



The NET

Sharing fruits of faith in Derry Diocese

ISSUE 112. NOVEMBER 2025

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Holy Souls Service - Claudy



Legion of Mary Pilgrimage - Maghera



Blessing of Pets - Three Patrons



“Encounters with the beauty of creation lead to mystical experiences that reveal God to us.”
– Fr John McDevitt (see p9)

Clonmany celebration of Season of Creation in St Mary’s Church.



Our Lady of Fatima PS Saints’ celebration
- Faughanvale



Season of Creation - Steelstown-Culmore



St Colm’s Harvest Mass - Draperstown



St Eugene’s PS 65th
- Victoria Bridge, Sion Mills.

People in focus



Bernie Millar, Galliagh



Geraldine Brolly, Dungiven



John Leonard, Galliagh,
Three Patrons



Laura Gormley, Derry



Míceál-Piaras Ó Ceallaigh,
Carnhill

Also featuring: Young Writers section; Children’s Catechism Club; Carnhill Oratory dedicated to St Carlo Acutis; Special Killyclogher party to celebrate All Saints; Sion Mills dedication of new St Therese statue to mark 100th anniversary; Long Tower pet blessing; Magee Chaplaincy; Derry Eucharistic Procession; Diocesan Safeguarding Mass; Faughanvale Legionaries on Knock pilgrimage; Greenlough St Oliver Plunkett talk; Dungiven Charismatic Group celebrate Golden Jubilee; American visitors at Strabane Mass Rock; Irish page; Features; Quiz; Parish Post-its; Diary Dates and much more...

Contents

What messages is our culture giving that nourishes so much unhappiness
– Reflection by Bishop Donalp2
Eucharistic Adoration in the Diocese.....p2

St Colm’s Draperstown Harvest Mass
a joyful celebration of gratitude by Bernie Lynch.....p3

St Eugene’s PS anniversary celebrations...
*Great joy and gratitude in Victoria Bridge for St Eugene’s PS 65th
*Wonderful community support and pastoral care
a special part of life at St Eugene’s.....p4-5

New St Therese statue dedicated in Sion Mills to mark 100th anniversary..p5

Carnhill’s newly dedicated St Carlo Acutis Oratory
drawing more people to spend time in Adoration
– John Leonard shares faith experience.....p6

Claudy College community Holy Souls reflection service.....p7
Joyful celebration of Saints at Our Lady of Fatima PSp7
Special Killyclogher party to celebrate All Saintsp7

Three Patrons blessing of pets fitting celebration of St Francis of Assisi
by Care of Creation Group.....p8
Pets and owners catch-up at annual Long Tower blessing.....p8

Clonmany parishioners celebrated Season of Creation
with creative harvest display.....p9
Crossroads Gospel Concert a great fundraiser.....p9

Steelstown & Culmore Parish Eco Group news...
*Climate Justice Candle, fossil fuels and COP30
*30% by 2030.....p10

Faith communities light a flame in your heart
that you want to share with others
–Mícheál-Piaras Ó Ceallaigh shares experience
as Three Patrons Catechist & Magee Chaplaincy Managerp11

Young writers share thoughts on...
*St Philomena’s powerful witness to remaining rooted
in faith despite pain and injustice
*The hope that belief in the sovereignty of Heaven
gives those at risk of despairing at political influence on society today
*Helping the Holy Souls in Purgatory
*Cold water dip and prayer time with others
*Helping feed a child for a year for price of medium pizza
*St Melangell...the Saint of Hares
*St Thomas Aquinas and new Derry Society
*The late Fr Frank McLaughlin.....p12-15

Bishop Donal commends tireless safeguarding work
of many in Diocese by Briege O’Neill.....p15

Bishop Donal to lead Derry in celebrating Christ The King.....p16
Sperrin parishes Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome
by Fr Roland Colhoun.....p16

Irish section by Déaglán Ó Laithbheartaigh
*Padre Pio agus an tAifreann (Padre Pio and the Mass).....p17

Legion of Mary Knock pilgrimage...
*Derry Diocese well represented amongst thousands
at Legion of Mary Knock pilgrimage by Sean Mullan
*Faughanvale Legionaries return with renewed hearts
by Brenda Deery
*Maghera Legionaries amongst South Derry pilgrims
by Angela Lagan.....p18-19

American visitors join locals for celebration of Eucharist
at Strabane Mass Rock by Oliver Barrett.....p19
Purple Ladies baby cap knit for Foyle Hospice.....p19
Pennyburn Pioneers celebrate.....p19

Dungiven celebrates life in the Spirit...
*St Canice’s Charismatic Prayer Group
marks 50th anniversary
*Learning true discernment and to trust and not worry.....p20-21

You can’t live a life completely free from suffering
but with Jesus you know “this too shall pass”
– Testimony by Bernie Millar, Galliagh.....p22-23

Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you
...I have called you by name - you are mine (Isaiah 43:1)
by Mel O’Dee.....p23

The Irish College in Paris
by Dr Seán Beattie.....p24
Greenlough talk marks 400th anniversary of birth of parish patron
St Oliver Plunkett.....p24

Ruach – Breath of the Spirit
*Listen and improve
by Fr Eamonn Kellyp25

Vocations News...
*Called to serve
*Prayer Evenings for Vocations
*Prayer for Priests
*Pope’s prayer intention for October.....p25

Parish Post-its.....p26-28

Diocesan Diary.....p28

...other Diary Datesp29
Derry Diocesan Society Daily Massesp29
Forty Hours 2025p29

Life is changed...not ended
by Fr Johnny Doherty CSSR.....p30
The power of asking our children to pray for us
by Sinéad Strong.....p30

Children’s Catechism Club – C3
by Veronica Harley.....p31
Quiz Time with Lawrence.....p31



The NET

Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese

Contacting us:

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Bishop Donal reflects on the Pope’s November prayer intention for the prevention of suicide:

“Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.”

What messages is our culture giving that nourishes so much unhappiness...

AT this autumnal time of the year, both church and secular society try to find ways of reflecting on death. In our parishes, we begin November with the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls, and on November 6, we celebrate All the Saints of Ireland.

Death is always a difficult reality to cope with. But the loss of a person to suicide is particularly painful. Many of our families and all of our communities have had to cope with such events.

It is very challenging for clergy to know how to cope with both the distress of families and friends – and how to speak in a homily at

the funeral. How do you speak of the compassion of God the Father – and still do nothing to encourage anyone to the idea that suicide answers anything

And the figures are worrying. I came across the following statistics for the UK:

- More men under 50 die due to suicide than any other reason;
- 14 men every day die by suicide;
- 74% (three in four) of all suicides are male;
- Three times as many men die by suicide every year than die in a vehicle accident.

Pope Leo asks us to pray for our communities so that we can be supportive of those

who are plagued with suicidal thoughts. But many people struggle with a deep sense that their lives are not valuable. Abuse of all sorts can damage a person’s feeling of their own worth. Guilt can be a huge burden that weighs heavily on the human heart.

The message of the Gospel speaks of the dignity of each person and the value of each human life. It tells us of the love, compassion and mercy of God for everyone. The Sacrament of Reconciliation needs to be readily available to proclaim divine mercy. The Mass proclaims the victory of Jesus over sin and death. And our faith communities seek to

build up a sense of belonging.

But, as well as trying to support those who are suicidal, we have also to ask what messages our culture is giving that nourishes so much unhappiness:

- There is the confusing message that suicide is not a solution - yet I am master of my own life and have the right to decide when and how to die;
- There is the assumption that my feelings decide what is right and wrong, and that I am entitled to make my own decisions;
- The culture tends to say that life is not really of any absolute value – before birth, during life or at its end;



• Frail role models offer impossible lifestyles - but are unable to inspire heroism or great generosity;

• Social media can be places of great viciousness and damage.

Thus, in this month of November, we promise to support those who feel threatened by themselves and by life. But we pray for the grace to speak the truth about our own sick society and speak with a prophetic voice about God’s dream for our human flourishing.

Grace and Good News are the best antidotes to suicidal thoughts.

Eucharistic Adoration in the Diocese

Aghyaran: Thursdays, 10.30am–12 noon.
Ardstraw West & Castlederg: Fridays, 10.30am –12 noon, St Patrick’s Church.
Badoney Lower: 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.
Badoney Upper: Wednesdays, after 7.30 pm evening Mass until 9 pm, St Patrick’s Cranagh.
Ballinascreen: First Mondays, from 12 noon-7.30 pm, in Holy Rosary Church, Draperstown.
Banagher: Thursdays, 10.30-11.30 am, St Mary’s Church, Altinure, and Fridays, 10 –11am, St Joseph’s Church, Fincairn.
Bellaghy: Every Friday, from 10 am until recitation of Rosary at 7.30 pm, in St Mary’s Church.
Buncrana: Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 6am-10pm, Fridays, 6 am-10 pm and Sundays, 2-10 pm, St

Mary’s Oratory.
Cappagh: Wednesdays, 8 -9pm, concluding with Night Prayer, and Sundays, 3.30-6.30 pm, in Christ the King, Strathroy.
Claudy: Tuesdays, after 10am Mass until 8 pm, St Patrick’s Church, Claudy, and Wednesdays, after 10 Mass until 8 pm, St Joseph’s Church, Craigbane.
Clonmany: Tuesdays, 7.30 -8.30 pm, the Oratory of the Assumption, Ballyliffin; Wednesdays, 3-4 pm, St Columbcille Village, Cleagh; Fridays, 3-6 pm (Rosary at 5.40 pm), St Michael’s Church, Urris.
Coleraine: Wednesdays, in St John’s Church, 2-4 pm, with Rosary at 3:45 pm.
Creggan: Sundays 1.30 pm-6 pm; Mondays 10.30 am - 7 pm; Tue - Sat 10.30 am - 12 pm, Divine Mercy Chapel.
Donagheady: First Fridays after Mass until 12 noon, St Mary’s Church, Aughabrack.

Donaghmore: Tuesdays, 10.30 am-7.30 pm, St Mary’s Church, Sessiaghoneill; Thursdays, after 9.15 am Mass, St Patrick’s Church, Crossroads.
Drumquin: Wednesdays, 6 pm until Mass at 7.30 pm.
Drumragh: Wednesdays, following morning Mass, Sacred Heart Church until 5.30 pm.
Dungiven: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9am-6 pm, and Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 am-8 pm, in Adoration Chapel.
Errigal: Mondays, after the 10 am Mass until 2.30 pm, St Mary’s Church, Ballerin.
Fahan: Fridays after 10am Mass, St Mura’s Parish Church.
Greencastle (Tyrone): Thursdays, 6-10 pm, St Patrick’s Church.
Greenlough: Thursdays, 9am–5 pm, St Oliver Plunkett’s Church.
Iskaheen: Tuesdays, from after 10 am Mass until 2 pm, St Patrick’s Church.
Kilrea: Mondays, 12 noon -

7pm, St Mary’s Drumagarnier. Concludes with Benediction.
Lavey: Fridays, after 9.30 am Mass until 5 pm.
Leckpatrick: Wednesdays from 8.15 am–5 pm.
Lifford (Murlog): 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Limavady: Sundays from 3-5 pm in Christ the King (with Confessions).
Magilligan: Wednesdays, 3-7 pm; First Sundays, 3-6 pm, St Aidan’s Church.
Melmount: Mondays, after 10 am Mass until 6 pm.
Moville: Mondays, 2-9 pm, and Wednesdays, 6-9 pm, St Pius X Church.
Newtownstewart: Thursdays, 6.30-7.30 pm, Oratory of Mary, Mother of God.
Sion Mills: 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 before 7 pm Mass.
Steelstown: Mondays, from

after 10 am Mass until 6.50pm.
Strabane (Camus): Every day from 10.30 am-1 pm in the Adoration Chapel (Oasis of Peace), at the back of the Church.
St Columba’s Long Tower: Wednesdays, after 10 am Mass until 7.30 pm Mass.
St Eugene’s Cathedral: Sundays, 3-6 pm, and Tuesdays, 10.30 am-7.20 pm.
Three Patrons: 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 8 pm.
Urney & Castlefin: Tuesdays, 12 noon-8 pm, St Anthony’s Chapel.
Waterside: Mondays, 11.30 am-12.30 pm, St Oliver Plunkett, Strathfoyle; Thursdays, 1-6 pm, Immaculate Conception Church; Fridays, 1-6 pm, St Columb’s Church.

Please send any additions/amendments via: 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.

St Colm’s High School Harvest Mass a joyful celebration of gratitude *by Bernie Lynch*



HOLY Rosary Chapel, in Draperstown, was filled with warmth, colour, and community spirit as St Colm’s High School pupils led this year’s Harvest Mass.

St Colm’s Year 11 pastoral team, Mrs Devlin (Head of Year), Mr Heron, Mrs Steele, Mrs Young and Mr Logan, together with their pupils, created a beautiful celebration of gratitude and togetherness.

The ceremony reflected the true essence of harvest time: giving thanks for the blessings of the earth and the generosity of our community.

The altar was transformed into a stunning display of autumnal abundance, decorated with pumpkins, fruits, vegetables, candles, logs, and even miniature tractors, capturing the vibrant beauty of the season.

Under the talented direction of

Mrs Young and Miss Agnew, the school choir and instrumental group provided moving and uplifting music throughout the Mass. Their harmonies and melodies created a serene atmosphere that complemented the spirit of thanksgiving.

Year 11 pupils took leading roles in the liturgy, with students delivering readings, prayers, and reflections that spoke of kindness, gratitude, and stewardship of God’s creation. During the Offertory procession, pupils reverently brought forward harvest gifts, including vegetables, turf, fruit, and horseshoes - each symbolising hard work, sustenance, and the gifts of rural life.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr Michael McCaul, whose thoughtful and inspiring homily encouraged pupils to appreciate the many blessings in their lives, and not be afraid to share them generously with others. His words reminded everyone that gratitude and compassion are at the heart of faith and community.

As the final hymn echoed through the hall, there was a true sense of joy and unity among all present - pupils, staff, and guests alike. The annual Harvest Mass at St Colm’s High School was not just a moment of worship, but a celebration of community, faith, and the goodness of creation.

(Photographs by Mrs Karen McGuigan, St Colm’s)



St Eugene's PS anniversary celebrations...

Joy and gratitude in Victoria Bridge for St Eugene's PS 65th



ST Eugene's Primary School in Victoria Bridge, within the Parish of Sion Mills, has celebrated its 65th anniversary. To mark the occasion and the start of another school year, the newly appointed parish priest, Fr Sean O'Donnell celebrated Mass in St Theresa's Church, Sion Mills.

This Mass also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the canonization of St Therese of the Child Jesus, the parish Patron Saint.

Welcoming those gathered, Fr Sean described the joyous occasion as one that "binds the past, the present, and the future together in thanksgiving".

Highlighting God's everlasting love and plan for all, in quoting from Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you, plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future full of hope," Fr Sean remarked: "That is what a Catholic school is meant to

live out. For 65 years, St Eugene's Primary has been a place where this everlasting love is passed on through teaching, through friendships, through prayer, and through those countless little daily acts of patience, kindness, and care."

He added: "Your school carries the name of St Eugene, the very first bishop of the Diocese of Derry. He was born around the end of the fifth century, and began his studies with his friend, Tighernach, who later became Bishop of Clones. Eugene founded a monastery in Kilnamanagh, near Dublin, and for 15 years he formed young monks there, among them his own relative, St Kevin of Glendalough.

"According to legend, Eugene received a vision, a divine command to travel north. He did so reluctantly, leaving behind the security of his community, but God had a greater plan. Because of his holiness and learning, he was invited to become bishop at Ardstraw. Eugene devoted himself to prayer, teaching, and guiding others in faith. He even foretold the coming of St Columba, another great light for our land.

"Eugene died peacefully on August 23, around the year 550, while his monks chanted the

evening psalms. He is buried in Ardstraw, and remembered as a shepherd who listened to God's call, even when it meant sacrifice."

"Isn't it beautiful," Fr Sean continued, "that a school, where children learn and grow, bears the name of a man who himself was both a student and a teacher, both reluctant at times yet faithful to God's call? His example reminds us: learning is never just about books, but about listening to God's plan and trusting His love."

Tying in the Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, he went on to say: "She teaches us that holiness does not come only from big, dramatic actions, but from the small, hidden acts of everyday love. She said, 'What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love'.

"That is the secret of a school and a parish; thousands of small acts of kindness and encouragement, forgiveness and joy. They may seem little, but together they weave a great story of love."

Referring to the second reading, where St Paul said: "You are enriched in so many ways", Fr Sean said: "Indeed, our community has been enriched by St Eugene's school for 65 years, with knowledge, with friendship, and above all with faith. Each pupil and teacher is a light. And

when those lights shine together, they make a bright beacon of love for the whole parish."

Quoting Jesus words from the Gospel, "I have loved you... remain in my love. I have chosen you to bear fruit, fruit that will last", he remarked: "That is what makes a school Catholic; not just learning facts, but learning how to love. Love in the classroom. Love in the playground. Love in the home. These are the 'little flowers' that blossom in the garden of God's kingdom."

He concluded: "So, we look back with gratitude on the faith and vision of St Eugene. We give thanks for the little way of love taught by St Thérèse. We celebrate 65 years of St Eugene's Primary School, built on faith, learning, and community. And we look forward with hope, trusting in God's promise: a future full of hope.

"May St Eugene guide us to be faithful to God's call. May St Thérèse teach us to love in little ways with great love. And may the light of St Eugene's School continue to shine brightly in this community for many years to come."

Refreshments were served afterwards in The Den, Melmount.



Previous Principal, Bridget Devine with school secretary, Margaret and retired assistant, Geraldine.j



Principal, Laura and Chair of Governors, Carmel



St Eugene's PS anniversary celebrations...

Great community support and pastoral care a special part of life at St Eugene's

THE staff and pupils of St Eugene's PS had a wonderful time celebrating the school's 65th anniversary with their local community.

The principal, Ms Laura Gormley spoke of her delight to be leading St Eugene's, which she pointed out was very much "at the heart of the community".

"The community gives us so much support and that is what makes it so special, and a privilege to be part of," remarked Laura.

She added: "Big events like this, let you reflect on your journey with a trip down memory lane. The children were fascinated to look at the old photographs.

"It was special to celebrate our 65th with current and former pupils, parents, staff, Board of Governor members, and parishioners at the lovely Mass on October 1, celebrated by Fr Sean O'Donnell, and at the refreshments afterwards.

"The children did us proud with their reading and leading the Prayers of the Faithful, as well as taking up the gifts. We also had a special anniversary poem."

Already making a good impression amongst the children at the school, Laura said that Fr Sean shared some of the history of their school Patron, St Eugene, telling them that the Saint was also Patron of the Diocese.

"We are so far from the Cathedral that a lot of children probably have not been there," she pointed out, adding: "Our Parish Church here is St Theresa's in Sion Mills, so we would celebrate her more. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of her canonisation, Fr Sean brought her relic to the school, so it has been a special time for us here in St Eugene's."

The fifth principal of the school, Laura, from Derry City, first arrived at St Eugene's in 2014 to take up a permanent teaching post, before succeeding Gavin Gallagher as principal in 2019.

Graduating from her teacher training with Art from Stranmillis University College, Belfast, in 2008, Laura worked for a period in post-primary teaching Art, before going on to teach for four years at Broadbridge PS, Eglinton, covering maternity leave. She was then appointed to a permanent teaching post in St Eugene's and became a teaching principal five years later.

When the school opened in 1960, the first principal was Master John O'Doherty, with Master Peter Harron taking on the role in the 70s, followed by Mrs Bridget Devine in 1996, and then Mr Gavin Gallagher in 2017.

Amongst the first pupils at St Eugene's were the children who had been attending Liscreevenagh



St Eugene's PS Victoria Bridge principal, Ms Laura Gormley

School, which had closed earlier in 1960. In 1973, the number of pupils on the role increased to 132, its highest ever number, when Legfordrun School closed and its children then attended St Eugene's. When the number of pupils gradually fell, it became a two-teacher school.

Noting that, since the 80s, enrolment has been climbing again, Laura said: "When I was first appointed principal there were 53 children on the role, and now we have 82.

"We currently have five teachers; four full-time and one part-time, and 10 support staff. I am a teaching principal and teach Reception and P1, so I have taught every child in the school and know the families well, which really helps me as principal.

"Our pastoral care in St Eugene's is very good, and it is encouraging that the first thing visitors comment on when they come through our door is the great nurturing atmosphere."



The Coyle family enjoying the celebration

New St Thérèse statue dedicated in Sion Mills to mark 100th anniversary



WHEN school communities from within the Sion Mills Parish gathered in St Theresa's Church for Mass to mark the opening of the new school year, they also had the joy of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the First Feast of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

With St Thérèse the Patron of the parish church and of St Theresa's PS, Glebe, the parish priest, Fr Sean O'Donnell remarked at the Mass on October 1: "Today feels like a family feast day!"

