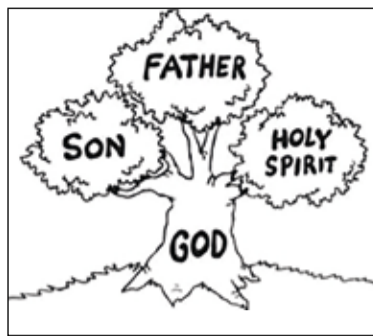
The Catholic Church has developed the beautiful practice of Eucharistic Adoration. This practice is centuries old, dating back to the Apostles, when the Eucharist was carried into the homes of those people who could not attend Mass. Eucharistic Adoration is a sign of devotion and worship of Jesus, who is truly present – Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity – in the Eucharist.

The Holy Eucharist is placed in a very special vessel called a 'monstrance'. This is made of a precious metal and is shaped like the sun to symbolise the resurrection of Jesus. The centre of the monstrance has a round glass window, through which the sacred Host can be seen. Behind the glass is a round container called a 'lunette'. The lunette holds the host securely in place. When the Host is not in the monstrance for Adoration, it is kept safely in its lunette, within a strong container known as a 'pyx', in the Tabernacle.



When the monstrance contains the sacred Host, the priest will not touch the vessel with his bare hands. Out of respect for the Eucharist, the priest holds the monstrance with a humeral veil, a wide band of cloth that covers his shoulders (humera) and has pleats on the inside, in which he places his hands. A humeral veil is a liturgical vestment normally made of silk or gold cloth, and is used by priests during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

We are invited to come and spend time with Jesus in the Blessed



Sacrament. When we come to spend time with Jesus in the Host, we praise and adore Him. We thank Him for all the wonderful things in our lives and the many gifts He has given us. When the angel appeared to the children at Fatima, he showed them how they should worship Jesus in the Eucharist. He bent low in worship until his forehead touched the ground. He taught the children a beautiful prayer to say to Jesus. Please try to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and spend some precious time with Him.



### Saints of the Month

St Justin martyr – June 1

St Kevin – June 3

St Columba – June 9

St Irenaeus – June 28

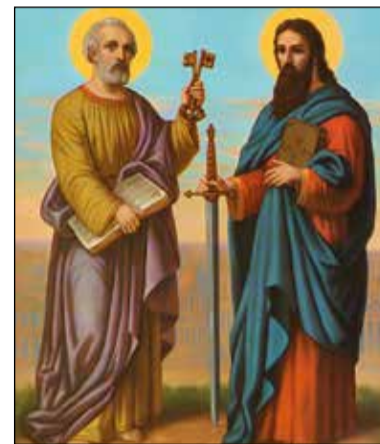
### Saints Peter and Paul

During this month, we celebrate the



special feast day of two magnificent saints, Peter and Paul. It falls on the 29th of June every year. These two men were among the first to spread the message of Jesus.

St Peter was a fisherman, who Jesus called to be one of His Apostles. He followed Jesus, learned from Him and loved Him. This great Apostle's name was Simon, but Jesus changed it to Peter, which means 'rock'. "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18). Peter is the Prince of the Apostles, the first leader of the Church, the first Pope.



St Paul was a Roman Citizen and a Pharisee, who never met Jesus during the Lord's earthly life. Paul hated the first Christians and made them suffer for believing in Jesus. Paul was converted to Christianity after he experienced a vision of the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus. He became a powerful teacher and preacher, always trusting in God.

We honour these two great apostles; Peter, our leader in the faith, and Paul, its fearless preacher.

### Quiz Time – Saint Peter and Saint Paul

1. What was Peter's profession – Fisherman or Tax Collector?
2. Who did Peter cure at Joppa – Tabitha or Agnes?
3. Who was the Gentile converted by Peter – Cornelius or Pilate?
4. How many years did Peter live in

- Rome – 10 or 25 years?
5. How did Peter die – Through being beheaded or being crucified upside down?
6. When is the feast day of St Peter – June 29 or August 10?
7. Which of the following is true of Peter – He was the first Cardinal or he was the first Pope?
8. What was Peter's brother called – Andrew or Jacob?
9. How many times did Peter deny Jesus – Five or three times?
10. How many times is Peter's name mentioned in the New Testament – 195 or 129 times?
11. What was Paul's name before he became a Christian – Raul or Saul?
12. Paul (Saul) was present at the stoning of which disciple of Christ – John or Stephen?
13. What city was Paul travelling to when he heard Jesus speak to him – Jerusalem or Damascus?
14. Was Paul a Pharisee – yes or no?
15. Where was Paul born – Tarsus or Philippi?
16. Which one of these books in the New Testament did Paul NOT write – Romans or Revelation?
17. What did Paul do before he became a missionary for Christ – Shoemaker or Tentmaker?
18. On the way to Rome, Paul was shipwrecked on which island – Malta or Cyprus?
19. Who did the people at Lystra think Paul and Barnabas were – Hermes and Zeus or demons?
20. Paul healed Publius' father of what – dysentery or mumps?