He added: "St Thérèse is not just a saint in a book; she is our companion, our patroness, and our guide as we begin this new year together."

Reflecting on what their Patron Saint teaches, Fr Sean said: "She shows us her 'Little Way'. St Thérèse believed that holiness is not found only in big, dramatic deeds, but in the little things of everyday life done with love. A smile shared in the playground, a kind word when someone feels

left out, a teacher's patience with a struggling pupil, a child's effort in study or prayer; all of these can be offered to God.

"St Thérèse said: 'What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love.' This is a lesson for the school year ahead; our ordinary days can become holy if we live them with love."

Considering school and parish together, he continued: "Here in St Theresa's Parish and St Theresa's School, we are a community of faith and learning. Our Church forms us in prayer and worship; our school forms us in knowledge and character. Both are united under the care of the Little Flower.

"So, as we open this new school year, let us commit ourselves: Pupils, to grow not only in knowledge but also in kindness and faith; Teachers and staff, to serve with patience, encouragement, and joy; Families, to nurture love of God at home and support one another; Parishioners, to pray for our young people and support this mission.

"This way, our parish and school together can bloom like a garden, each person a flower giving glory

to God."

During the ceremony, Fr Sean blessed roses, remembering St Thérèse's promise to shower the world with graces, and her relic was venerated as a sign that the saints are close helpers on life's journey.

In addition, a new outdoor statue of St Thérèse was dedicated, as a visible reminder to follow her Little Way of love.

Fr Sean told the children: "Every time you walk past that statue on your way into school, think of St Thérèse smiling at you and encouraging you to make your day holy through kindness, trust, and love.

"As we begin this new school year and celebrate the 100th anniversary of her Feast, we thank God for the gift of St Thérèse. May her example inspire us to live the Little Way: to do small things with great love, to trust Jesus completely, and to bring His presence into our classrooms, our homes, and our parish.

"St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, our patroness, our Little Flower, pray for us, pray for our school, pray for our parish, pray for our families. Amen."



Carnhill's newly dedicated St Carlo Acutis Oratory drawing more people to spend time in Adoration



THREE Patrons Parish, in Derry, celebrated the canonisation of St Carlo Acutis by dedicating the Carnhill Adoration Chapel to the Church's first millennial saint on his Feast Day, Sunday, October 12.

Following the celebration of Mass, Fr Micheal McGavigan PP invited all to gather around the door of the little oratory, within St Brigid's Church, while he dedicated it to the young Saint who has been attracting the attention of people of all ages.

Amongst the young people and adults reverently gathered at the oratory, was Three Patrons parishioner, John Leonard, who had approached Fr Micheal about dedicating it to the teenage Italian Saint.

Speaking to 'The Net' afterwards about his devotion to St Carlo, the 73-year-old Galliagh resident said: "When the Carlo Acutis devotion started in the Cathedral, where there is a life-size statue of him, I began to take an interest in his life because he had a strong devotion to the Eucharist.

"When it came to him being canonized, I went to Fr McGavigan and asked if he would dedicate our Adoration Chapel in Carnhill to St Carlo Acutis on his Feast Day, October 12, and I was delighted that he said 'yes'."

A beautiful slate, with an image of St Carlo and a prayer, that had been donated by a parishioner for the oratory, was also blessed by Fr Micheal.

Commenting on this, John said: "When parishioners of Three Patrons heard about the Adoration Chapel being dedicated to St Carlo Acutis, they came and asked if anything was needed for it or if there was anything they could do. One of those who approached me was

Gerard Moore, who gave me the plaque to put in the Adoration Chapel if I could. So, I asked Fr McGavigan and, again, he said 'yes'."

A regular Adorer of the Blessed Sacrament, John has been delighted to see an increased number of people spending time in the St Carlo Acutis Oratory.

"I have noticed that since the Carnhill Adoration Chapel was dedicated to St Carlo Acutis, there are more people coming to pray there than before," he remarked, adding: "It is great to see this influx of people of all ages coming to the Adoration Chapel now because of this, from teenagers to grandparents with their little grandchildren..."

"I have noticed that since the Carnhill Adoration Chapel was dedicated to St Carlo Acutis, there are more people coming to pray there than before," he remarked, adding: "It is great to see this influx of people of all ages coming to the Adoration Chapel now because of this, from teenagers to grandparents with their little grandchildren, who may only stay a short time as young children can get agitated after a bit, but at least they are there."

Peace

"Even if you are not into your faith in a big way, if you just spent five or ten minutes in Adoration,

saying prayers like an Our Father, Hail Mary and the Guardian Angel prayer, and thanking God, I believe you would get a great peace of mind. It is better than winning the Lotto, it is just brilliant."

He continued: "I go to Adoration there every day. I have been doing Adoration for about five or six years now. From the different novenas that I went to over the years, I decided that the Eucharist was the way forward."

"I am a Eucharistic Minister, and go to Mass every morning and receive the Eucharist. Then, I go to work as a lollipop person. Afterwards, if I am free, I do an hour of Adoration in the morning, and if I am unable to go in the morning, I go in the afternoon. This hour every day gives me great peace of mind."

Sharing some of his own faith journey from childhood, growing up in a family of three boys and three girls born to the late Kathleen and Ernest Leonard, and living first in Bishop Street before moving as a family to the Creggan, John holds up his mother as being the greatest influence on his faith life.

He recalled: "She was a devout Catholic and went to Mass every day. She made sure that we attended Mass every weekend and Confession every fortnight, and we prayed the family Rosary every night."

"Our parish was St Mary's, in Creggan, and we had four priests ministering in the parish at that time. That faith foundation of my youth has stood by me a lot during my life, and my wife and I have tried to do the same for our family."

Married 47 years to Margaret, who holds claim to her family home, at 111 Bogside Road, being the only one with the original name after the area became known as 'The Bogside', John reflected on how his faith grew more when they moved from the Creggan to live in St Joseph's Parish, Galliagh, in 1978.

"I was going into Mass one day," he recalled, "when our priest at the time, Fr Bryan McCanny, asked me if I would be interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister. I said 'yes' and, from then he nourished my faith even more. I have the great faith that I have now due to my mother and what I learnt from him."

Progress

"We had chats about our faith as a group of Eucharistic Ministers. Fr McCanny encouraged us to discuss what we thought about religion and how we could progress in our belief."

He went on to say: "Fr McCanny was the first person, that I know

of, who started the Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help on the nine Mondays before Christmas, and it is still going in Galliagh to this day – only now it is on the nine Tuesdays before Christmas. When he left St Joseph's and went to Long Tower, he started the same Novena there and it is still going too, on the nine Sunday nights before Christmas. These are fantastic, with guest speakers."

"And, when the St Therese of Lisieux Novena was started in St Eugene's Cathedral by Fr Paul Farren in 2002, I started to go to it every year too, and still do every May."

A father of five, aged 28-45 years, and grandfather of eight boys and two girls, aged four to 17 years, John is delighted that they go to Mass every weekend. He also feels very blessed that they all meet up at Christmas and Easter and go to Mass together for these special celebrations.

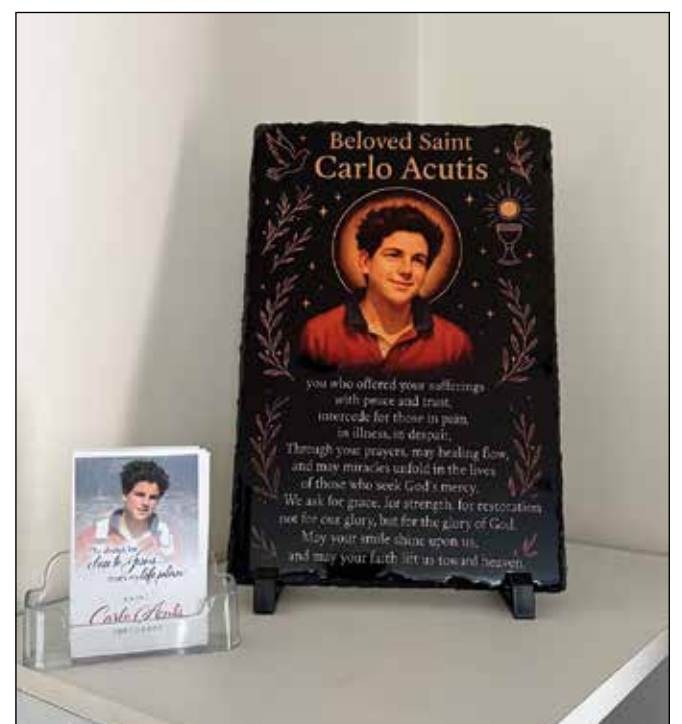
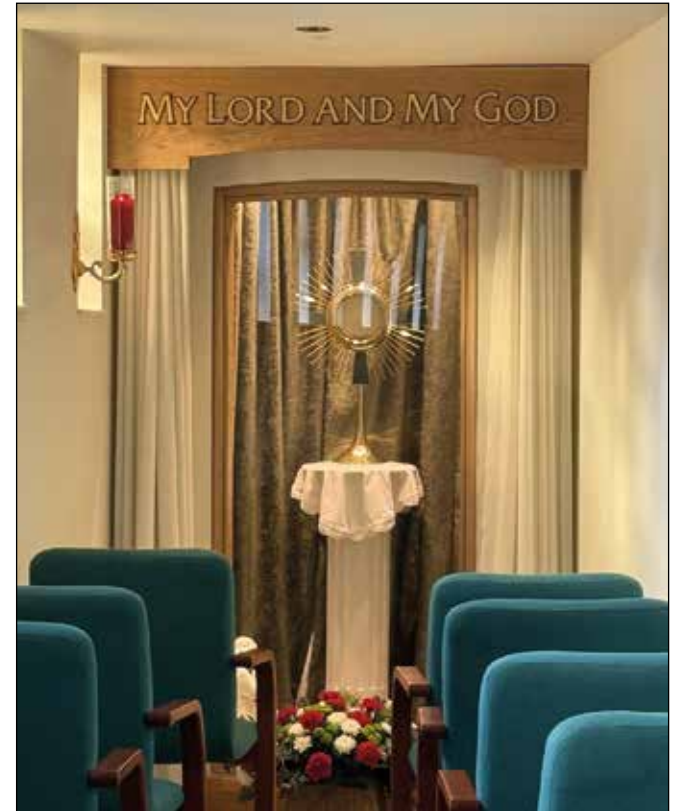
"I have tried to carry on the tradition that my parents taught us," he said, "and my wife and I thank God that, with our children and grandchildren, we have been fruitful so far."

"I get ready for work, do my morning prayer, go to Mass and then to my work, then Adoration. I hope to have this prayer life for the rest of my days, offering it up in thanksgiving to the Lord, Jesus Christ, and His Blessed Mother for the suffering that they have gone through because of us, thanking them very much for what they do for us."

"I pray the Rosary first thing when I get up, so does my wife. I get ready for work, do my morning prayer, go to Mass and then to my work, then Adoration. I hope to have this prayer life for the rest of my days, offering it up in thanksgiving to the Lord, Jesus Christ, and His Blessed Mother for the suffering that they have gone through because of us, thanking them very much for what they do for us."

He added: "I would also like to thank all the priests for their help in the parish, and Bishop Donal, who is a great encourager to us. I thank them all for their prayers and dedication to their ministry."

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place daily in the St Carlo Acutis Adoration Chapel, from 8 am until 8 pm.



Joyful celebration of Saints at Our Lady of Fatima PS

OUR Lady of Fatima Primary School community, in Faughanvale Parish, came together on Monday, October 27, for a truly special assembly that celebrated the lives of the saints in a joyful and meaningful way.

Pupils from our P4 and P7 sacramental classes were joined by Miss Traynor's enthusiastic P3 class, who didn't want to miss out on the occasion.

The morning was filled with excitement and reverence as the children, having researched their chosen saints, dressed up in beautifully crafted costumes and shared fascinating stories about their lives. Their presentations captivated the audience, offering insights into the virtues and journeys of these inspiring figures.

The school hall was alive with joy, song, and a deep sense of community. The principal, Mr Logue extended a warm welcome to Fr McDermott and members of the local Legion of Mary, whose generous contributions made the event even more memorable.

Many of the costumes worn by the children were kindly donated by the Legion, who also gifted three books of the Saints to our school library; resources that continue to enrich our pupils' understanding of faith and history.

This assembly was not only a celebration of the saints but also a testament to the spirit of collaboration and learning within the school. It was a morning that will be remembered fondly by all who attended, as a beautiful way to learn, share, and grow together in faith.



Claudy College community Holy Souls reflection service



St Patrick's & St Brigid's College, in Claudy, held a service on Monday, November 3, following the Feast of the Holy Souls, in prayerful remembrance of deceased loved ones.

Taking the theme, 'Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day', the Holy Souls Reflection took place in the school's Memorial Garden.

It was led by the parish priest, Fr David O'Kane, and involved Form Representatives, Faith Coordinators, the RE Department and Governor representatives.

The annual Reflection Service also involved the blessing of the school's new Memorial Cross, which was installed in the memorial garden and blessed by Fr David.

During RE lessons for the month of November, pupils will add the names of deceased relatives and friends to the prayer wall and memorial tree.



Special Killyclogher party to celebrate All Saints



Three Patrons blessing of pets fitting celebration of St Francis of Assisi

by Care for Creation Group

A service for the blessing of family pets was held in the Parish of the Three Patrons on Saturday, October 4. Thankfully, Storm Amy settled down sufficiently for this parish event to take place. It occurred at the end of the Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 - October 4 each year. Throughout the Christian world, this Season celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment.

The Catechism reminds us that each creature, "reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness."

As October 4 is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of the environment, ecology, animals and birds, it was particularly appropriate for a service to bless family pets. Known for his profound love and respect for all of God's creatures, he is also a patron for those working for ecology and the environment, a title officially bestowed upon him by Pope John Paul II.

This initiative gives a parish the opportunity to connect with a wide cross-section of families in a very positive and inclusive manner. It recognises the importance of the family pet within many homes, where they are often a central part of the fabric of family life. In their care of the family pet, both adults and children are, in a very real

way, practising for a wider care for and awareness of all God's creation.

A good number of pets and their owners turned up for the blessing in the grounds of St Brigid's Church, Carnhill. Preceded by plenty of mingling and doggy chat in a friendly, dignified atmosphere, the service itself was simple yet very prayerful. The joyful camaraderie of the occasion was gratifying for the organisers, the Parish 'Care for Creation' group. They certainly found it a worthwhile experience, which they hope can become an annual feature of parish life from now on.

Our thanks go to Fr Stephen Ward for leading the service, to Miceal-Piaras O'Ceallaigh, our newly-appointed Parish Catechist, for his participation, and, of course, to all who brought their pets along and looked after them so responsibly. There was hardly any barking - and no fights!

We would also like to thank our Parish Catechist, Kathryn Ellis, who encouraged the children and their teachers from our primary school to produce the colourful artwork to celebrate the occasion, which was displayed in our three churches under the title: 'All God's Creatures'.

Finally, we appreciate the help of Parish Staff members, Margaret Sammon and Eileen Canning, with our publicity.



Long Tower pet blessing



Clonmany parishioners celebrated Season of Creation with creative harvest display

THE Clonmany Parish celebrated the gift of creation with impressive and colourful harvest displays in St Mary's Church in the village, on the first weekend of October, the close of the Season of Creation.

In his homily, the parish priest, Fr John McDevitt noted from the day's Gospel reading that when Jesus spoke to the apostles about increasing their faith, he pointed to creation through a mustard seed, mulberry tree and the sea.

Commenting on the annual invitation to mark the gift of creation from the start of September to October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, Fr John recalled the release of Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si' 10 years ago, in which he called attention to "the three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships - with God, with our neighbours and with the earth itself" (LS 66).

"He reminds us that the connection between God and all beings is intimate, and that our encounters with the beauty of creation lead to mystical experiences that reveal God to us," remarked Fr John, adding: "We might have experienced this ourselves when walking on the beach, watching a sunset, or just pottering in the garden."

He continued: "Pope Francis reminded us that care for the earth is an integral part of being a Christian. When caring for creation we might reflect upon our hearts, our lifestyles and changing public policies."

"For any lasting change to occur, we start with our heart. It is seeing creation no longer as an object to be exploited but to cherish it as a sacred gift from God, our Creator."

"Prayer, meditation and giving thanks help us in this area. How often do we give thanks in prayer for the gift of God's creation? A good tradition is that of grace before and after meals, especially when prayed as a family. We give thanks for the gifts of creation and those people who have provided them. Giving thanks for the harvest as a parish community is another way of changing our hearts and recognising God as our Creator and Provider."

"Secondly," added Fr John, "we change our lifestyles. Starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and His creation, we repent of our ecological sins. These sins harm the world of creation and our fellow men and women. Often, it is the poor in the world, who have done the least to affect climate change, who suffer the most."

"We can focus on positive choices: using food with moderation and not wasting; recycling waste; and making use of available products and services which are environmentally responsible."

And lastly, he pointed to the need to transform public policies, saying: "We all have a responsibility to encourage our politicians and world leaders to halt the injustice towards the poor and our children, who will bear the worst effects of climate change."

He concluded: "When we celebrate the Eucharist, we give thanks for the bread and wine, the work of human hands and the fruit of the earth, in the offertory. We give thanks to God as our Creator. These gifts become the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus, which we receive in Holy Communion. But that is not the end. We are sent out to live in a new way, transformed by the Lord."

"We pray in thanksgiving for God's creation and that our hearts and lifestyles will be transformed, so that we will do our utmost to care for our common home."



Crossroads Gospel Concert a great fundraiser

COUNTRY star, Patrick Feeney delivered a spellbinding charity Gospel concert in the majestic St Patrick's Church, Crossroads, Killygordon, on Sunday evening, November 2.

The 150-year-old Gothic revival era structure was packed to capacity for the uplifting performance, which helped raise much-needed funds to go towards the recent restoration works

The event was organised by parishioners, Drew and Michelle McCarter, with the blessing of their longtime friend, and Parish Priest, Fr Patsy Arkinson.



Steelstown & Culmore Parish Eco Group news...



Noreen lights the Climate Justice Candle in Our Lady of Lourdes, Steelstown



Mgr Donnelly, Margaret & Patricia with the Climate Justice Candle



Lee and Mary, members of Steelstown Parish Eco Group, pass on The Climate Justice Candle to St Peter's

Climate Justice Candle...Fossil Fuels... and COP30

OUR Lady of Lourdes, Steelstown, hosted Eco Congregation Ireland's Climate Justice Candle at the end of September. The following Sunday, members of our Parish Eco Group brought the candle to St Peter's, our neighbouring Church of Ireland Parish. The presence of the candle, which travels around Faith Communities in Ireland, was an invitation to prayer and reflection on climate justice.

Injustice

It is unjust that those least responsible for global warming are the most affected. It is also unjust that dealing with it is driving them deeper and deeper into poverty.

More extreme weather events are happening throughout the world, but some are more intense and damaging than others.

The October 3, 2025, 'Storm Amy' caused disruption in Ireland, with gusts up to 85 miles per hour. Services were on hand to restore electricity, clear fallen trees and insurance helped to cover damage costs.

The October 29, 2025, 'Hurricane Melissa' caused catastrophic damage in the Caribbean, with wind speeds of 185 miles per hour. It was the worst storm in Jamaica since records began 174 years ago. 720,000 people in Cuba were displaced and dozens drowned in Haiti. Days later, thousands were without shelter, electricity, clean water, food and medical assistance.

The global south suffers more than 90% of the impact of climate change. Communities on the frontlines are the most vulnerable to rising seas, deadly storms and searing heat. Floods and landslides destroy homes; crops die from droughts; and people forced to leave their farms and livelihoods become climate refugees.

Fossil fuels

The world's richest 10% are responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gas emissions, while the world's poorest account for just 12%. Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions per person are 18 times higher than Rwanda's.

The Catholic Bishops of Ireland have expressed their collective support for the campaign for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

On behalf of the Laudato Si' working Group, Bishop Martin Hayes said: "Emissions due to the use of fossil fuels have been identified as the main driver of the climate crisis. Despite commitments by Western governments to reduce the extraction of oil, gas and coal from the Earth, the fossil fuel multinationals continue to expand their plans for further exploration. It means that countries and companies continue to approve and fund new fossil fuel projects." (Irish Catholic Bishops' Statement October 28, 2025)

96% of oil and gas companies are exploring or developing new oil and gas fields across 129 countries. A just transition to cleaner energy is needed urgently.

COP30

It is timely to shine a light on climate justice in the run up to

COP30. The 30th UN Climate Conference will take place from November 6-21 in Belem, Brazil. It will bring together world leaders, scientists, NGOs and Faith representatives to discuss priority actions to tackle climate change.

COP30 will focus on the efforts needed to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5C, the presentation of new national action plans (NDCs) and the progress made on Loss & Damage payment pledges made at COP29 to developing countries.

We pray, for the sake of all marginalised people and future generations, that it will be a good COP.

Pope Leo XIV concluded his address at the recent Raising Hope Conference, marking the 10th anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si', with a question: "God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that He created, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters. What will be our answer?"

30% by 2030

PARISHIONERS of a Derry City parish are proactively addressing the loss of biodiversity in the grounds of their church.

To mark the end of the Season of Creation on October 4, a group of hardy volunteers from Our Lady of Lourdes Steelstown/Culmore Parish braved the end of Storm Amy to plant hundreds of spring bulbs, mulch around the native tree saplings and remove litter in the hedges.

It was appropriate that the work was carried out on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Ecology. St Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wildflowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty.

Patricia McCormack, from the Parish Eco Group, explained that the parish community came together as a 'meitheal' to help address the critical loss of biodiversity in the grounds of the Church.

She continued: "In March 2023, the Irish Bishops' Conference agreed that parishes would return 30% of church grounds to nature by 2030. The Irish Bishops' pledge was acknowledged at the International 'Raising Hope' Conference at Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome, at the beginning of October, to mark the 10th anniversary of the publication of

Laudato Si'.

"The Vatican has already committed more than 50% of its land to the principle of care of creation. The papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo is now the site of Borgo Laudato Si', a 135-acre model sustainable farm and education centre.

"We are pleased that our Parish has been part of that response, while recognising that there is much more to be done."

Patricia added that this 'meitheal' was not a one-off activity, but

part of the Steelstown/Culmore Parish's ongoing commitment to make a proportion of the grounds around Our Lady of Lourdes Church a haven for pollinators and biodiversity.

She said: "We are discovering that there is fulfilment in 'living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork' as an essential part of our faith (Laudato Si' 217). We also appreciate how important it is to leave some areas 'wild' to provide essential food and shelter for insects, birds and other creatures.

"The 'meitheal' also created a lovely sense of camaraderie and

satisfaction at a job well done, as we all enjoyed a hot cup of tea and delicious home bakes afterwards!"

30% by 2030 can sound very challenging, but by assessing what is already in place, changing mowing regimes and gradually introducing pollinator friendly bulbs, flowers and scrubs, much can be achieved.

Parishes can find excellent helpful resources and guidelines on rewilding on the Irish Bishops' Website:

www.catholicbishops.ie/laudatosi/returningtonature/?swcfpc=1



Hardy bunch of parishioners who participated in the planting Meitheal at Our Lady of Lourdes, Steelstown.

Three Patrons catechist and UU Magee chaplaincy manager, Míceál-Piaras Ó Ceallaigh shares experience of these roles...

Faith communities light a flame in your heart that you want to spread to others



THE new academic year at University of Ulster Magee Campus, in Derry, has seen growing interest in the Catholic Chaplaincy there, with Fr Patrick Lagan and recently appointed Three Patrons catechist, Míceál-Piaras Ó Ceallaigh offering the students and staff a regular schedule of celebration of the sacraments, prayer and Bible Study, as well as times of friendship and fun.

Having deeply appreciated the support and friendship he had found in the Queens Chaplaincy during his time at university there, Derry-born Míceál-Piaras jumped at the chance of paying forward when he came upon the advertisement for a catechist in Three Patrons' Parish, with the role to include managing the Third Level Chaplaincy Project.

The 25-year-old had just graduated with a TICO from St. Mary's University Collage Belfast in June and began his new job on July 7, so between involvement in the first LIFE Camp in Three Patrons and preparing a Chaplaincy programme and its promotion for the start of the new academic year at Magee, he hit the ground running and hasn't stopped!

Reflecting on his own chaplaincy experience as a practicing Catholic student at Queens, Míceál-Piaras recalled it having an incredible effect on his faith and spirituality.

"Where you have a community you have fellowship," he remarked, adding: "Starting university, many are away from family for the first time. As a young adult in your faith and on your own, the chaplaincy is a place to go to keep your faith going – to not give up hope. For many, when they go to university, they find their faith dies and that can be a bit disheartening. But being part of the Catholic Chaplaincy community can help

keep you full of hope and joy.

"For me, I took a bit of that home with me. I found that it lights a flame in your heart and leaves you wanting to spread it to people back home and those you meet. It changed my life, from the friends that I made and the lovely woman that I met there, so I have been very much blessed."

Keen to get off to a good start in his Magee chaplaincy role, Míceál-Piaras was present in the Duncreggan Student Village as the welcoming face of the Church when students first arrived for their accommodation.

He recalled: "We had our stand, with lovely flyers on display, and handed out schedules. I also attended the international student morning event. It can be a very daunting experience starting university for those students coming from overseas."

"We had a stall at the Freshers' Fair too, and the CFRs [Franciscan Friars of the Renewal] helped us with that, as well as members of Living Disciples and Derry Youth. We had a real combined effort from groups in the parish and ended up with whole A4-size sheet of paper filled with names."

"So, there is a lot of interest in the chaplaincy and we had our official launch in September. We had a wee gathering, and the Friars came along and spoke at that too. We had pizza and a draw for a Guapo voucher."

Commenting on the aim of the Chaplaincy, he said: "We hope to foster a group of students, guide them in their faith and see to their spiritual needs, with Fr Patrick seeing to their sacramental needs."

"Like with my experience of the Queens Chaplaincy, it is ensuring that the stress and pressure of modern university life does not lead students to despair, by helping them be aware that they can rely on the Lord and that He is there for them unconditionally.

Hope

"We are here to bring that hope to the students at Magee campus; ensuring that their spiritual needs are met and cared for, that the mental turmoil that university life can bring is kept in check, and help give students direction to discern what they want to do with their life."

"We aim to make sure that they are ok as poor mental health is such an epidemic, with many in despair, feeling lonely and experiencing no hope. We want to help them see that they are not the measure of their degree, but that they are loved regardless."

Outlining the Chaplaincy schedule, Míceál-Piaras noted: "We have weekly Mass at 1.30 pm on Wednesdays, with the Rosary prayed beforehand at 1 pm, when Fr Patrick also hears Confession. Afterwards, we have a lovely time of friendship with refreshments. We also have Bible Study on Thursdays from 5-6 pm, and hope

your authentic self. You know that those around you have their faith and struggles, and understand what is going on. The Church is smeared as being judgmental, but it is a field hospital for students to come to."

He added: "You are almost criticized for enjoying yourself these days, if you are not working every hour that God sends, but, in His wisdom, He dedicated a whole day to take it easy and relax. God wants us to have proper ordered leisure, so we have fun activities on campus, as well as retreats and small pilgrimages."

"Our hopes are to go on pilgrimage to Servant of God Sr Clare Crockett's grave, and to have a series of lectures on campus, including having people in to share their experience of faith."

A few weeks into his chaplaincy role now, Míceál-Piaras is thankful for the response to date: "We have a cohort of people

"It is not about me or Fr Patrick, but the encounter of each with the Lord, Jesus Christ, who wants to get to know each person!"

Míceál-Piaras can be contacted via the Chaplaincy email - uuccmagee@derrydiocese.org and by mobile – 07927641007. The Magee Chaplaincy is also on Facebook (Ulster University Catholic Chaplaincy Magee) and Instagram (@uuccmagee).

Catechist

The Carnhill parishioner is also kept busy in his catechist role with Three Patrons' Parish, where he works alongside parish catechist, Kathryn Ellis.

Enjoying this work as well, he remarked: "I have never been so organised. The Church year is great as you know what you have to get ready for – feast days, sacramental celebrations, etc, so you are able to plan months in advance. You are living the life of the Church."

He added: "As catechists, we are pro-active and seeing to the needs of the Parish. We coordinate between the parish and community; the schools, parish groups, as well as any other groups with connections to the Parish of Three Patrons."

"Some of our work includes sacramental meetings, altar server training, organising Children's Liturgy, weekend and anniversary Masses, as well as doing social media posts so that people know what is going on from day-to-day. We could also be answering phones or visiting our schools."

"We definitely get about and no two days are the same. It is always lively. There is always something to be done. We have weekly meetings with our parish priest, Fr Micheal McGavigan, on Mondays, and construct a checklist that we work our way through."

The Three Patrons catechists can be contacted through the Parish Office.

Míceál-Piaras' pathway into work within the Catholic Church

led from a life steeped in the Catholic Faith from childhood... and mostly through the Irish language. On graduating from St. Mary's with a BA in Liberal Arts with History, following primary and secondary education through the Irish Medium, he went on to get his TICO qualification to teach through the Irish Medium, which he pointed out is one of the quickest growing sectors in the six counties.

Reflecting on this, he said: "Thanks be to God, my family have great faith, and that my mother and father wanted all aspects of our life to be through the lens of the Gaelic culture, even though they were not fluent in speaking Irish themselves. By putting me, and my younger sister and brother, through Irish Medium Education, they have reversed a situation where the Irish language was not existent in our family. Now, we are fluent and, God-willing, it will be the first language of my children."

"I was coming up to First Holy Communion stage when our morning routine changed, and we ended up in the Nazareth House to hear Mass in the Irish language – it was quite something. Hearing and knowing Mass in English, and then hearing and learning it in Irish was great."

He continued: "From a young age, we always said morning prayer going to school in the car. Over time, as we got older, we built on this, adding intercessions to saints we were devoted to. Even today, when travelling with my father somewhere during the morning, he will say, 'let's say the prayers', and the radio goes off and we say the collection of prayers we had growing up. That is something that I want to bring to my own children, one day."

"Faith has always been important in our home. It is something that you can hold dear and can rely on. You are not the centre of the universe – you will have struggles, but you are not alone."



to offer a period of Adoration from December.

"During this month of November, dedicated by the Church to the Holy Souls, we will be holding a Mass of Remembrance for the Deceased on Wednesday, November 19. Students and staff are invited to send in the names of loved ones to be remembered and prayed for at this Mass."

"It all happens on campus in room MC 109 and, so far, there has been great interest. Young people are curious and searching. It is a stage when all the big questions come, so where better place to start than with Scripture. Church authority has told us, so those are the answers that we can contemplate on."

He went on to highlight the importance of the social aspect of the Chaplaincy, saying: "The friendship time is within a safe environment where you can be

attending that includes first years, people finishing their Masters and PhD studies, as well as staff members coming to the Mass. And we have had good response to a special Blessing of Hands for those in healthcare disciplines."

"I have set up a WhatsApp group for students and staff who wish to keep in touch and hear about upcoming events, and this has many members at this early stage. And anyone wanting to talk with me, or needing sign-posting, is welcome to message me."

"So, we are off to a good start, which is half the battle, so the seanfhocal goes; 'Tús maith leath na hoibre' and we hope to keep that going. Students should have no fear to approach with an open heart. Everyone within the university is very much welcome to come along and be part of something that could change their lives, just as mine was touched."



Young Writers share thoughts...

THIS month, we welcome to the team Conor Sharkey, from Craighbane, in the Claudy Parish, a pupil at Lumen Christi College, Derry, and Nieve Browne, from Carnhill, who attends St Brigid's College, Derry.

In his first article, Conor writes about the great charity work of Mary's Meals and how people can help feed a child for a year for the price of a medium pizza or takeaway, while Nieve discovers St Melangell, the Saint of Hares, and is inspired by how God protects and how the saint's beauty within was as attractive to people and animals as her outward beauty.

In this month of the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls, Erin reflects on the life of St Philomena and her powerful example of staying true to God despite great suffering for her faith, while Bláthnaid writes about the importance of praying for the Holy Souls of Purgatory and shares her research into what this means and the purpose of plenary indulgences.

Harry writes about "the greatest medieval thinker in the west", St Thomas Aquinas, who has been such an inspiration to him on his faith journey that he was moved to set up a Society of Aquinas to share with his peers what he has received.

Niamh shares her university experience of weekly group prayer on the beach followed by a quick dip into the freezing Atlantic, and the peace it brings to her day, and Evan pays tribute to the late Fr Frank McLaughlin, sharing happy memories of serving Mass with him and his ministry in the Confessional.

Having followed the presidential election in the Republic, James reflects on it from a faith viewpoint, noting that many did not feel represented by any of the candidates and offering consolation that, in this Year of Hope, all is not lost to those who believe in the eternal glory of the Kingdom of Heaven.

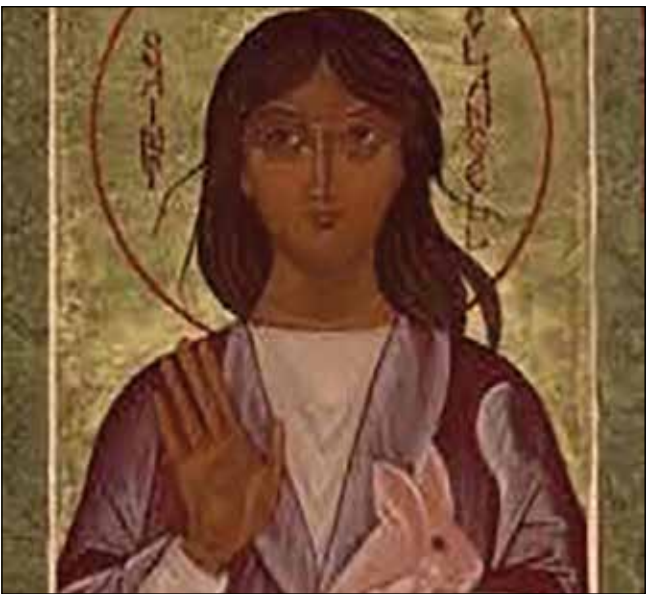
St Melangell...the Saint of Hares by Nieve

WHO is saint Melangell? Most likely you would have never heard of her, though that's true for so many saints. So, what makes her stand out to me? Well, she was a princess, and Irish princess, she was around in the 6th or 7th century, and like other princesses of that time and now, she had been planned to be married off by her father the king. Though as most, this was not what she truly wanted, she had a deep rotted desire to live a life of solitary devotion to God, she had dedicated her life to prayer and she did not want to give that up for a man she did not love, she wanted to keep her virginity and faith. So, she had abandoned her life, fled the chains and cage of an unwanted marriage, through nowhere else for her to go, she travelled to the countryside, she found sanctuary and confinement in nature and wilderness, most likely within Wales, thus began her new life.

A hermit life it was called, this is when a person's life is lived in seclusion, away from society, no more duties and marriages for saint Melangell, instead she was settled likely in a cave, an isolated spot within Tanat valley, this is where she continued her devotion and prayer and sustained herself through the pure foods

around her. Saint Melangell had uprooted her whole life. Went from royal to survivor to simply continue her faith.

Why was she the saint of hares? Its first began years after saint Melangell settled into her new life. She had been seen by prince Brochwel Ysgithrog of Powys while he was on his hunt. Saint Melangell had been praying, a normal part of her new life, when a small, skittish hare had claimed sanctuary under her cloak, the poor scared creature found comfort and protection with her. The sound of bearing teeth and deafening barks from the hunting dogs came closer, their motive to kill the hare, which is when Brochwel locked eyes with Saint Melangell, with a wave of her hand and a command his dogs retreated. He was left stunned, confused and impressed. He tortured himself to find out who this beautiful woman was and to marry her, though as he got word of her story, his advances of marriage and for her to leave this life was denied, he knew marriage was pointless, but the impression she left on him, it did not stop him from finding her with a new motive. With his status and wealth, he donated land to her, so she could continue to live a pure



and modest life. Throughout the years a new community had been developed, this was an act of a woman's retreat, and not only humans but hares, rabbits and other small animals gathered and lived among each other. She remained there all her life, protecting the animals and land. Saint Melangell story and morals captivate me for what I take from her journey is you do not need to live the life others tell you, that if you have faith and devote yourself to our God you will live rich in other forms.

Even the smallest of animals are protected by God and those who follow, it was not only Saint Melangell beauty on the outside but her beauty within that impressed the prince and drawn animals to her for protection, for they felt the presence of God. It is sad to me she does not get recognised enough. And when you visit her valley, if a hare is ever chased by a hound dog you say "God and Melangell be with thee" the hare will escape. Even in the kingdom of God Melangell protects.



Cara-leigh Doherty - Derry City Deanery
Bronagh Doherty, Co Derry Deanery
Nieve Browne, Derry City Deanery.
John Agustine Joseph, Derry City Deanery.
James Tourish, Derry City Deanery.
Erin Whoriskey, Derry City Deanery



Bláthnaid McMenamin - Co Tyrone Deanery
Carragh O'Donnell, Derry City Deanery
Evan Curran, Derry City Deanery
Seán McLaughlin, Co Tyrone Deanery
Niamh Sharkey, Derry City Deanery.
Harry Mason, Derry City Deanery
Conor Sharkey, Derry City Deanery.

We can help Mary's Meals feed a child for a year for price of medium pizza by Conor

MARY'S Meals grew out of a charity called Scottish International Relief, which was set up by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and his brother, Fergus, after they took aid from their home in Argyll, Scotland, to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, during the Yugoslav wars in 1992.

Over the next 10 years, SIR expanded, building homes for abandoned children in Romania and still delivering aid to other Balkan countries that had suffered during the break-up of Yugoslavia, combined with other additional projects. Local people from Argyll generously donated to the campaign, providing food, blankets and other material goods to people in need, which were stored in what was once the family's shed. This shed now serves as the headquarters of Mary's Meals to this day.

In 2002, the Mary's Meals campaign was born after Magnus heard a dying mother's eldest son say: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day." These words had left the founder heart-broken and inspired him to found

the campaign, Mary's Meals, starting in Malawi, a country in central Africa, feeding just 200 children.

By 2010, the number of children being fed at school every day had a rapid increase to 400,000 children. In that year, Magnus was presented with a CNN award for his work.

A more recent statistic, as of 2022, the number of children being fed at school every day is now at 2.27 million, truly making an enormous impact on people all around the globe. Now you can make a difference by visiting marysmeals.org.uk and donating to the cause, which will provide support to the struggling people of the developing world and will allow you to leave a positive impact on these people.

This Charity particularly interests me as it is inspired by Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

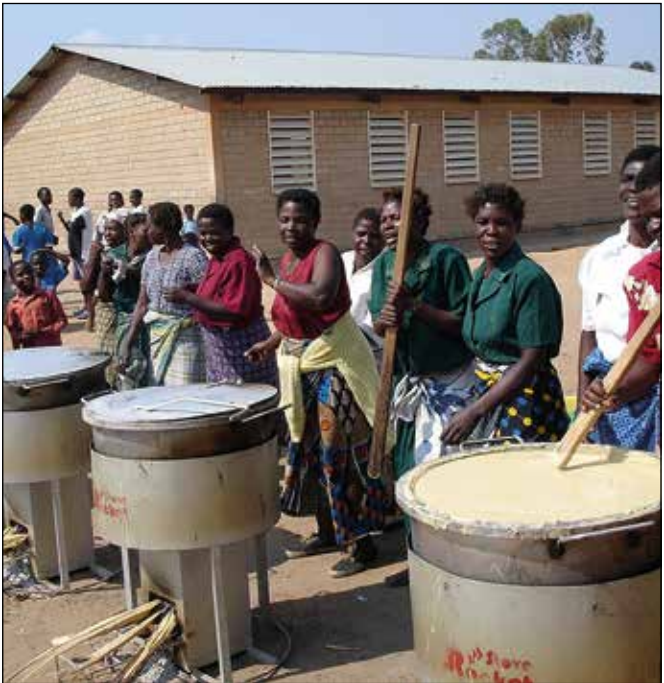
Mary's Meals buys locally sourced food, which helps boost local economies and provides it in a sustainable way, with a view to the overall development of the countries it works in. The idea is to empower the skilled and educated young population

in developing countries, that can only benefit the country's economy and help break the poverty cycle. Mary's Meals takes a long-term view, but all of its projects are aimed at eventual self-sufficiency in the communities in which it operates.

Just a small price of £19.15 can feed a child for an entire year, that is the same price as a medium pizza or a takeaway, and is an easy and effective way

of showing kindness to people in developing countries who have been much less.

When I think about ways in which young people today can live their Christian values and follow the commandment, 'Love thy neighbour', what comes to mind first is giving to others in the same way Mary's Meals gives to the poor. In our communities, we can be involved in something bigger.



Young Writers share thoughts...