### Answers

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fisherman             | 2. Tabitha        |
| 3. Cornelius             | 4. 25yrs          |
| 5. Crucified upside down |                   |
| 6. June 29th             | 7. First Pope     |
| 8. Andrew                | 9. Three          |
| 10. 195                  | 11. Saul          |
| 12. Stephen              | 13. Damascus      |
| 14. Yes                  | 15. Taurus        |
| 16. Revelation           | 7. Tentmaker      |
| 18. Malta                | 19. Hermes & Zeus |
| 20. Dysentery            |                   |

### Quiz Time with Lawrence

1. What is the largest country in Africa by population?
2. How many stripes are there on the flag of the USA?
3. How many of the original 'Seven Wonders of the Ancient World' are still standing?
4. Which English County cricket team plays their home matches at Old Trafford?
5. What song, originally recorded by Tom Waits in 1980, became an iconic ballad for Bruce Springsteen after he covered it in 1985?
6. In what card game is the top hand a combination of 'Jacks' and 'Fives'?
7. To the nearest whole number, what is 100 kilometres in miles?
8. With what song did French singer, Vanessa Paradis, have a 1987 UK chart hit?
9. Which of the three English football clubs promoted to the Premier Division at the start of the 2025/26 season, were relegated again at the end of it?
10. What is the surname of brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm, who published a series of children's fairytales, including 'Hansel and Gretel'?

Quiz Answers: 1, Nigeria; 2, 13; 3, One - the Great Pyramid; 4, Lancashire; 5, Jersey Girl; 6, Cribbage; 7, 62; 8, Joe Le Taxi; 9, Burnley; 10, Grimm; 11, Nebraska; 12, Molasses; 13, Eleven; 14, Mercury; 15, Canadian; 16, Pedestrian crossings are controlled by traffic lights; 17, Greyfriars; 18, £2 coins; 19, Los Angeles; 20, Eight; 21, Christ the Redeemer; 22, Jeremy Clarkson; 23, Mayo; 24, Gerry and Marge Go Large; 25, Two.

11. Of which US state is Lincoln the capital city?
12. What ingredient is added to regular sugar to make brown sugar?
13. How many time zones are there across Russia?
14. Which planet in our solar system is closest in distance to the sun?
15. What nationality is singer/songwriter, Bryan Adams?
16. What is the main difference between pedestrian crossings and zebra crossings?
17. What school did comic strip character Billy Bunter attend?
18. What was added to the UK currency system in 1998?
19. What city will host the 2028 summer Olympic games?
20. How many pints of liquid equate to one gallon?
21. What iconic statue stands at the summit of Mount Corcovado?
22. Who is the most recent presenter of the TV show, 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'?
23. In which Irish county would you find Ballina?
24. Name the 2022 movie in which a retired couple find a loophole in the state lottery and use the proceeds to bring new life to their town?
25. How many bottles of champagne in a 'Magnum'?

*Aghyaran, Ardmore, Ardstraw West & Castlederg, Ballinascreen, Ballymagroarty, Banagher, Bellaghy, Bunrana, Carndonagh, Claudy,*

# Let Your Light Shine!



## An Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, to thee I consecrate and offer up my person and my life, my actions, trials, and sufferings, that my entire being may henceforth only be employed in loving, honouring and glorifying thee. This is my irrevocable will, to belong entirely to thee, and to do all for thy love, renouncing with my whole heart all that can displease thee.

I take thee, O Sacred Heart, for the sole object of my love, the protection of my life, the pledge of my salvation, the remedy of my frailty and inconstancy, the reparation for all the defects of my life, and my secure refuge at the hour of my death.

Be thou, O Most Merciful Heart, my justification before God thy Father, and screen me from his anger which I have so justly merited. I fear all from my own weakness and malice, but placing my entire confidence in thee, O Heart of Love, I hope all from thine infinite goodness. Annihilate in me all that can displease or resist thee. Imprint thy pure love so deeply in my heart that I may never forget thee or be separated from thee.

I beseech thee, through thine infinite goodness, grant that my name be engraved upon thy Heart, for in this I place all my happiness and all my glory, to live and to die as one of thy devoted servants. Amen.

**St. Margaret Mary Alacoque**

*Greenlough, Iskaheen, Killyclogher, Killygordon, Kilrea, Lavey, Leckpatrick, Lifford, Limavady, Maghera, Magilligan, Malin, Melmount,*

*Moville, Newtownstewart, Omagh, Plumbridge, Sion Mills, Steelestown, Strabane, Swatragh, Templemore - Long Tower and St Eugene's, Three Patrons, Waterside*

*Clonmany, Coleraine, Creggan, Culladuff, Culmore, Desertmartin, Donnyloop, Drumquin, Dunamaghy, Dungiven, Fahan, Faughanvale, Garvagh, Gortin, Greencastle,*