No matter the political reality of our time there is no government policy that impedes upon the sovereignty of Heaven *by James*

CATHERINE Connolly was elected Uachtarán na hÉireann on Friday, October 24, in what was surely a comprehensive and significant victory for the political left in Ireland. Undoubtedly, the West Galway independent TD's broad coalition of support from the left-wing parties of Ireland, as well as her assured demeanour and ability to navigate questions of political judgement, won her position of the highest civic office in Ireland.

In a race that seemed lethargic and not incredibly exciting, Fine Gael candidate and former Government Minister, Heather Humphries failed to spark and capture the enthusiasm of the voters who went to the ballot box, winning 29% of the first preference votes, compared to that of Connolly's 63%. Somewhere, far behind in the distance was Fianna Fail's candidate Jim Gavin, who had pulled out of the race at least three weeks prior to the election, though still remaining on the ballot, won a vote share of 7%.

Not seeking to discredit Mrs Connolly's substantive win, focus from commentators, journalists and politicians alike shifted towards another substantial voting preference that emerged from the Presidential Election, those who turned up to vote, but did not express support for a candidate on their ballot paper; these were those who spoiled their ballot.

Indeed, according to conventional political wisdom, at every election there is around 1% - 1.5% of ballots spoiled, due to political frustration and, more often than not, simple mistakes when casting votes. In 2018, 1% of ballots were spoiled, representing 8,438 votes. In 2025? That figure stood at 12.9% - 213,738 spoiled votes. This was no mistake from the Irish electorate. Indeed, no political party with Oireachtas representation endorsed the campaign to #SpoilYourVote, which did exist, but saw little backing from those of elected representation.

With voter turnout at 46%, the reality is the fact that most people decided to stay at home, representing political apathy amongst voters. Showing up to the polling station to deliberately spoil your vote, however – well that's what you call political dissatisfaction. Frustration, anger even.

Now, what has this really got to do with faith, or the Church, at all, one might ask. Well, there did exist a campaign, as some might remember, to put

Maria Steen on the ballot paper of the Presidential Election. A qualified barrister, architect, conservative campaigner and, most impressive of all, home-schooling mother of five children, she sought the nomination of at least four County Councils, or 20 parliamentarians, either being necessary for her name to be put on the ballot paper.

A woman of strong Catholic faith, who had defended the Church's positions on the 2015 and 2018 social issues referenda, as well as the 2024 referendums that were successfully opposed, her campaign stood in sharp contrast to what the other candidates sought to promote and highlight. In an ordeal that went right down to the wire, Maria would gain 18 nominations from members of the Oireachtas, two short of the required 20 to be fielded on the list of Presidential Candidates for the election. Accusations of blocking democratic choice and a legitimate candidate soon followed, with a large amount of people expressing their upset that Maria would not be included on the ballot.

In a poll conducted prior to the election for the Irish Times, 49% of respondents indicated that they did not "feel represented by any of the candidates", and in the same poll, 45% people indicated that Maria Steen should have been 'facilitated on to the ballot'. In some constituencies, up to 20% spoiled their ballot, that's one in five. In Donegal, where some of this Diocese straddles into, voter turnout was the lowest of any constituency, the only one below 40%, with a 39.7% turnout rate.

It is fair to say that there exists in Ireland, both north and south, a political bloc of voters that are essentially, politically homeless. Ostracised in the professional world, and weary of voicing their opinions on contentious issues like immigration, abortion and the breakdown of family values, their views were largely dismissed, or just not represented by what was on offer, which was largely represented in the spoiled vote result. Though not inherent political issues, people notice and care about the fact that society nowadays seems less sociable than before; people talk less to each other, there is less of a feeling of community. Ireland is ranked the loneliest nation in Europe according to recent surveys and data, and many people are just simply fed up with what our politics has to offer.

Now, where does religion fit into all of this this? Well, thanks be to God, we don't believe that

it is the politicians that will save our souls. No matter the political reality of our time, there is no government policy that impedes upon the sovereignty of Heaven, and on the Kingship of Christ our Saviour. Despair is an ally of the devil and we, as Catholics, especially in this year designated as one of hope, can take refuge and peace in the fact that despite what may go on down here, it will not alter the eternal glory of the Kingdom that is yet to come.

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Tribute to the late Fr Frank McLaughlin *by Evan*

ON October 4, we sadly lost a great priest, Fr Frank McLaughlin, who was ordained on June 14, 1959.

I first got to know Fr Frank when I began altar serving in St Eugene's Cathedral, where he helped out through his years of retirement, after his return from Nottingham in 2009.

He was a wise and humble man, who often made you feel at ease when in his company. My most precious moments were being with him in the confessional, with him helping out during school time confessions, always offering advice without judgment.

Fr Frank loved his vocation and embraced it with his whole heart, soul and mind. Always yearning to say Mass when he could, and even when he was no longer able to speak he was still there at the side of the altar, deep in prayer clothed in reverence.

At his Funeral Mass in St Columba's Church, Long Tower, the main celebrant, Fr Paul Farren spoke about the "five loaves and two fish" and how, in life, we have the loaves and fishes already, but what matters is what we do with them. Either, we give them over to God to make something great, or

we keep them to ourselves, letting them only remain the five and two.

So, we thank God for calling Fr Frank, and for allowing me to have been in his presence throughout my years of faith

formation. We thank God that Fr Frank had the courage to turn the loaves into something.

May he rest in the loving embrace of his Saviour, whom he loved and served up until his final moments. Goodbye, Fr Frank.

REQUIEM MASS

FOR

FR FRANK MC LAUGHLIN

8TH OCTOBER 2025

SAINT COLUMBA'S CHURCH, LONG TOWER



14 June 1959 Ordained in All Hallows College, Dublin

1959 - Holy Souls Parish, Scunthorpe

1964 - St. Mary's Parish, Derby

1969 - Our Lady of Victories, Southwell

1974 - St. Anne's Parish, Radcliffe-on-Trent

1977 - Mother of God Parish, Leicester

1993 - Good Shepherd Parish, Woodthorpe

2009 - Retired to Derry

Young Writers share thoughts...

Society of Aquinas...“to know God so that I may better love Him” by Harry

THOMAS Aquinas, born in 1225, was a Dominican priest, philosopher, theologian and, rightly called, ‘the greatest medieval thinker in the west’ (Neil Messer). He is famous for his works, ‘Summa Theologica’, ‘Summa contra Gentiles’, and ‘Catena Aurea’.

When I was new to the faith, after my conversion back to the Catholic Church, Aquinas played a huge role in helping me to see that reason and faith are not against each other, but work together.

As Pope St John Paul II said: “Faith and reason are the two wings of the human spirit by which it soars to the truth”.

He also helped me “to know God so that I may better love him” and defend the faith, as St Peter asks (1 Peter 3:15).

Another aspect of Aquinas that struck me was his love for the Eucharist. Pope Benedict XVI said: “Priestly spirituality is intrinsically Eucharistic”, so that explains why. I have always loved Aquinas’ hymns too, with ‘Tantum Ergo’ being my favourite! I cry every time I hear it, so you can see that Aquinas found me.

This leads to my main point: The Church, in my opinion, needs the return of Aquinas. So, I decided to create a group called ‘Society of Aquinas’ to spread the person and thought of Aquinas, as well as ultimately pass on to others what I have received myself... “to know God so that I may better love Him.”

To date, we have had an Aquinas Games Night, consisting of: True or false on Aquinas; ‘What would

Aquinas do’ scenarios; Aquinas word bank scramble and put Aquinas’ life into chronological order. Rightly so, it has also consisted of fun, as well as treats with fizzy drinks, and a trophy to award the winning team.

We recently had our second

gathering, which was an Aquinas Holy Hour with reflections from Aquinas on the Real Presence with the necessity of faith, the pledge of future glory and ‘Sacrament of Love’. Of course, to put the cherry on top, I chanted the ‘Tantum Ergo’, which some

of the members said “blew them away”.

I now hope to have a third gathering, reading Aquinas on the four senses of Scripture.

So, hopefully I have engaged you and made you consider becoming a faithful son/daughter

of Aquinas. You can do so by joining the Society of Aquinas Whatsapp Group, which has Aquinas insights and Sunday Gospel reflections by Thomas Aquinas.

Email me at: Harrymason395@gmail.com, Text me: 07594366129.



Group prayer before quick plunge in Atlantic...a moment of grace found right there in the cold by Niamh

EVERY Thursday morning, while most students are getting ready for lectures, a small group of us meet at Portstewart Strand. The beach is quiet, the sea is cold, and yet there is a sense of calm that keeps drawing us back. We are part of a Cold Dip Club, where students from the university start the day with prayer, community, and a quick plunge into the Atlantic.

I joined a few weeks ago after hearing about it through the university chaplaincy. At first, I thought it sounded slightly mad... who would willingly jump into the sea before breakfast? But my

friends kept saying how peaceful it made them feel, and how it connected them to their faith in a new way. So, one Thursday I decided to give it a go.

Before we go in, we gather on the sand for a short prayer. Sometimes it is a decade of the Rosary, other times just a moment of silence to thank God for the day ahead. Then, together, we walk into the waves. The first few seconds are always a shock as the cold hits you hard, but then there is this strange clarity. For a minute or two, everything else fades; the stress of assignments, the noise of social media, even the cold itself. All that

is left is stillness.

That stillness has become, for me, a kind of prayer. It is a reminder that faith isn’t only about words or rituals, but about presence and being fully alive to the moment God has given. The sea, unpredictable and vast, becomes a symbol of that trust we are called to have in Him.

After the dip, we wrap up in towels, share tea from flasks and chat. It is simple, but it feels deeply rooted in community. There is something about starting the day this way with others, in faith and in nature, that helps me carry that sense of peace into everything else.

The cold water has become more than a challenge; it is a way of grounding my faith. Each time I step into the sea, I think of baptism and the renewal it represents. It reminds me that our faith, like the water, can be bracing at first but it wakes us up to what really matters.

So, if you ever find yourself in Portstewart on a Thursday morning, you might see a small group huddled on the shore, praying before diving into the freezing waves. We might look a bit mad, but for us it is a moment of grace, found right there in the cold.



Helping Holy Souls in Purgatory through plenary indulgences by Bláthnaid

THE Church celebrates All Souls’ Day annually on November 2, which gives us the chance to pray for, reflect upon and celebrate the lives of all of our deceased loved ones. Unlike All Saints’ Day, which focuses on all the faithfully departed in Heaven, All Souls’ Day places an emphasis on remembering all the souls going through the process of final purification in Purgatory.

The Bible discusses Purgatory in 1 Corinthians 3:14-15: “If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.” This is describing how God will judge us after death, and how there is a necessary purification process to go through, so that the stain that sin has left on our souls can be removed before we are able to enter into Heaven with Him.

As this is a place of purification,

it is believed that it will be painful and involve some discomfort, which is why it is important that we ask Jesus to help in converting our hearts to be filled with love and compassion for those in Purgatory – that we remember them, pray for them and make sacrifices for them so that, hopefully, they may spend less time suffering in Purgatory and soon be in Eternal Happiness with God in Heaven.

Recently, I listened to a homily on YouTube by Fr Rich Conlin, in which he spoke about the impact and importance of our prayers for the souls in Purgatory, through an analogy of a flower garden. In this analogy, the souls in Heaven, celebrated on All Saints’ Day, are referred to as flowers beautifully blooming above, now in a state of perfection with God. Whilst the souls in Purgatory are represented by seeds in the darkness of soil, undergoing a process of transformation but are

unable to speed up the process of growing by themselves.

However, through God’s Grace acting through our prayers and sacrifices, we are able to assist the souls in Purgatory in helping them reach purity, in the same way a gardener may use fertiliser to help a seed grow quicker.

One way in which we are able to do this is through plenary indulgences, which there is an opportunity to gain on All Souls’ Day every year. A plenary indulgence isn’t a forgiveness of sin, like that granted through the Sacrament of Confession, but instead is the remission of punishment for sins that have already been forgiven.

In order to receive a plenary indulgence, we have to be in a state of Grace, have our feelings and attitudes completely detached from all sin, have been to Confession, receive the Eucharist and pray for the intentions of the Pope. Then, we have to complete

the indulgence act, such as visiting a graveyard in the first week of November (1-8) and saying a prayer for the poor souls. This can be done once a day, every day for the eight consecutive days.

There are also plenary and partial indulgences which can be gained at different parts of the year, and certain updates with availability of these in 2025, with it being a Jubilee Year, which you can find on EWTN or the Vatican website.

If you would like to pray for a soul in Purgatory this November but are unsure of who to pray for, we are able to ask God to apply the indulgence to a poor soul who has nobody praying for them.

“As we enter Heaven, we will see them, so many of them, coming towards us and thanking us. We will ask who they are, and they will say ‘a poor soul you prayed for in purgatory.’” (Ven Fulton Sheen)

How can we gain
PLENARY INDULGENCE for
the Holy Souls’ in Purgatory?

ALL SOULS’ DAY - NOVEMBER 02

- Piously visit a church or a chapel
- Recite one Our Father and the Creed

NOVEMBER 01 - 03

- Visit a cemetery and pray for the departed souls

Together with
THE USUAL CONDITIONS

- Sacramental Confession and Eucharistic Communion
- Complete detachment from sin
- Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father

Young Writers share thoughts...

St Philomena a powerful witness to remaining rooted in faith despite pain and injustice *by Erin*

ST Philomena was a third-century Greek princess and a virgin martyr. She is believed to have been born around January 291 AD and to have died around August 304 AD, at the young age of 13. St Philomena is the Patron Saint of babies, infants and youth. She is also associated with causes involving impossible or desperate situations, purity and healing.

In the 1820s, a Neapolitan nun, named Sr Maria Luisa di Gesù, reported a series of visions or private revelations in which she was shown St Philomena's life story. This became the basis for the traditional life of St Philomena, which spread throughout the Church worldwide, and it is where all that we know about St Philomena comes from.

St Philomena was said to be the daughter of a Greek king, who ruled a minor province in Corfu, Greece. Her parents were pagan and unable to conceive, until they converted to Christianity after prayer and prophecy. From a young age, she was deeply devoted to her faith and, at about

11 years old, she made a private vow of virginity to Jesus Christ.

When St Philomena was about 13 years old, her parents were called to Rome because the Emperor Diocletian wanted to inflict war. Her father wished to negotiate peace. While in Rome, the Emperor became infatuated with her and wanted to marry her. However, St Philomena had taken a vow of consecrated virginity and, therefore, refused. She declared that she belonged entirely to Christ.

When she refused, the Emperor tried to persuade her using gifts. She was locked in a dungeon and, when she persisted, was subjected to torture, which included scourging, drowning with an anchor attached to her, and shooting with arrows. Each time she was attacked, she was protected by angels. When she was tied and scourged, angels appeared and healed her wounds. When drowned, angels cut the rope and brought her safely to the riverbank, and when shot with arrows, the arrows miraculously

turned back on the archers.

Finally, when the Emperor saw that nothing could break her faith, he commanded her to be beheaded. She was martyred around 304 AD, and immediately entered into glory. According to the vision, her death came on a Friday at three in the afternoon, the same as Jesus.

St Philomena's remains were discovered in May 1802 at the Catacombs of Priscilla, on the Via Salaria Nova, with three tiles reading "Peace be to you, Philomena." The tiles also had symbols like a lily for purity, a palm which was a universal symbol of martyrdom, an anchor to symbolise faith, a javelin, and arrows to further symbolise her torture and martyrdom. This authentic archaeological evidence made her life significant before the whole story was revealed in visions.

After the discovery and transfer of her relics to Mugnana del Cardinale, in Italy, numerous miraculous healings and conversions were attributed

to St Philomena. These were strengthened through support of saints like St John Vianney and St Peter Julian Eymard. These healings led to her being known as the 'Wonder-Worker of the 19th Century'. Catholics turned to her for impossible causes, believing that God worked through her humble and pure heart.

In artwork, St Philomena is often depicted as a young woman with a hand to her chest, which may represent her wounds that were miraculously healed or simply show that she is in prayer. She is also shown with the symbols from her tomb, like a lily or palm.

The example of St Philomena is important for us as Catholics today, because she embodies steadfast fidelity. She remains true and faithful to her beliefs no matter what. St Philomena is often seen as a model of purity and self-giving freedom. Her dignity depended on God alone.

Despite the details of her story, which we are not fully sure of, it is clear that she faced



pain and injustice but remained courageously rooted in her faith. This story and her rediscovery could show that God remembers even the forgotten ones.

She is a powerful example, especially as a young person, because she shows how our faith can change the world. She represents the quiet strength of those who love God deeply, which can be powerful in a world that glorifies comfort and self-promotion. True greatness comes not from being seen by the world, but from God alone.

Bishop Donal commends tireless safeguarding work of many in Diocese *by Briege O'Neill*

BISHOP Donal McKeown was joined by priests from the Diocese for the celebration of the annual Diocesan Safeguarding Mass on Friday, October 24, in St Eugene's Cathedral. Sally Mae Coney provided the music for the Mass.

This annual Safeguarding Mass recognises the work that has been accomplished to date in the Derry Diocese.

Bishop Donal asked for God's blessing on the work in safeguarding within the Diocese, and gave thanks for all involved. Prayers for those who have suffered the pain of abuse were led

by the bishop, and he prayed for the continued healing ministry within the church.

Bishop Donal acknowledged and appreciated the dedication of many people in the Diocese who work tirelessly to create a safe environment for children and adults within their parishes.

He thanked all present for their significant contribution to this extremely important work over the past year.

Following the Mass, everyone was invited for some light refreshments in the Cathedral Hall.



For the second global Eucharistic procession of 2025...

Bishop Donal to lead Derry in celebrating Christ The King

by Barry Mallett

THE City of Derry is leading the way in hosting the second Worldwide Eucharistic Procession, in honour of Christ The King on what is the 100th anniversary of this major Catholic Feast Day, November 23.

Led by Bishop Donal McKeown, the event will commence with 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration in the Discaled Carmelite Monastery, Termonbacca, from 8.30 am on Saturday, November 22, to 8 am on Sunday, November 23.

Organised by volunteers from Derry, in collaboration with Catholic parishes all over the world, the first ever Worldwide Eucharistic Procession took place in Derry earlier this year, in February. It is estimated that 5,000 people in Derry alone took part in this procession, with the Holy Eucharist reverently carried in a Monstrance through the streets of the City.

Similar processions also took place, simultaneously, in 70 parishes across six continents, from Africa to America, Rome to Rwanda, Italy to India, organised by the laity in collaboration with priests and bishops.

This year, Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, November 23, at 12 noon in St Columba's Church, Long Tower, followed by the Eucharistic Procession led by Bishop Donal. The procession will

take the familiar route through Bishop Street to the Diamond, down Shipquay Street and on towards the Peace Bridge, then down the Quay to the second Jetty, beside the Council Offices.

Foyle Search & Rescue are providing three boats to carry Bishop Donal and several members of the clergy to each of the three bridges. This is to commemorate the three falls of Christ, and to bless the waters in commemoration of the Holy Souls of Ireland and for all who have been affected by suicide, mental health and anxiety. The blessing of the water will take about 50 minutes and, while this is happening, the people in the procession will line the quay in prayer.

Afterwards, the procession will make its way over the Peace Bridge, and Bishop Donal will consecrate the Foyle River, and all the rivers of Ireland, to St Columba. Moving on to Ebrington Square, there will be a choir on stage awaiting Bishop Donal to celebrate Benediction. The event will come to a close at 4.30 pm, following an afternoon of prayer and music.

Members of the clergy are invited to join in and families are encouraged to bring their children. All those present will receive Rosary beads, Miraculous

Medals, prayer cards and other sacramentals as a keepsake, as far as stock lasts.

Eucharistic Revival

This global event is not just a procession, it is part of the ongoing Eucharistic Revival that is helping to bring to light St Patrick's prophecy that a light would start in the North and spread throughout the whole of Ireland, and onto the UK and continental Europe. This is why bringing the children is so important, to pass this Eucharistic flame of love and revival from nation-to-nation and heart-to-heart.

The Children's Rosary, Children of The Eucharist and Children of Fatima will accompany Bishop Donal in Rosary and song. Many of the local prayer groups, as well as others from all over Ireland, have already purchased flags and banners, and are coming to Derry to join in the procession, such as the Legion of Mary, St Vincent de Paul, Cursillo, Servant of God Sr Clare Crockett, Mary's Meals, the Holy Face, the Holy Souls, HLI Ireland, Precious Life, St Benedict's, Search, Youth 2000, Kerrytown Shrine of Our Lady, Foyle Search & Rescue, Radio Maria, and the Flame of Love.

The Men's Rosary will take place in conjunction with Adoration, from 2-5 pm in Termonbacca on

Saturday, November 22.

There will be international and Irish YouTube channels and Podcasters in attendance to cover the procession. EWTN is distributing the promotional video to their global news outlets, and Ciara McDaid Photography, Shalom TV and Derry's favourite newspaper, 'The Net', will once again capture the event.

Car parking is available at Ebrington, the Brunswick Complex at Pennyburn Industrial Estate, and Lumen Christi College, Bishop Street, which is going to open the school grounds for car parking from 10 am-6 pm.

Parishes from all over the world are emailing to confirm their participation, with a Cardinal and two Archbishops leading processions.

A new Catholic YouTube Channel has been launched by the organisers of the Worldwide Eucharistic Procession, called 'Guardians of the Faith' - Ireland's ancient title as custodians in preserving ancient scriptures and manuscripts, which were then passed on from generation to generation. With so much doom and gloom online, this Channel of love and hope aims to counteract that negativity through airing testimonials and interviews. Photographs and videos of the various processions



World Wide Eucharistic Procession

Christ the King Centenary Celebration

Sunday 23rd November

**Feast of Christ the King
St. Columba's Chapel
The Long Tower, Derry**

*Start: Holy Mass 12.00pm
Benediction and an Eucharistic
Procession through the City to the
Foyle River then into Ebrington Square
for an afternoon of Celebrations*

REDEMPTION, LIBERATION, CELEBRATION
christthekingis100@gmail.com



Led by Bishop Donal McKeown

will be uploaded afterwards to the channel, so people unable to attend will be able to view them in the comfort of their own home.

Go to YouTube, search Guardians of the Faith, and subscribe. Information about the procession is available on this channel, as well as on Facebook FOL NorthofIreland, or on the website www.christthekingis100.com.

com - you can also email: christthekingis100@gmail.com.

Come to Derry, bring all the family for a day of joy and celebration of our faith on Sunday, November 23, for the Feast of Christ the King, and join in this global event as we bring the Eucharist onto the streets to shout out to the world that Ireland belongs to Christ the King.

Sperrin parishes Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome *by Fr Roland Colhoun*

ROME is called the Eternal City. It gained this name because its ancient poets said the city would last forever, like an empire without end. Rome is also eternal in the sense that its most famous resident, the Pope, guides us towards eternal life. I am writing about the Eternal City because I have just returned from it. I and two colleagues, Fr Brian Donnelly and Fr James Devine, spent the closing days of September and the opening days of October in Rome with 50 pilgrims from our cluster of parishes: Greencastle; Gortin; Newtownstewart; and Plumbridge. My little promo in the bulletin said, 'Pilgrimage to Rome - three priests, four parishes, five nights'.

A pilgrimage to Rome has many features. It gives a glimpse of the architecture of beautiful buildings and the engineering of ancient bridges, all filled with symbolism. It is a journey into history, salvation history. A pilgrimage is a celebration of the Eucharist in ornate churches. It is a visit to the Pope and the tombs of the popes. It is a walk in the footsteps of the saints and the martyrs. It is an exploration of the martyrdom of St Peter, the first pope, and St Paul, his fellow Apostle, and

similar cruel deaths of countless believers down the centuries.

A pilgrimage to Rome includes a visit to the Catacombs, the underground Christian burial sites of the early centuries. Worshipping Christ was illegal before the Edict of Milan (313AD) and the law of the time prohibited burials anywhere inside the city of Rome. With all this in mind, a pilgrimage is an opportunity to accompany the believers of today in faith, hope and love. And it prompts us to go to Confession and do penance for our sins.

The Holy Door is important in the Jubilee year. The Holy Door is a special entrance to a significant church. It is a door which is opened every 25th year, the Jubilee year. The Church invites pilgrims to pass through one of the holy doors in Rome, as a symbolic act of renouncing the old life of sin and stepping into the new life of ongoing daily conversion. Our group made sure to traverse the four holy doors of Rome (in the four principal basilicas) and to pray for the jubilee Indulgence that the Pope promises is on offer. An Indulgence is the remission of the punishment due for sin and, thereby, the shortening of the time spent in Purgatory by one of

the Holy Souls.

A pilgrimage is a mini version of the whole of life, of the journey from baptism to funeral and from earth to heaven. A pilgrimage teaches us how to get to Heaven, namely by loving God prayerfully and by journeying with neighbours peacefully. Particularly vivid was our group procession on the Friday, in which the Greencastle youth carried the Jubilee crucifix along the Via Conciliazione and the full length of St Peter's Square, through the Holy Door and up the aisle of St Peter's Basilica - the longest Basilica in the world - praying as we walked and finishing at the tomb of St Peter.

Of course, a pilgrimage incorporates penance, such as very early morning rises and lots of walking in the afternoon heat, particularly strenuous for the seniors. Still, a pilgrimage has its perks, with new friendships forged, tasty meals put in front of the pilgrim three times a day and no dishes to wash for a whole week!

The highlight of our week was the Papal Audience, which takes place outdoors in St Peter's Square every Wednesday morning. We got to see the new Pope, Leo XIV,

criss-crossing the Square in the popemobile. We listened to his teaching, sang the Lord's Prayer with him in Latin and received his apostolic blessing! 'God's love does not humiliate', the Pope said (Leo XIV, General Audience, St Peter's Square, Rome, 1st October 202). In other words, God is always glad to see us, especially if we are repentant. Christ was humiliated on Calvary, but He has no desire to humiliate us. The Lord is merciful, therefore, He will never remonstrate with us as to why it took so long for us to come back to Him!

Thirty-seven million people will visit Rome this year. They won't all go to Confession nor gain the plenary Indulgence, but each one will experience something of the beauty, goodness and truth of the Catholic faith. Then the Jubilee Year will have made its mark on the souls of the Faithful. Most people will never get to Rome, but the sacraments are available at home, in our own parishes, every day. In that way, the holiness of the Eternal City is spread across the globe, day after day, year after year, until the end of time. In this sublime way, the Eternal City helps to prepare us for eternal life.



Eangach

Padre Pio agus an tAifreann



A Mhuire na n-Grás,
a Mháthair Mhic Dé,
go gcuire tú
ar mo leas mé.

Go sábhála tú mé
ar gach uile olc.
Go sábhála tú mé
Idir anam is chorp.

Go sábhála tú mé
ar muir is ar tír.
Go sábhála tú mé
ar leac na bpian.

Garda na n-Aingeal
os mo chionn —
Dia romham,
agus Dia liom.

Uan Dé

Ó a Thiarna Íosa Críost, is tú an fhírinne
a thóga peacaí an domhain. Trí thrócaire
do chrainn, tabhair dúinn pardún inár
gcoireanna, agus trí do pháis rónaofa,
coimeád sinn ón uile peaca agus ón olc.

Míle fáilte romhat,
Íosa uasail, an Tiarna
a d'fhulaing dúinne an Pháis,
an tsleá nimhe ag dul trí do thaobh
Gur tháinig as fuil agus uisce
Ó Íosa Mac Muire,
Déan trócaire orainn.



Tá Naomh Pio – nó Padre Pio mar a tugadh air san Iodáil (agus mar a thugtar go coitianta inniu) – ar dhuine de na naoimh is mó a bhfuil clú agus cáil air in Éirinn, fiú. Bheadh an iomaí cúis leis seo – cúis amháin taobh thiar de seo is ea é an grá a bhíonn ag daoine dó agus é ag cuidiú le tréimhsí crua, tréimhsí tinnis srl. Agus tá mórán cleachta lena chuid ráiteas, ceann acu thar aon cheann eile, b'fhéidir: *“Guigh, bíodh dóchas agat, agus ná bí buartha...óir tá an buaireamh gan mhaith...”*.

Ach thaire sin, is fiú gan dearmad a dhéanamh ar cheann de na rudaí is mó a tharraing daoine go dtí an clochar beag tuaithe, *Santa Maria Delle Grazie* (Eaglais Mhuire na nGrásta), taobh amuigh den tsráidbhaile iargúlta San Giovanni Rotondo. Is é sin an t-aifreann.

Deirtear fá dhaoine a bhí i láthair ag aifreann Padre Pio nach ndearna siad dearmad ar an eispéaras sin riamh. Is é seo an rud a tharraing oilithrigh ó achan chearn den Iodáil, agus ó thíortha eile. Ba ghnách le daoine fanacht ar feadh i bhfad taobh amuigh den eaglais – is cuma cén aimsir a bhí ann – le deis a fháil dul isteach go tobann ar oscailt na ndoirse agus suíochán a fháil chomh cóngarach don tsagart cháiliúil seo agus is féidir.

A bheag nó a mhór, tá seo mar gheall ar an mhistéir a bhain leis an Padre. Bhí rud *neamhghnách* ag baint leis. Léiríonn an Tiarna é féin dúinn ar cuid mhór bhealaí sna naoimh, ach in Padre Pio, léirigh an Tiarna Íosa é féin ar bhealach ar leith dúinn, bealach speisialta. Bhí créachtaí na Páise – na poill i lámha, cosa, taobh Íosa, agus créacht a ghualainn, le feiceáil go físiúil ar chorp Padre Pio. D'fhulaing sé piantaí na páise go físiúil ina chorp. Nuair a d'ardaigh Padre Pio an Eocairist san aifreann (gan na miotóga air a bhíodh air ó lá go lá), chonaic an slua lámha a bhí tollta amhail Críost, ag ardu Choirp Críost.

Chuaigh an t-eispéireas i bhfeidhm ar dhaoine. De ghnáth, mhair sé níos faide ná dhá uair an chloig. Ach mhothaigh na daoine go raibh rud éigin nár bhain le srianta ama ag dul ar aghaidh. Cinnte, íobairt Chalvaire .i. Íosa á thabhairt féin ar an chros, á ath-thabhairt dúinn, is é sin atá san aifreann.

Ar bhealach mistiúil, bhí Padre Pio aontaithe le hÍosa. Ag achan phointe den aifreann, bhí eispéiris mhistiúla ag Padre Pio de ghnéithe na Páise, a mhothaigh sé ina chorp féin. Crá Íosa sa Gharadh. An sciúrsáil. An Choróin Dheilgneach. Na tairní sa lámha agus sna cosa. Tá sé tuairiscithe go bhfaca daoine an iomaí mothú éagsúil ina

aghaidh, amhail is go raibh comhrá ar siúl. D'fheicfeadh daoine é ag déanamh comharthaí diúltacha, é ag croitheadh a chinn, ansin bhí sé cosúil is gur leagadh ualach ollmhór air. Bheadh a chorp righin ansin, chonacthas do chách go raibh sé ag impí gan focal. Leis seo, bhíodh sé le feiceáil go raibh sé ag caoineadh, agus a ghuaillí faoin ualach.

Seo an méid a scríobh Padre Alberto D'Apolito, finné súl agus cara Padre Pio: *“Ag amharc ar aghaidh Padre Pio, fliuch le deora; smaoinigh an té láithreach ar ualach na bpeacaí a thóg sé, ó na huaireanta fada a chaith sé ag éisteacht le faoistíní gach lá. É ísliithe, faoi ualach na bpeacaí ó dhaoine eile, dhreap sé altóir Dé chun é féin a ofráil mar íospartach, in éineacht le Críost, agus le hionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar Chríost na fulaingte ina phearsa féin”*.

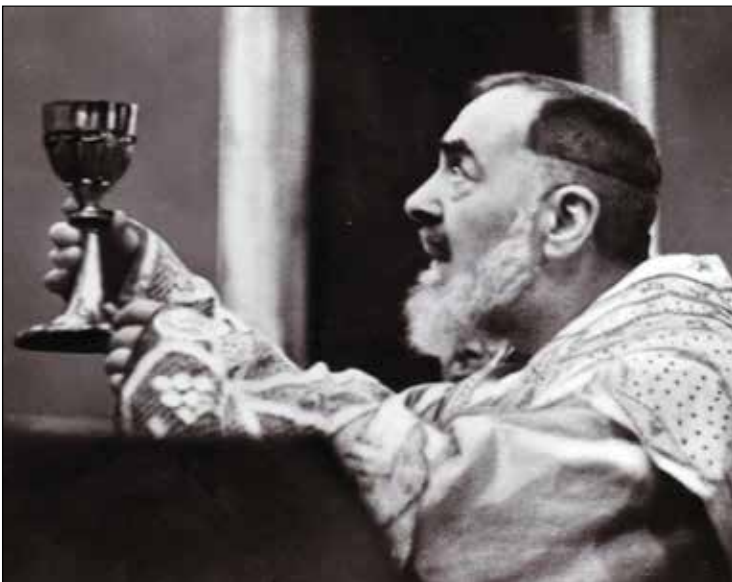
Is é lár agus croí an aifrinn an Eocairist, agus ba é seo an rud ba thábhachtaí don Padre. Chonaic na daoine a a bhíodh i láthair go n-éireodh a ghnúis lonnrach agus nuair a bhí an t-am don Chomaoineach ann.

Is iontach iad na rudaí seo ar fad, agus cinnte, ní gnáthrudaí iad a fheiceann muid ar aifreann ó lá go lá. Ach ba iad seo na gnáthrudaí a bhí le feiceáil sa mhainistir seo in San Giovanni achan lá. Scríobhann Padre Alberto tuilleadh: *“Sinne, a thug cuidiú ag aifrinn Padre Pio go minic...thig linn a dhearbhu go raibh a chéasadh ar an chros athnuaithe achan mhaidin ar altóirí na seaneaglaise agus na heaglaise nua Mhuire na nGrásta in San Giovanni Rotondo”*.

Párthas
Bhí Calvaire i gceist, ach bhí Párthas i gceist leis an aifreann dó fosta. Nuair a bhí Padre Pio ag ceiliúradh an aifrinn, d'fheicfeadh sé na Flaithis ar oscailt, áilleacht Dá, glóir na n-aingeal agus na naomh.

Scríobh sé litir in 1912 inar scríobh sé fá Mhuire a bheith in éineacht leis ag an aifreann: *“Is í mí na Bealtaine mí na ngrásta...a Mháthair Bhig, nach mór do ghrá dom!...Nach mór an cúram a thug sí dom teacht in éineacht liom chuig an altóir inniu. Bhí sé cosúil is nach raibh rud ar bith eile ar a hintinn ach mise...”* Nuair a fíafraíodh de an bíonn an Mhaighdean Bheannaithe i láthair ag an aifreann, d'inis sé go mbíonn sí i gcónaí ann – go raibh sí ann ar Chalvaire agus a mac á chéasadh, agus go mbíonn sí i láthair ag achan aifrinn ar fud na cruinne. Nuair a fíafraíodh de “An mbíonn na haingil i láthair”, dúirt sé go mbíonn cúirt iomlán na bhFlaitheas ann.

Is léargas thar barr é seo ar a chreideann muid fán aifreann. Ag an aifreann, bíonn an Eaglais ar an



talamh, agus an Eaglais neamhaí ag cruinniú le chéile, agus bíonn na Flaithis i láthair. Sna Scriptoriúir, feiceann muid go mbíonn na haingil ag canadh agus ag moladh Dé: *“Is Naofa Naofa Naofa thú a Thiarna Dia na Slua, tá neamh agus talamh lán le do ghlóir...”* Bíonn na focail céanna á rá againn san aifreann – mar aon leis na haingil atá i láthair, tugann muid moladh do Dhia. Bíonn seo ann nuair atá muid ag díriú ar an Eocairist ar bhealach ar leith. Le hurraim, téann muid ar ár nglúine.

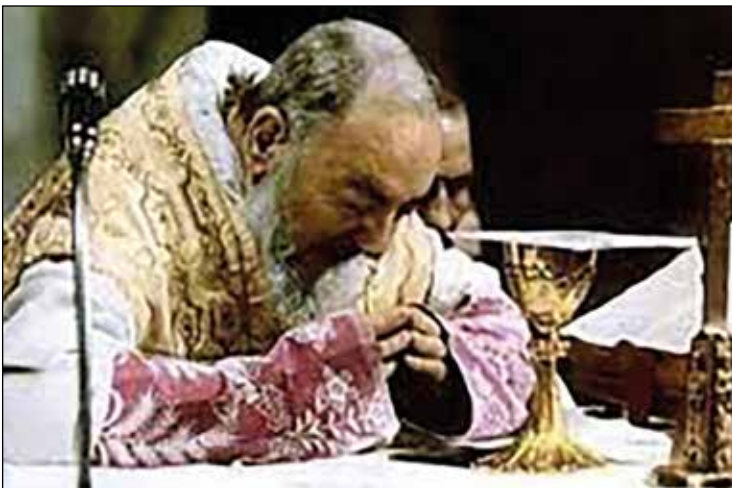
Fear ar leith a bhí in Padre Pio. Ní fheiceann muid mórán de na tréithe neamhghnácha seo ag baint leis an chuid is mó de dhaoine, ná an chuid is mó de shagairt, fiú amháin. Is é an fáth go raibh siad le feiceáil san fhear seo – san áit agus san aois inar mhair sé – ná gur thoil le Dia é sin a dhéanamh. Ba thoil le Dia é féin a nochtheadh do dhaoine fríd Padre Pio, rinne sé seo le creideamh na ndaoine a mhéadú.

Cad é an toradh a bhí air sin? Bhí, agus tá, tionchar forleathan ag Padre Pio ar fud an domhain. Tá Padre Pio aitheanta mar chomhartha de chéasadh agus crochadh Chríost, agus maidir leis an aifreann go háirithe, comhartha a léiríonn fírinne a bhaineann leis an aifreann,

.i. gur Corp agus Fuil Chríost i bhfírinne atá san Eocairist, agus gurb íobairt an aifrinn an íobairt chéanna a tharla ar Chalvaire 2000 bliain ó shin, ar son maithiúnas ár bpeacaí. Rinne Padre Pio an íobairt sin a ofráil – rud a léiríonn go ndéanann sagairt amhaidh gach lá. Ach bhí Padre Pio ina íobairt fosta – bhí seisean á ofráil.

Neartaíodh creideamh na ndaoine san aifreann fríd a bheith ag freastal. Seo mar a deir sagairt a d'fhreastail air nó a thug cuidiú ann: *“D'fhoghlaim muid luach a chur leis an aifreann agus a bheith buíoch as, fríd Padre Pio; d'fhoghlaim muid an dóigh leis an aifreann a cheiliúradh...”*. Bhí daoine eile ann a bhí díchreidmheach nó a raibh amhrais acu, a d'iompaigh agus a chreid go hiomlán, mar gheall na nithe a chonaic siad agus a mhothaigh siad.

Maidir le Padre Pio de, ba é an t-aifreann an rud ba thábhachtaí ina shaol. Ba í an fhulaingt ba mhó a bhí aige an t-am nuair a cuireadh cosc air é a dhéanamh, nó nuair nach d'tiocfadh leis de bharr tinnis. Thuig sé an tábhacht atá leis fosta, rud a léiríonn a chuid focal: *“Mhairfeadh an domhan gan an ghrian, fiú amháin, ach ní mhairfeadh sé beo gan an aifreann”*.



Derry Diocese well represented amongst thousands at Legion of Mary Knock pilgrimage *by Sean Mullan*



PILGRIMS from across the country gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady in Knock for the annual Legion of Mary pilgrimage on September 28 - one of the largest in the Shrine's calendar year. Blessed with unusually fine weather for late September, thousands attended this spiritual event.

The Derry Diocese was well represented, with four buses organised by local Legionaries transporting pilgrims to the Shrine. Among those in attendance were both active members of the Legion of Mary and laypeople from various

parishes in the diocese.

The main celebrant for the Mass was Fr John Harris, OP, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Order in Ireland. In his homily, Fr Harris marked a significant milestone in the Legion's history; 100 years since one of its earliest and most notable missions took place in Dublin.

He recalled the Legion's outreach in the 1920s to an area then known as the 'Monto', once the largest red-light district in Europe. Under the leadership of founder, Frank Duff, early Legionaries brought both spiritual and practical support to

women trapped in prostitution. Their compassionate efforts helped transform the area, offering those they encountered a path to physical and spiritual renewal.

During his homily, Fr Harris also reflected on the deep connection between the Legion of Mary and the Marian Apparition at Knock. He described the Legion as "an extension of Mary's motherhood", drawing attention to how the Blessed Virgin leads the faithful to her Son, especially in the Eucharist. He emphasised the Legion's role as part of a "school of salvation", with Mary as its guiding teacher.

The pilgrimage included prayer and spiritual reflection during the journey to and from Knock, creating a truly enriching experience for all involved. Pilgrims returned uplifted, grateful for the opportunity to honour Our Lady and deepen

their faith.

Founded in Ireland, the Legion of Mary is a lay apostolate whose primary aim is the sanctification of its members through prayer and active evangelisation. Its works include home and school visitation, outreach to the sick, and spiritual support in parishes. The organisation is rooted in the spirituality of St Louis Marie de Montfort's 'True Devotion to Mary'.

New members are always welcome. If your parish has a local Legion group, known as a 'praesidium', you are invited to attend. For those interested in establishing a group in their parish, support and guidance will be provided by experienced Legionaries.

For more information, please contact Comitium President, Shane McFadden at 02871164864 or Comitium Treasurer, Sean Mullan at 07854 027877.



Faughanvale legionaries return with renewed hearts from Knock Shrine *by Brenda Deery*

SOME members of Our Lady, Star of the Sea Praesidium, Faughanvale, had the pleasure of joining the Derry Comitium's annual pilgrimage to Knock on September 28. A big 'thank you' goes out to Br Sean Mullan for all his background work to make this happen.

Although an early start for some, we set off for Knock and picked up pilgrims in Strabane and Lifford. The day was beautiful and, like Our Lady, 'fair as the sun'.

As requested by Our Lady in all Her apparitions, the Rosary was recited on our journey to and from Knock. The hidden talents of some of our pilgrims were shared in the form of song and prayer, which greatly shortened the journey and uplifted the pilgrims.

This Jubilee year's theme of Hope was truly tangible, and Br Sean reminded us of the graces available to all, especially the Holy Souls, through obtaining the plenary indulgences.

Arriving in Knock, the pilgrims followed their personal agendas. The crowds were mighty and those who chose to go to Confession were happy to wait 90 minutes to avail of the graces of the sacrament!

The formal proceedings began at 3 pm, with Mass in the Basilica. A number of our legionaries felt called to join the Legion of Mary choir to add to the liturgy. Fr John Harris OFM led the celebrations. It was uplifting to see the crowds in the Basilica, which was so full that some pilgrims had to stand.

Fr Harris shared some reflections in his homily emphasizing the importance of the Legion of Mary, and Her work of evangelizing and seeking out souls for God. The role of Our Lady in today's world is even more necessary to bring about peace and the salvation of all souls.

God's gift of Holy Mass, Adoration, Contrition and Thanksgiving were the true

highlights of the day. The 'bright sun' allowed the Eucharistic procession to take place outside, and the final blessing was our initiation to go back into our own parishes and distribute the graces showered on us by Our Lady of Knock to our fellow parishioners and community.

Our Lady is never outdone in her generosity and maternal

motherhood; Her mantle covers all Her children, and She asks all of us to pray the Rosary every day for the conversion of souls to God and bring about the reign of Her Immaculate Heart.

Exhausted but elated, we made it back to Faughanvale with renewed hearts. Our Lady, Star of the Sea and Our Lady of Knock - we send you a big thank you!



American visitors join locals for celebration of Eucharist at Strabane Mass Rock

by Oliver Barrett



A small group gathered for 10 am Mass at Tulacorr Mass Rock, on the outskirts of Strabane, on Saturday, October 11, celebrated by Fr Michael Spain, of the Discalced Carmelite Order residing in Termonbacca. The congregation consisted of local people and pilgrims from Minnesota and Minneapolis, in the USA, who were making their way to Knock Shrine in Co Mayo.

Penal times

Mass has been celebrated at the Mass Rock from penal times, which lasted from the 16th to 18th centuries and were a cruel time for the Irish people. It was a period

during which the Church in Ireland was persecuted. The penal code's purpose was not to benefit the country, but to pauperise, degrade and enfeeble it.

The executive machinery at the time sought to harass and, where possible, exterminate the Catholic priesthood. Penal laws sought to reduce the Irish people to mere day labourers and deprive them of education. These laws disabled Catholics from holding property, and they sought to destroy Catholicism through the suppression of public worship. Priests were hunted to exterminate them.

The Penal Laws sought to

paralyse the Church, and this is evidenced by the fact that during penal times there were no ecclesiastical records kept, for example, of births, deaths and marriages.

Mass Rocks

Mass was celebrated at the Mass Rock because public expression of Catholicism was forbidden. Mass Rocks, also known as the Old Altar or the Priest's Hollow, are a poignant reminder of the penal times in Ireland. During that period, people could not publicly express their Catholicism. For this reason, they retreated to secret places, such as the Mass Rock at Tulacorr, to celebrate the Eucharist. On one level, the rock served as an altar for the priest, and on another level, it is symbolic of the faith of the people who gathered there despite the fact that their beliefs were being persecuted.

During penal times, any outward expressions of faith could be dangerous. Often the priest was a target for the occupying

forces, who lived by the motto: 'If we strike the shepherd then the sheep will scatter'. Priests risked their lives to bring the sacraments to their people. Often, they had to hide in safe houses for fear of being informed on and captured.

National identity

As a result of the penal code, there are many Mass Rocks and Workhouses scattered throughout the country. It is fair to say, they are part of our shared history and national identity. Many of the defects in our national character are attributed to the oppressive laws placed upon the Irish people during penal times.

Many would argue that the effects of Penal Laws have lasted to the present day. This is evident in the sub-conscious feeling of social and intellectual inferiority experienced by many Irish people. Celebrating Mass at Mass Rocks today connects us with a time when we could not express our faith, and it honours those who gave up their lives so that we can practice our faith today.



Maghera legionaries amongst South Derry pilgrims at Knock

by Angela Lagan

ST Patrick's Parish, Maghera, Legion of Mary travelled by coach to Knock Shrine on Sunday, September 28, with 43 pilgrims from the South Derry area, to participate in the annual Legion of Mary ceremonies in this Jubilee Year.

The annual event is always much anticipated by Maghera parishioners and well supported.

The overall attendance at Knock Shrine for the pilgrimage was huge in numbers, and the Basilica was packed for the 3 pm Mass.

This was followed by the Legion procession of beautiful banners

from all over Ireland, up to the High Stations of the Cross on the hill, whilst reciting the Rosary relayed from the Basilica and singing 'Ave Maria'. It was a wonderful sight to see, enhanced by fine and sunny afternoon weather.

Everyone enjoyed a spiritual day of healing and happiness, and were most appreciative of the immense work done by the local Maghera Praesidium involved in organising the pilgrim programme, Rosaries in transit, and keeping everyone safe.



Pennyburn Pioneers celebrate



AT the Pioneer and Total Abstinence Association Mass in Pennyburn, St Patrick's members received their lifetime emblems and certificates from Fr Micheál McGavigan PP. From left, Lauren Gallagher, Míceál-Piarras Ó Ceallaigh, Jack Doherty (Long Service Certificate for 70 plus years), Maura Ebbs and Louise Stokes (Temporary One Year emblem and certificate.)

Purple Ladies baby cap knit for Foyle Hospice



LONG Tower 'Purple Ladies' Group' with Fr Gerard Mongan and some of the little caps they knitted for babies as a fundraiser for Foyle Hospice. Led by Kathleen Doherty, the group meets every Monday in Aras Cholmcille after morning Mass. New members welcome. Photograph by Ivor Doherty.

Dungiven Charismatic Prayer

St Canice's Charismatic Prayer Group celebrates Golden Jubilee



ST Canice's Charismatic Prayer Group, in Dungiven, was joined by parishioners and members of other prayer groups from Omagh, Portglenone, and Claudy, for a special celebration on Sunday, September 21, to mark its 50th anniversary.

Welcoming everyone to a time of praise and worship in Emmaus Hall, adjoining St Patrick's Church, before the celebration of Mass by Fr Seamus Kelly, the Spiritual Director of Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese, Geraldine Brolly said that it was a great occasion, which they couldn't let it pass without giving thanks for the "50 years since the Holy Spirit tapped on the door of Madge O'Neill, Bridie Murray and Bridie Kelly."

"Because of their 'yes,'" she remarked, "we are here today".

Thanking the Omagh Charismatic Prayer Group for coming along to provide the music ministry for the celebration, Geraldine added: "Most of the early people are gone to their eternal reward now. I visited their graves this morning. They responded to the Holy Spirit

and, in thanksgiving, we will give praise to God."

The St Canice's Prayer Meeting came about following a conversation between the two Bridies and Madge and some visitors from Canada, when the Canadians shared their experience of being baptised in the Spirit. This awakened a desire in the hearts of the Dungiven ladies to find out more and, soon after, they attended a meeting in Belfast led by Fr Joe Walsh that led to their interest in Charismatic Renewal to grow.

Travelling to visit friends in Cashel, Tipperary, they felt inspired to pray as a group, and so decided to join the Portglenone Charismatic Prayer Group in Portglenone. They went on to become involved in the core group and, when Madge bought a property in Dungiven two years later, known locally as 'West Winds', they set up the first prayer meeting there, in 1975, led by Fr Seamus Kelly.

The group prayed that Charismatic Renewal would spread within the parish, diocese and throughout Northern

Ireland. Attending one of the early National Charismatic Conferences in Dublin during a particularly troubled time, they heard a prophecy about the prayer groups starting up in Ireland being little lights shining in the darkness throughout the land.

With renewed hope and enthusiasm to support peace and reconciliation, they encountered Fr Neal Carlin, Columba House founder, and Fr Cecil Kerr, who worked tirelessly for peace, and a network of prayer began.

Growth

When Fr Seamus was appointed to Dungiven in 1987, he organised Baptism in the Spirit seminars in the parish, resulting in increased numbers of people attending the prayer group and it having to move to Dungiven Resource Centre to accommodate this growth.

When it came to the group's 25th anniversary, the Silver Jubilee Mass was concelebrated by Fr Seamus, Fr Tommy Donaghy SDB, a Dungiven native, Fr Willie Rafferty, Fr Martin of Portglenone, Fr Jack Farrell, and Fr Kevin McKenna, who was parish priest at the time.

So, Fr Seamus was delighted to be the main celebrant of the Golden Jubilee Mass, having been involved with the group during its early days and more recently, when he returned to Dungiven as parish priest in the years leading up to his retirement.

Recalling his introduction to a prayer meeting during his time

as a seminarian in Rome, he went on to recall being involved in setting up the Charismatic Prayer Meeting in Portglenone Monastery, with Fr Martin, during his time as a curate in Bellaghy.

"People came from Dungiven, including the two Bridies and Madge, then a prayer meeting started here in Dungiven and took off," he said, adding: "When I was appointed to Dungiven in 1987, the group was going strong. They did Life in the Spirit seminars and everything took off. Thank God it is still going."

During his homily, Fr Seamus said: "The Charismatic Movement has brought a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit into people's lives, especially through Life in the Spirit seminars. Hopefully, we can have these again in Dungiven, running over seven or eight weeks and using the seminar book."

He went on to note: "Jesus came to empower us to overcome sin. If you are guided by the Holy Spirit, you are not in danger of giving into self-indulgence. The Spirit guides us. Self-indulgence is very much that selfish side of us that wants to do our own thing. Sometimes we don't see self-indulgence – it is our ego."

At the end of the ceremony, Evelyn Heaney, of the Omagh Charismatic Prayer Group, offered congratulations to the Dungiven and Portglenone Prayer Groups on their 50th anniversaries, noting that Omagh will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee next year.



Dungiven Charismatic Prayer

Dungiven Charismatic Prayer has helped many in...

Learning true discernment and to trust and not worry

ONE of the core members of St Canice's Prayer Group is Geraldine Brolly, who shares her experience of the Charismatic Movement, from the moment her heart was won through the praise and worship music on her first night in the early 90s, her growth through Life in the Spirit seminars...and her 'spiritual mother', Bridie Kelly, her 'desert' experience in later years when the group seemed to be dying, to noticing new shoots now emerging in the turning of the tide and increasing interest.

When Geraldine first arrived on the scene, the core team included 'the two Bridies' – Bridie Kelly and Bridie Murray – and Bridie Murray's sister, Madge O'Neill, who are all now deceased.

Recalling her first encounter with Bridie Kelly, leading to her first experience of a Charismatic Prayer Meeting, she said: "My husband, Damian died in February 1992, and in the autumn of that year I was asked to do a Cursillo weekend. The following year or so, I was helping my aunt, Theresa Donaghy, with the book stall she looked after at the back of the chapel, when Bridie Kelly came along and said that I was the very girl she was looking for, though I wouldn't really have known her at that stage.

"She told me about a prayer meeting that she and Aunt Theresa went to in Glenshane House, and asked me to come along. So, I did, and found that there was just something about it that I liked. I think it was the prayer and praise that attracted me; I loved the music."

Geraldine's involvement with the group led to her driving members in a mini-bus to conferences in places like Dublin and Rostrevor, as well as supporting other Charismatic Prayer Groups.

"We kept very much in contact with the Portglenone and Randalstown Charismatic Prayer Groups at that time," she recalled, "We supported each other when doing Life in the Spirit seminars. They had a lot of different speakers coming from everywhere in those days, as well as the seminars.

"At our core meeting every week, we prayed and praised, and invited people to come along to the prayer meetings. We had a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. To let the Spirit lead us as much as possible, we kept tight to the format for Charismatic Prayer Groups: Bible; Candle; Prayer; and Listening to the Holy Spirit.

"We always stuck to running seminars over seven weeks to have time to follow the Life in the Spirit book from week-to-week. From the seminars, came

days of renewal and retreats, with invited speakers and sharing of testimonies, and, from all of this, I went off on a journey of Ignatian spirituality and guided prayer."

Support

She added: "Missionary work was a big thing with Bridie Kelly, and the Prayer Group supported men going for the diocesan priesthood or missionary societies with prayer and financially. Down the years, we have always had the support of our priests in the parish.

"We also reached out to other Church faiths. Ecumenism was very strong in the group during the Troubles, and we reached out to other faith traditions and prayed with them for peace."

Reflecting on her personal experience of the Holy Spirit working in her life, Geraldine said: "I don't say or do anything without invoking the help of the Holy Spirit, and this has brought me into a personal relationship with Jesus.

"It is not plain sailing, but no matter what is going on in my life, I know how to access peace in the darkest of times. It has also brought me to people, situations and places that I never would have dreamt about.

"I have learnt what true discernment is in all situations, and that there is nothing that will come my way that the Lord and I can't work out together. I have learnt to take time to discern and not act rashly. I always get heat in my heart and that is how I know that the Holy Spirit is with me. You have to be open to doing what He wants."

She continued: "Our parish is so blessed with the constant prayer of people who want to come together to pray. The lovely thing about the group is that it attracts people from all walks of life, including people from other groups in the parish. And it is an outreach as well as a prayer group, offering prayer and financial support to local charities.

"It is an opportunity to come together every week to break the Word in sharing scripture, and to pray and praise God. Bridie Kelly asked me to promise to always have a cup of tea for friendship time at the end, as some people are quiet and would share over a cup of tea, while they wouldn't share during the meeting. It is fellowship that is very important."

Renewed interest

Thankful that there is a renewed interest in the prayer meeting, Geraldine said: "There were times when there were only three or four of us, and I remember wondering if it was dying a natural death. It

was like a true desert experience; with the people we had relied on for their wisdom gone. But we continued to meet and now we have up to 20 people in the group again.

"We do what we can to live the life of the Spirit. Opportunities opened up in my life that probably wouldn't have if I had not gone along to the prayer meeting when asked. I thank God every day that I was open to it."

After their weekly Thursday night prayer meeting, some other members of the group reflected on their experience too.

Lucy McCloskey joined in 1992, after being invited by Fr Seamus Kelly, who was running Life in the Spirit seminars: "The seminars were beautiful and really spoke to me. I was touched by the Holy Spirit. I wasn't that comfortable with holding up my hands at first, but I am happy doing that now.

"My children were teenagers when I first joined, so I was feeling that I needed to be on my knees the whole time praying for them. I got great consolation from coming to the prayer meetings; I got the gift of trust.

"My love for Scripture has grown over the years and I am more aware of what the scriptures are saying now, they have been opened up to me. Beforehand, they were just stories I was hearing, but now I feel challenged and convicted by them."

St Patrick's Church sacristan, Annie Jo Kealey has been coming to the prayer meetings for 32 years: "I heard the late Nell McElhinney talking about it and I thought I would go. It took me a little while to get used to it, but I kept going because I loved the singing, praying and praising, and looking at the reading for the weekend Mass."

Anna Hasson has been involved with the prayer group for 29 years: "It was the time of the Troubles and I wanted to do something to help bring people together. I saw a notice in the parish bulletin for it and, whatever way it was written, I thought it was something cross community. Then I saw Bridie Kelly's name and thought it would be something good if she was involved, so I went to it.

"The first night I thought that I would never be back. People were being prayed over. I got up to go as I had my mother to put to bed, but a woman grabbed me and said don't go yet. She encouraged me to get prayed for. I wasn't going to, but she said that she would go with me.

Let go and let God

"For many nights after this, I thought that I wouldn't bother going, but there was something

drawing me to it, and I am so glad that I stayed with it as it has done me a lot of good. I would have been a great worrier and, at the prayer meetings, they would say don't worry, leave it to God. Bridie Kelly always said, 'Let go and let God'. I found that helped me so much to trust in God."

Janeen McNicholl has been coming to the prayer meeting for about 20 years: "I was going to morning Mass and heard about the group, and decided to go to it. The others are so nice and I love the company, the prayer and the singing."

Janeen's daughter, Sile has also been attending the prayer meeting for about three years now: "I joined because Paul McCloskey was going, and I thought that it was good. I hadn't been well for a year, so I felt that I would like to come to the prayer meeting for the help of the Holy Spirit."

Paul joined the group in 1997, after returning to live in Dungiven from Belfast, where he had attended a Charismatic Prayer Meeting: "I liked how it led me to the Holy Spirit, and I love the praise part."

Having attended the Golden Jubilee Mass earlier in the week, the Thursday night prayer meeting was a first for Rosemary McNicholl.

She explained: "I have moved back to Dungiven after living away for over 40 years. I have been waiting and discerning what to do in the parish, whether to join the Legion of Mary, or this prayer group, or something else...or nothing.

"I came along to the 50th anniversary Mass on Sunday and thoroughly enjoyed it. I loved the 50th celebration for the Portglenone Prayer Group too. And, I have done online Lectio Divina and find the scripture part of this group's meeting very like that.

"The Feast of St Pio was celebrated this week, and I prayed to him to help me discern what I am meant to do, as the priest at Mass said that he had had the gift of discernment. Then Fr Kelly came to mind, so I came along to the meeting tonight. I find it very uplifting praising God."

This prayer meeting was also Mary O'Kane's first to attend: "Geraldine and Paul had talked to me about it, so I decided to go to the 50th anniversary Mass, and I loved it so much. I definitely felt the Holy Spirit moving."

The Prayer Meetings take place on Thursday nights in the new Emmaus Hall, following 7 pm Mass in the adjoining St Patrick's Church, and a warm welcome awaits anyone interested in coming along.



Powerful testimonies are shared at the weekly Flame of Love Cenacle in Termonbacca, amongst them was this recent sharing by Bernie Millar, Galliagh...

You can't live a life completely free from suffering but with Jesus you know "this too shall pass"



Bernie Millar

THIS is my journey through my life, and how it led me to know Jesus Christ personally and come to love Him unconditionally.

I'm from Derry City, and grew up in a place called Galliagh. I still live there now with my husband and three children. I'm the eldest of four girls and we grew up in a family of Faith. Our parents would take us to Mass on Sundays, and also the Novena that was held in our Chapel, St Joseph's.

At around seven years of age, I started to become a tomboy. I found that I enjoyed it better playing with the boys, and loved playing football or anything that involved climbing or building dens. I hated wearing dresses or anything girly. I just didn't feel comfortable at all. I would always choose tracksuits and trainers over dresses and frills every time. It got to the point though where I actually wanted to become a boy. I still remember, to this day, feeling like I wasn't supposed to be a girl, that maybe God got it wrong with me. I started to feel envious of the boys, like it wasn't fair.

I remember one night that my parents took us to the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

It was on every Monday night.

It started in October and finished in December. I remember this because it was Christmas a few weeks later. At the Novena, the Priest would read out the petitions that people had wrote out, asking for prayers. I asked my Mummy: "Do you think if I write a petition, and ask God, that maybe He will change me to become a boy?"

Laughter broke out behind me, and I remember looking and seeing Mummy's face mortified. Me being so young didn't have a clue what the big deal was. When we got home, she asked me why I wanted to change the way God made me. I told her: "I'm just not comfortable." "Wise up!" she said, "God made you as you are!" and that was that. I still remember daydreaming of walking into school as a boy.

As time went on, it got harder because my body was starting to change and I hated it. Thankfully, I was a late bloomer, as we called it, so got away with a few extra years before having to deal with 'the change'. I still loved playing football and we would do the Klinsmann slide when we scored a goal. He was a Spurs player and would throw himself on to his chest and slide along the pitch to celebrate scoring a goal. We

loved doing it, until one evening I couldn't anymore, because it hurt like hell. I cried to Mummy, hating why I have to be a girl. "Wise up! God made you as you are and that's it!" I couldn't get why she couldn't understand.

As the years went on into my early teens, I started accepting that I was a girl and that there was nothing I could do. I was still a tomboy, dressing in comfort, but the years of being like this led to a lot of name-calling. I could never settle with friends and would go in and out of different friend groups. I hated that age. Girls would get jealous of my friendship with boys and this would lead to a lot of fights. I felt like I just couldn't stick with anyone. I hated being around people, but I also hated being alone because that's when I started hating myself.

Loneliness

I did really well at school though, and loved Maths and Science. I would have a good laugh with school friends and enjoyed school, just not the early mornings. It was going home where I felt the loneliness. I had such a loving family and was so blessed with amazing parents.

“It was going home where I felt the loneliness. I had such a loving family and was so blessed with amazing parents. Dinner every night around the table, where we would chat about different things, but inside I just felt empty.”

Dinner every night around the table, where we would chat about different things, but inside I just felt empty.

I started to really detest myself and how I looked. I had the hardest arms for a girl, so one day I decided to shave them. I would do this once a week. Then one evening I cut myself with the razor. As I watched the blood trickle, I felt like a sense of relief, as though I enjoyed watching myself bleed. This was when I started self-harming. I would self-harm every day, but any days that where full of anger or rage I would lock myself in the bathroom and just hurt myself. I had so much anger and my two younger sisters

got the brunt of it.

I had started listening to Rock and heavy metal; anything that sounded how I felt - dark and angry. My sisters and I would argue a lot. They would call me names and then I would lash out at them with my fists, or anything that I could throw. Typical sister fighting, but I would take it to another level, where I really wanted to hurt them. I just felt angry all of the time, and after every fight or argument I would just take it out on myself. I was exhausted being like this. A few nights I would take my old Walkman to bed with me. I would wrap the headphones lead around my neck and play the music while I slept, in the hope that I wouldn't wake up, and it would just look like an accident. It never worked.

At 16, I started to drink; £3 bottle of cider and 10 'fags' at the weekends. I had a part-time job in the Spar in Muff, and the money was great. I would be with my sisters and cousin at the top alley, where everyone gathered at the bungalows. This is where I met William. He lived in the street across from me. I knew him, but he obviously didn't know me. We started meeting up a few times and we were officially steady by December. I was 17. He had no idea what would go on in my head though. The self-harming didn't happen as much, and I finally felt like things might be OK, but they weren't. I still felt empty and alone, even in his company or anyone I had around me. I just felt unworthy of anything.

Mummy and Daddy went out one evening, so my younger two sisters told everyone that we had a free house. I hated when this happened. I just didn't like people in our house, although would never disagree to it. I was having one of my lowest days, so obviously joined in on the drinking with everyone else. As the night went on, I wanted to hurt myself. I told everyone that I was going to lie down. They didn't know I had tablets. I lay on the bed after taking a mixture of different tablets and, as I lay there, I remember the light really annoying me. It was just too bright and I wanted it off. As I got up, I collapsed and, unknown to me, my sisters heard the thud and called the ambulance. The second attempt failed.

Drug taking

I was discharged from hospital after three days and it was so awkward. Nobody knew how

to be around me and I hated it. I remember Mummy asking me why I wanted to hurt myself so much.

I didn't know, and that's what made me feel worse. People were living in poverty or going through abuse, but what reason did I have? So, I hated myself even more. I was drinking more and had started taking drugs most weekends. It was great. Getting wiped out and feeling amazing at the time, but the come down was awful. I had changed the self-harming of cutting myself to the drug taking. I would stay at William's most weekends, partly because his Mummy loved it when he came home, and also because not a chance I was going home with my eyes that big.

At 19, I started to feel like I was enjoying life more than ever. William's Mummy had bought us tickets to New York to visit his brother. We had it in our heads that maybe we could go and make a life out there. Things were looking up, then boom! I was pregnant! The least maternal person you could ever know, was going to have a baby. I was terrified.

When I look back though, as terrified as I was, abortion never once entered my head. William and I told our parents and we got ready for a totally different life. His Mummy was so excited for us, but I was still terrified. I finally came to terms with the fact that I was going to be a Mum, and we went to New York to visit William's brother, but only for a two-week holiday. Things were starting to look up. Then tragedy struck. William's Mummy goes out to work, and doesn't come home. She took a massive heart attack and died. A day I will never forget. Our lives were completely turned upside down. Susan was one-in-a-million, now she was gone.

William was only 21 and soon to be a Daddy, now completely devastated that his Mummy wouldn't be a part of it. From that moment, I decided that I had to be there for him no matter what. Six months later our beautiful daughter arrived. We named her Susan. She completely changed my life. I never knew that I could love someone so much. This beautiful girl saved me.

We got a house and the three of us were a young family starting from scratch.

William's grief had resulted him in wanting to drink and party more. A lot of the times, he would

stay out all weekend and I would have no idea where he was. He was an amazing Daddy, but when it came to the weekends, drinking would take over and it was too easy for him to go on a bender. It got to the point where I ended things between us. Susan was six years old. I was devastated. I wanted to do everything to keep our family together. I felt worthless and the self-hatred was back. The weekends that William had Susan, I spent going out on the drink. Sometimes it led to drugs, but not every weekend.

“I had this strong feeling that I should be taking her to Mass, to prepare her for her First Holy Communion. We started going as a family every Sunday morning. We got friendly with other members of the parish and I felt so comfortable and at peace when I went.”

Grateful

One Saturday, I went to the bar after work. I was supposed to pick Susan up from William's Daddy's house, because that was where he then lived. I didn't show up. Instead, I went on the drink and ended up taking drugs. It was called 'Monkey Madness'. I couldn't remember how I got home, but I woke up fully dressed on the bathroom floor with a belt around my neck, and a photo of Susan beside me. That absolutely terrified me! My third suicide attempt, but this time I was so grateful that it was unsuccessful. I could have left my beautiful daughter without a mother at such a young age. That was the last drug that I ever took. I made a promise that day, that from then on, Susan would always come first.

After a few weeks of talking things out, William and I got things sorted and decided on a fresh start. Susan was now in Primary 3 and I had this strong feeling that I should be taking her to Mass, to prepare her for her First Holy Communion. We started going as a family every Sunday morning. We got friendly with other members of the parish and I felt so comfortable and at peace when I went. I then became

Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you...

I have called you by name...you are mine *(Isaiah 43:1) by Mel O'Dee*

LIFE is challenging for many people for various reasons and in various ways. The way people perceive and respond to these challenges is varied too, and often effected by life experiences.

Every life is a gift from God to the world that He has created. Each person is special for their unique soul, lovingly formed and imprinted on the universe forever. As our Father in Heaven thought of each beautiful soul and gave life to us, He surely did so with a

particular purpose for each in the world and for all time.

Every life matters more than we can fathom. A little insight into this is through a family photograph that has one or more members missing...it is incomplete. Where that is due to death, it is a permanent void in the family. And where that death is due to suicide, it leaves a pain of loss so deep that is difficult to recover from.

Sharings from some who have

struggled with suicidal thoughts reveal their conviction that those around them would be better off without them...that they wouldn't be missed...that they have nothing good to give...that they couldn't deal with the pain they are feeling anymore.

How can we help those struggling with suicidal thoughts, from our loved ones to acquaintances to the stranger that we somehow come into contact with at this difficult time in their life?

In the Pope's prayer intention for the month of November, when we focus particularly in praying for those deceased, we are asked to pray for the prevention of suicide – that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

A deeply impactful scene comes to mind from the much-watched series, 'The Chosen' – a drama on the teachings and miracles of Jesus. Episode 1, in the first series, looks at Mary Magdalene's struggles before she meets Jesus, as well as the tax debt struggles of brothers, Andrew and Simon, two of Jesus' future apostles, and the struggle of Matthew the tax collector, another future apostle.

Entitled - 'I have called you by name', this first episode opens with a night-time scene in Magdala, featuring a father comforting his young daughter who cannot sleep because she is scared. The father reminds her of the words of the Prophet Isaiah (43:1): "Thus, says the Lord who created you, 'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine.'"

The next scene fast forwards to the little girl grown up to be a woman 'troubled by demons' and living in the 'Red District' of Capernaum. After a failed attempt by the Rabbi, Nicodemus to exorcise the demons from her, the woman, known locally as 'Lili' (Lilith), is deeply distressed. In the midst of this, she comes upon a little doll from her childhood, in which she finds, tucked away, in the words of the Prophet Isaiah that her father had told her to remember in times of fear...and she tears them up.

She goes to the local inn, where the innkeeper is a good friend who tries to help her, asking her to stay until she feels better and offering to help her face her demons. She asks for a drink to drown the pain before getting up to leave, saying that she had something to do.

She is then seen walking towards a cliff edge. As she stands there, looking down at the sea, the flapping sound of a bird circling overhead penetrates her thoughts so much that she looks up at it.

As the bird flies away from the cliff edge, she is drawn to follow it all the way back to the inn she had just left. She then enters and as she stands at the counter asking her friend, the innkeeper, for more drink, a man unknown to her comes and stands beside her. Overcome by the deep compassion with which he looks upon her, she quickly leaves.

Fear not

As the man, whom we now sense is Jesus, follows her, she tells him to leave her. When he calls 'Mary' after her, she suddenly stops, and when he goes on to call her 'Mary of Magdala', she turns around and asks him how he knew her name. He then says: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine."

Jesus then embraces Mary's head with his hands and draws it to rest on his chest, as she weeps. After this encounter, as shown in following episodes, Lily is healed and returns to using her birth name, Mary. Her life changes completely and she becomes a fervent follower of Jesus.

That look of deep compassion that Jesus gave Mary Magdalene is waiting to connect with our gaze too – directly in the Eucharist and indirectly through the people and beauty of nature around us. There are various references within the Gospels to Jesus' look of deep love and compassion being central to His ministry.

In Mark's account of the 'Cure of a man suffering from a virulent skin-disease' (Mk 1:41), we read: "Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out His hand, touched him and said to him, 'Be cleansed'. And, at once, the skin-disease left him and he was cleansed."

Luke's account of the woman who as a sinner anointing Jesus' feet with ointment, records Jesus saying that in return "her sins, many as they are, have been forgiven her, because she has shown such great love" (Lk 7:47).

John's Gospel records amongst the 'farewell discourses', Jesus telling His disciples: "I give you a new commandment: love one another; you must love one another just as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34).

And in Luke 6:36, Jesus is recorded as saying: "Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate."

We also have direction from St Teresa of Avila in her prayer, where she wrote: "Christ has no Body now but yours. No hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands through which He is to bless us



now."

And so, we are encouraged to be channels of God's love to help those around us. And, for our own peace of mind, we entrust those struggling to God's care. We are to do our utmost to love one another as God loves us, and surrender all to Him – the Alpha and the Omega (Rev 22:13).

One of life's greatest gifts is to feel loved...and we are loved unconditionally by God, our Father. For those, for whatever reason, not able to feel this love of the Father for them, we pray that His love can reach into their hearts and minds through the loving people around them, and

that they be open to the same Divine Love exuding from the beauty of nature...the sky, the sea, the breeze in the trees.

To help deal with struggles in life, Jesus told His disciples: "In the world you will have hardship, but be courageous; I have conquered the world" (John 16:33). So, in times of difficulty for ourselves or others, let us remember this message and God's words as relayed by the Prophet Isaiah... inserting our Christian name at the start...

"(Your Name)...Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine."

continued from page 22

pregnant with our second child and was feeling in a good place mentally. On August 5, 2013, I went in to hospital to have labour induced. After a few hours, something didn't feel right. I told the nurse, but it was just brushed off, like I was exaggerating.

My waters breaking, I was in instant pain.

There was a changeover of nurses and the lady who took over helping me was called Susan. We couldn't believe it. We told her all about William's mum, and she was so lovely. She saw the pain that I was in and decided to take me over to the labour ward. While I was there not even five minutes, a doctor examined me and instantly hit the alarm. I was rushed straight to theatre, where I saw pain in everyone's face. I had a cord prolapse and they needed to get the baby out ASAP!

I was in agony and terrified, but just before they knocked me out I felt warmth all over me and a sense of peace completely overcome me.

When I wakened up, I heard the nurses whispering, and I asked: "What did I have?". "You have a beautiful baby boy," they said. "Is he OK?" I asked. "I'm sorry, but we can't actually say right now. He has been taken straight to ICU and had to be put on a ventilator." Strangely I didn't panic. I didn't even shed a tear. I knew he would be ok.

Miracle

William and my parents came in to see me. They were all crying and worried. I just told them calmly: "Pray for a miracle!". That's exactly what I did! I prayed for six hours straight, every prayer that I could think of. The whole time I was praying, I knew that I wasn't alone. I could feel it. That warmth and feeling of peace stayed with me. In came the nurse smiling. "He's completely out of danger and he's breathing by himself! He is what we call, a Miracle Baby!" she said. From that day, I made a promise to God that I would never forget what He had done and would always put Him first. Now, in 2025, William

and I are three years married and we have three beautiful children, Susan, Seán (our little miracle) and Shónagh.

My faith has grown so much. In 2019, I started attending a group called 'Living Disciples' with Fr Columba, one of the Fransiscan Friars. Through this, I met so many new people, who I now call friends. I started going to the healing nights, and there I decided that it was time that I went to confessions. I needed to heal from all my previous wounds, and I could only do this by confessing everything. I sat there terrified. The last time I went to confessions, I was around nine years old. I had forgotten everything. I went in and sat in front of Fr Charles, another Franciscan Friar. I could feel the tears welling up the minute I sat down. I explained that I hadn't a clue what to do or say, and gently helped me through it all. I sobbed my heart out. He prayed over me and, as much as I was crying, I instantly felt a sense of release. The exact release that I had been trying to get all those years ago. I felt free. I now call Confessions my counselling sessions with God. It has opened my heart completely to Jesus, and I now have Him with me every day. I am never alone. I still face days of darkness and depression, but I never ever feel alone anymore.

I am human. I can't live a life completely free from suffering, but when you have Jesus with you through it, you know "this too shall pass!".

Today, I'm so thankful for my Mummy. If she had entertained the idea of me wanting to be a boy, I wouldn't have the beautiful family that I have today. My children have given me a chance to relive my childhood again. They have brought the fun back into my life, and I am now more childlike than I was at the age of 14. God was with me through it all, I just didn't know Him. Now that I do know him, I am teaching my children how to get to know Him.

Just call on Him when you need help. Patience and Prayer, that's all we need. It will all work out. We just need to trust in God. He knows what He is doing!

HEAL THE HURT MINISTRY ONE DAY RETREAT

BROKEN YET LOVED



Niall McDonagh



Mary McDonagh



Brother Benedict



Lida Bull,
Consecrated Virgin



Megan, and Shauna, Sister
Clare Crocketts Sisters



Deacon John Taffe

SATURDAY

6th December 2025

12 PM - 6 PM

Saint Pio House, 3 Fairview Road, Derry, BT48 8NU

Light Refreshments Provided...Donations Accepted

The Irish College in Paris *by Dr Seán Beattie*

Visitors to Paris may be familiar with the Centre Culturel Irlandais, formerly the Irish College in the 5th arrondissement. Viewers of Netflix may be aware that it is just around the corner from the cobblestoned streets of Place de la Contrescarpe, where the series 'Emily in Paris' is filmed. It is a few yards from one of the great monuments, the Panthéon, and the beautiful outdoor park, the Jardin du Luxembourg. The surrounding boulevards and squares were trod many times by Irishmen over several centuries, since the College was founded in 1776.

Rue des Irlandais

Over the years, I have stayed in the Centre many times. Visitors are welcome to attend Sunday Mass in the old College chapel; they assemble afterwards to socialize in the great courtyard of Rue des Irlandais. The steel pillars surrounding the courtyard carry the names of the Dioceses of Ireland, a reminder of the close links between the Irish church and the Paris College.

As an historian, my attention is drawn to the fact that the College had close links with the Diocese of Derry, and many priests who ministered in the Diocese were educated there, a far cry from the select atmosphere of the Continental colleges to the remote mountain parishes of the Derry Diocese.

An Irish student in Paris

On several occasions in these columns, I have referred to Bishop Maginn, a native of Fintona, Co Tyrone. He left Ireland at the age of 16 to train for the priesthood in France, following a period of study under Thomas McColgan, Craigamullen, Clonmany, Co Donegal. A graduate of the University of Paris, McColgan was destined for the priesthood but was obliged to abandon his studies due to ill-health. Following seven years of study in the Irish College in Paris, Maginn declined an invitation from the Bishop of Meaux to accept a benefice in his diocese. Instead, he was ordained by Bishop MacLaughlin for the Diocese of Derry and was appointed to the curacy of Moville. In time, he became Bishop of Derry.

From Strabane to Paris

It is difficult to imagine the difficulties that young seminarians endured on the long journey to Paris in the 19th century. An Inishowen priest, who ministered in Iskaheen and who later became Bishop of Derry was Dr Charles O'Donnell. His diary gives a comprehensive overview of the journey from Strabane to Paris, including being side-tracked on his way:

July 1777: A list of things I put in my saddlebag at Strabane: 9

pairs of fine linen, 8 stocks, 9 pairs of stockings, 2 pairs of breeches, 2 flannel waistcoats, 1 French grammar, 2 Irish hymn-books, 2 pocket-handkerchiefs, and 6 pairs of ruffled sleeves.

8 July 1777: Left Strabane. Slept at Augher, at Widow Duggan's, second night at Castleblaney, third day rode to Drogheda. Stayed there 2 nights, Supped and took breakfast with the ladies of the nunnery. Fourth day of my journey went to Dublin by stagecoach. Stayed there two nights. Took the packet boat for Liverpool at 5 pm. Had a pleasant view of the Liffey going down the country, the Hill of Howth to the left and the Wicklow Mountains to the right. Sailed down the Welch coast, and arrived at Liverpool at 8 pm. The docks were well supplied with ships. Saw the floodgates, drawbridges and some other curiosities. The next evening, I took my seat on the Liverpool Fly and set out for London at 5 o'clock. Drove all night. Dined in Lichfield, one hundred miles from Liverpool, a country village, not very large. Supped that night at Meridon, about 30 miles off. Went by Coventry, St Albans and Highgate. Thence to London, where I arrived by 8 pm on the 19th of the month.

From thence from Canterbury to Dover. The country seemed very productive: beans, wheat and hops but no potatoes. Slept at Dover.

28 July 1777: Entered the College of the Lombards in Paris.

It was a journey of 20 days, with

stops in a number of towns. On April 6, 1780, he preached his first sermon in the College of the Lombards. The Diary reveals that many seminarians had their college expenses paid from a foundation established by prominent Catholic families in Ireland.

The Bishop's Room, Muff, Culdaff

Dr O'Donnell remained in Paris for six or seven years. He graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Divinity, and later a Doctorate in Divinity from the Sorbonne. He appears to have returned to Ireland in October 1784. At one time, he was parish priest of Culdaff and Cloncha (Malin) and he was the only priest serving the two parishes.

He was consecrated Bishop in 1798. The church at Lagg, outside Malin Town, was planned during his episcopacy. Apparently, he continued to work as a priest even after his elevation as Bishop, tending the sick, organising Confirmations, hearing Confessions and celebrating Mass in station houses. For a time, he resided in a house owned by John Doherty, in the townland of Muff – not the border village – outside Culdaff. To this day, a room in the thatched cottage is called "The Bishop's room". The Malin historian, Conal Byrne and Paddy McLaughlin, who worked in Inishowen as a postman for many years, often spoke to me about the special room that once



accommodated a Bishop. He died in 1823.

Orange Charlie

Because of his education on the Continent and his friendship with students of Liberal views in the Sorbonne, Dr O'Donnell believed in establishing good relations with neighbours, whose religious and political views differed from his own. Among his circle of friends was John Gwynne, a Protestant philanthropist, who established an orphanage in Derry, known as Gwynne's Institute, which once stood in Brooke Park in the City, the site now replaced by a café.

Dr O'Donnell was criticized for his support for Orange parades and formed close friendships with clergymen of other persuasions. The word 'ecumenist', to use a

modern term, could be applied to him today. Despite the ravages of the Penal Laws in the Diocese, he rarely criticised government policy; a fact that did not endear him to his fellow priests, many of whom had first-hand experience of persecution. His liberal views expressed in his sermons, and his friendship with prominent Anglicans in Derry City, did not go down well with some of his parishioners. Consequently, it is not hard to understand why he was nicknamed 'Orange Charlie'.

He is buried in the Long Tower cemetery and his headstone bears a lengthy inscription in Latin, appropriate for a man of his intellectual ability and scholarship, extolling his virtues as a Bishop and pastor.

Greenlough talk marks 400th anniversary of birth of parish patron St Oliver Plunkett

AN audience of some 75 people attended a talk in St Oliver Plunkett Church, Clady, on Sunday, October 26, to hear a talk entitled 'Serving and suffering the Law - the life and trials of St Oliver Plunkett', delivered by Fr Tommy O'Connor, Professor Emeritus of European History at St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

The event was organised by the parish Administrator, Fr Pat O'Hagan, a classmate of Fr O'Connor, to mark the 400th anniversary of the birth of St Oliver (November 1, 1625) and the 50th anniversary of his canonisation (October 12, 1975).

Professor O'Connor opened his talk explaining the story of what happened to the mortal remains of the martyred Archbishop of

Armagh, who was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn, London, on July 1, 1681. They were taken to Germany for a number of years, before the torso and forearms were transferred to Downside Abbey in England, where they remain, and the head was taken to Drogheda. For many years, it was in the care of the Dominican Sisters until they were persuaded to hand it over to St Peter's Church in the town, where it has been venerated since then.

Fr O'Connor said that Oliver Plunkett had lived "on the margins" for much of his life. Born and raised in Oldcastle, Co Meath, on the borders of the dioceses of Meath and Armagh, he studied abroad before being appointed Archbishop and arriving in Armagh, where he

was welcomed, warmly by some of the local clergy and indifferently, if not with a degree of hostility, by some others.

He struggled to serve the law of the land and the Canon Law of the Church. He was eventually opposed by four priests who betrayed him to the authorities, who tried him for treason. In the two weeks preceding his execution, he penned a number of letters, in one of which he apologised for the smudges caused by the tears he was shedding as he wrote.

His faith remained strong during that time, to the point where he declared that he wasn't afraid to die and that his uppermost feeling was one of hope. He faced his execution and death with the equanimity

of the man of faith that he was, declaring that he wasn't afraid to able to do so because Jesus had gone there before him and prepared the way for him.



Ruach...Breath of the Spirit

Listen and improve by Fr Eamonn Kelly

THERE are many incidents in life when we can honestly say, “I knew that would happen”. There are classic examples of the alcoholic going to the pub just to remember what it was all about and falling off the wagon as a result. A man visited a casino while on holidays, just for a bit of fun, and ended up gambling away everything he had saved since he had stopped gambling 10 years previously.

There are many other, less dramatic times, when one can almost see the future: driving too fast on the road, trying to make up time and causing an accident; not writing down important items and forgetting an appointment with the doctor or the accountant; not giving the children time and help with the homework, and then being upset when the results are not as good as hoped for.

If we examine these types of incidents, we can learn a lot about ourselves. We can also learn a good deal about the actions of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. The Holy Spirit is one Person of the Most Holy Trinity and so has a very important part to play in our spiritual lives. Of course, our spiritual lives have a greatly important part to play in life in general, but for the purpose of this explanation it is easier to speak in sections. How the Holy Spirits works is important. How we understand the working of the Holy Spirit is also important.

All of us have conscience, that inner prompt relating to us right from wrong. It is that moral sense of good action or bad action. If we follow our conscience in a healthy manner, we will improve the quality of goodness in our lives, allowing us to grow in the spiritual life. Regarding the following of Jesus, our conscience helps us to grow closer to His ways, the ways of God. The Holy Spirit informs our conscience and the more we follow the positive, Christian desire within our lives, the more we will become aware of the prompting of the Holy Spirit. We can be aware of the prompting of the Holy Spirit and choose to ignore it. To work with Holy Spirit in our lives takes co-operation between our inner lives and our freewill.

A little story may help to illuminate this. William was 25, popular, entertaining and great company to be with. He was engaged and was enjoying the planning that was going on for the big day. About a year before the wedding, his fiancée had to go to work abroad for a month. During that month, a lady whom William had previously dated, ‘phoned to say ‘hello’ and casually asked William to meet up for a coffee, for old time’s sake. Deep within, William thought: ‘Not a good idea’. As the conversation developed, William had the notion that he should say ‘no’ to this invitation but, as the funny stories and memories were recalled, he said ‘yes’, encouraging himself with the ‘sure what harm could be done’. They arranged to meet up in town later that evening.

Almost immediately after the ‘phone call, William’s 20-year-old nephew ‘phoned to say that he was in town and would love to meet up, but he only had the day. It was strange that the nephew ‘phoned, for he and William were not that close. William apologised and said that he had plans and was occupied for the day.

Judgement

When William and the ex-girlfriend met up, they had a great and fun-filled time. However, their conversation was full of suggestion, innuendos and reminders of former activities, allowing both to encounter the titillating experience. This led to boundaries issues, and several times they came close to getting physical. Thankfully, nothing physical happened, but for months afterwards, William was very shook-up, not trusting himself, not trusting his judgement. He doubted his ability to be genuine, worried about the future, and built-up great guilt about adultery. It took a long time to forgive himself, to be able to move on and, in his own words, ‘to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit.’

William’s conscience had cautioned him. The Holy Spirit, as part of informing of conscience, had issued warnings, for William knew before he met with the ex-girlfriend that he ought to say ‘no’. Somewhere, within his own being, William knew – not just thought, not just had a notion – but knew that there were issues even before he made the decision to meet the ex-girlfriend.

Another layer of consciousness in this story is the ‘phone call from the nephew. Not every incident where we can ‘see’ the Holy Spirit at work will have such a second layer, but it is still quite common. William was very aware that it was unusual for the nephew to call. Because of his ‘yes’ to the ex-girlfriend, he was blinded to any possible need or needs the nephew might have; he gave away any hope of improving the family friendship; and he put aside any possible help he may have given to his nephew.

In this story, we can see warnings and dangers, and these come from within William. We see the importance of knowing our free will and the process that takes place within us as we make decisions. William was aware that the better decision would be to say ‘no’ to the request. He already knows the past and, from the past, he can make quite accurate predictions about the future. He knows his own body and life, and so can be in tune with his strengths and weaknesses, his ability and inability to keep a meeting pure.

His conscience was already warning him that he was putting himself in danger’s way. The Holy Spirit prompting and enlightening William’s conscience, tells him to say ‘no’ to the meeting. He chooses to say ‘yes’, going against the conscience. The gift of free will allows William to be in control and, therefore, allows him to make good or bad decisions.

The nephew’s unexpected ‘phone call could have given William breathing space and an opportunity to change his decision. But putting the conscience to one side, he digs a deeper hole for himself. These gifts of God are for our benefit, but we must learn to listen and to understand.

In 1 John 3:18, we read: “My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in His presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and He knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God’s presence, and whatever we ask Him, we shall receive, because we keep His commandments and live the kind of life that He wants.”

Each of us can grow in the spiritual life. One of the great gifts we have been given is our conscience. We are called to inform it, enhance it and to listen to it. We are called to allow the Holy Spirit to influence our conscience and so influence our lives. With our freewill, we are called to co-operate with the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May we walk closer with Christ every day, and know that what He has provided for our spiritual enrichment, is being used.



Vocations News

Called to serve

GOD calls us all to serve Him, our neighbours, and the Church in a variety of ways, and has given us the gifts and graces we need to fulfil our vocation in life, whatever that might be.

God calls some people to the priesthood or religious life. To some, He speaks directly in the silence of their prayer or meditation. Some others might feel their call as they read the Scriptures or other religious/spiritual literature. There are programmes on tv, internet and social media, which have the possibility of inspiring us to apply ourselves to serving the Lord in a number of ways, including as priests or religious.

Another way we often overlook is that God calls us through one another, however reluctant we may be to listen to those promptings in our hearts and minds. But, at the same time, maybe there is someone waiting to hear their call in that way.

Is there someone you know who you believe would make a good priest, religious brother or sister? Someone you see at Mass regularly? Someone you see praying in the church, attending the Rosary or a Prayer Group? Someone involved in St Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Cursillo, or another group.

Put aside your shyness, your fears, or your reluctance to speak up. Approach that person and tell them you feel they should consider exploring their vocation, or simply ask them if they have ever thought about it. It might be just what they need to get the ball rolling.

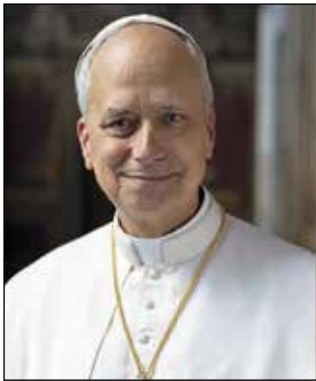
Anyone interested in pursuing a vocation to becoming a priest of the Diocese of Derry, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com or by calling (028) 79386259.

Prayer Evenings for Vocations

EVENINGS of Prayer for an increase in Vocations to Priesthood, in the Diocese of Derry, take place each month in St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Waterside.

The evenings begin with Mass at 7.30 pm, followed by a Holy Hour from 8-9 pm.

The remaining dates for 2025 are: Tuesday, November 25; and Tuesday, December 2.



Pope's monthly intention

The Holy Father has asked for prayer during November for:

The Prevention of Suicide:
Let us pray that those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

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 Neil Farren (Nov 1st)
Fr Paul Farren (2nd)
All priests (3rd)
Fr John Forbes (4th)
All Priests (5th)
Fr Paul Fraser (6th)
Fr John Gilmore (7th)
Fr Joseph Gormley (8th)
Fr Eamon Graham (9th)
Fr Dermott Harkin (10th)

- Fr Karl Haan (11th)
- Fr Eugene Hasson (12th)
- Fr Malachy Gallagher (13th)
- Fr John Irwin (14th)
- Fr Charles Keaney (15th)
- All Priests (16th)
- Fr Gerald Hasson (17th)
- All priests (18th)
- Fr Seamus Kelly (19th)
- Fr Edward Kilpatrick (20th)
- All priests (21st)
- Fr Charles Logue (22nd)
- Fr Paul McCafferty (23rd)
- Msgr Bryan McCanny (24th)
- Fr Michael McCaughey (25th)
- Fr Andrew McCloskey (26th)
- Fr Patrick Lagan (27th)
- Fr Michael McCaul (28th)
- Fr Noel McDermott (29th)
- Fr Eamon McDevitt (30th)

CALLED TO BE A PRIEST?

DERRYVOICATIONS.ORG

If this is of interest to you, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan on (+44) 07703444280 or (028) 7938 6452

Parish Post-its

Aghyaran

Advent Preparation: An evening of preparation for the coming of Jesus will be delivered in St Patrick's Hall, Castlederg, on Wednesday, December 3, from 7-8.30 pm. Delivered by Derry Youth for post primary students, with the theme 'Let us embrace the true meaning of Advent'. A warm welcome awaits post-primary students from the parishes of Aghayaran, Ardstraw West & Castlederg. Those attending are asked to bring one non-perishable food item as a contribution for an outreach activity.

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 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 places 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.

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

Ballinascreen

Hope Novena: To celebrate the Holy Year, which has Hope as its theme, a Novena of Hope is underway each Sunday at 6 pm, alternating between Holy Rosary Church and St Patrick's Church Keenaught - November 16, St Patrick's Keenaught, Fr Hugh Lagan SMA; November 23, Holy Rosary Church, Sr Perpetua McNulty, Sisters of Mercy and Thornhill Ministries; November 30, St Patrick's Keenaught, Michael Murphy, Matt Talbot's life and example; December 7, Holy Rosary Church - annual Carol Service incorporating the Novena prayers; December 14, St Patrick's Keenaught, Fr Paul Farren, Adm St Eugene's Derry.

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: Fridays from 10 am-8 pm (Rosary at 7.30 pm). Weekend Mass Times: 7 pm Vigil in Bellaghy, 9.45 am in Ballyscullion, and 11 am in Bellaghy (alternates with 11 am Sunday Mass in St Oliver Plunkett's, Clady).

(NB - From November 15/16, the Weekend Mass Times will be: 10.15 am in Ballyscullion; and 11.30 am in Bellaghy - with Saturday vigil, 5.30 pm livestreamed to Bellaghy from St Oliver Plunkett's Church, Clady, Greenlough.)

Buncrana

Open Doors To Christ: The annual 'Open The Doors to Christ' Novena is underway in St Mary's Church, Cockhill, running for the nine Sundays

before Christmas. Starting at 7 pm, the one-hour ceremony will comprise of the Rosary, a talk by an invited speaker, the Novena prayer and petitions (which can be placed in a box at the door of the church), a Eucharistic Healing Ceremony, and finishing with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Once again, the Novena theme is "Throwing Open the Doors to Christ" - taken from the homily of Pope St John Paul II at the Opening Mass of his Pontificate 22 October 22, 1978.

(NB: The Holy Hour each Sunday evening in St Mary's Oratory will cease for the moment, resuming after Christmas.)

Holy Year of Hope events: At parish level, the Holy Year of Hope will be marked with times of prayer, participation and pilgrimage. The first of these initiatives is entitled 'Come away from your nets for a moment', and involves gathering special interest groups of people from the parish for a special Mass and ceremony of blessing, each third Wednesday of the month.

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

Advent Preparation: An evening of preparation for

the coming of Jesus will be delivered in St Patrick's Hall, Castlederg, on Wednesday, December 3, from 7-8.30 pm. Delivered by Derry Youth for post primary students, with the theme 'Let us embrace the true meaning of Advent'. A warm welcome awaits post-primary students from the parishes of Aghayaran, Ardstraw West & Castlederg. Those attending are asked to bring one non-perishable food item as a contribution for an outreach activity.

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

Exposition: Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament in St Michael's Church, Urris, on Fridays, 3-6 pm (Rosary at 5.40 pm); in the Oratory of the Assumption, Ballyliffin,

on Tuesdays, 7.30-8.30 pm; and in St Columbcille Village, Cleagh, on Wednesdays, 3-4 pm.

Confessions: Confession is available from 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 Sessions: The Parish is running Sycamore Sessions to enable people to explore faith, ask questions, and meet people. It is held every second & fourth Friday (twice a month), from 6-7 pm, in St Mary's Parochial House Conference Room. The free sessions include a short film, and time for a friendly chat and refreshments. Everyone welcome. The next sessions are November 14 & 28, and December 12.

YOUCAT: The YOUCAT Programme is underway in the Parochial House Conference Room on Wednesdays at 7 pm. All welcome.

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

SYCAMORE

Explore faith, ask questions, meet people

 Every 2nd & 4th Friday (twice a month)

 6:00-7:00pm

 St Mary's Parochial House - Conference Room

 Short film

 Friendly chat



No pressure - everyone welcome!

Next sessions:

- 14 & 28 November 2025 • 12 December 2025

Why come?

- Curious about faith and life's big questions
- Want community and good conversation
- New to church or returning - come as you are

All welcome • Free • Bring a friend

Message us to RSVP or ask anything.

Parish *Post-its*

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 Re-decorating Committee has the 'Good as New Shop' now open in Carndonagh. All proceeds are for the Re-decorating Fund. Weekend Mass Times: 8 pm Vigil; 10 am Sunday. Desertmartin Hope Novena: To celebrate the Holy Year, which has Hope as its theme, a Novena of Hope is underway each Sunday at 6 pm, alternating between Holy Rosary Church and St Patrick's Church Keenaught. Remaining programme: November 16, St Patrick's Keenaught, Fr Hugh Lagan SMA; November 23, Holy Rosary Church, Sr Perpetua McNulty, Sisters of Mercy and Thornhill Ministries; November 30, St Patrick's Keenaught, Michael Murphy, Matt Talbot's life and example; December 7, Holy Rosary Church - annual Carol Service incorporating the Novena prayers; December 14, St Patrick's Keenaught, Fr Paul Farren, Adm St Eugene's Derry. 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 5.30 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. Weekend Mass Times: 6 pm Vigil, 9 am and 12 noon, Sacred Heart Church; 10.30 am, St Mary's Drumragh. Dungiven	Concert: Dungiven Community Choir Concert will take place in Dungiven Parish Conference Room on Sunday, November 30, at 3 pm. (doors open at 2.30 pm.). A second concert will take place at 7 pm. (doors open at 6.30 pm.). Ticket only event. Tickets £15, available by contacting Tel: 077 1432 9319. Legion of Mary: Dungiven Legion of Mary meets every Tuesday at 6 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. 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 Tuesday, 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) Carol Singing: St John's PS will be leading the Carol singing at the Christmas Village Switch-on in Swatragh, by Ciaran Oliver. Club doors will be open at 5.30 pm. 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, and 11 am (alternates with 11 am Sunday	Mass in St Mary's Bellaghy). (NB – From November 15/16, the Weekend Mass times will be: 5.30 pm Vigil, and 9 am.) Iskaheen, Drung & Muff Adoration: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Tuesdays after 10 am Eucharistic Service, until 2 pm, in St Patrick's Church, Iskaheen. Divine Mercy: Divine Mercy Devotions take place on Thursdays after 10 am Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Muff. Rosary: The Rosary is prayed before all weekday Masses. 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 Drumagarner. 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, Drumagarner; 12 noon, St Mary's, Craigavole. Lavey Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Fridays from 9.30 am 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.	St. Mary's Church. 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 Adoration: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Sundays in Christ the King (with Confessions) from 3-5 pm. 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. 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 Novena: The Our Lady Untier of Knots Novena continues in St Mary's Church on Wednesday evenings, after 7.30 pm Mass, and continues until Wednesday, December 17. 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,	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 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 – Friday. 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 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
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Parish Post-its

continued from page 27

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

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

Matt Talbott 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

Novena: The annual Solemn Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is underway, on the nine Sundays before Christmas at 6 pm. This year's theme is 'Finding Hope and Healing in this Hurting World', to mark the close of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Christmas Village: The grounds of Long Tower and three floors of Aras Cholmcille will be turned into a Christmas Village on November 20, from 6-8 pm, with choirs singing carols on the steps, Santa making an appearance, Mrs Claus reading to children, loads of vendors selling Christmas gifts, and Cloisters Café serving hot drinks and treats. And Fr Mongan will be switching on an In Memory of Me Tree.

'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 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

Galliagh Novena: The Annual Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help is underway in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh, on Tuesdays at 7 pm, finishing on December 16. This nine-week programme offers the opportunity to take some personal time for prayer and reflection. All are welcome to join in on this journey of prayer, comfort and healing in preparation for Christmas. Ample parking available.

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 & Castlefinn

First Saturdays: The First Saturday Devotion and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will 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 Castlefinn.

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, 11.30 am-12.30 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 at 7 pm, before evening Mass; Immaculate Conception, after 11 am Mass every Saturday and at 5.30 pm before evening Mass on a Saturday; St Oliver Plunkett, Every Saturday 5.30 pm, before the Vigil Mass.

Weekend Mass Times: 7 pm Vigil, St Columba's; 6 pm Vigil, 10.15 am & 12.15 pm, Immaculate Conception; 11.15 am, St Oliver Plunkett.

Termonbacca
Night of

Praise & Worship

Featuring singers from Holy Family and Carnhill Folk Groups, Sarah McGarrity, Lauren Doherty, the McDaid sisters and many more.

SUN
30
NOV 2025

£10

All proceeds will go to Anam Óg youth ministry & Rachel's Vineyard

7pm

PARISH OF BUNCRANA
9-SUNDAY NOVENA IN HONOUR OF POPE ST JOHN PAUL II
FOR A RENEWAL OF FAITH



Throwing Open the Doors to Christ

26 OCTOBER - 21 DECEMBER 2025
7PM ST MARY'S, COCKHILL

Each evening comprised of: Reflection, the Rosary, a short homily, the Novena prayer and petitions, a Eucharistic Adoration, and a Blessing. Light Mass, Musical prayer and petitions, a Eucharistic Adoration, and a Blessing.

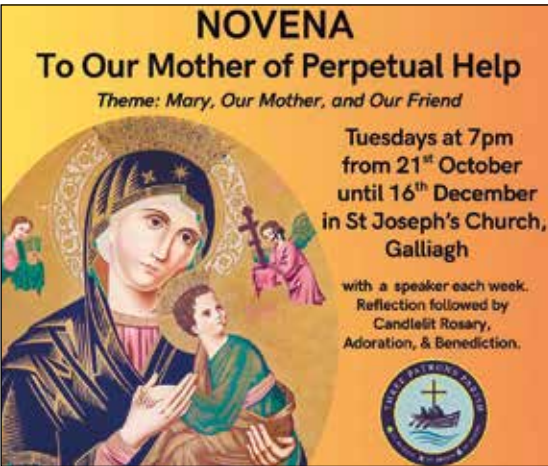
NOVENA

To Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Theme: Mary, Our Mother, and Our Friend

Tuesdays at 7pm
from 21st October
until 16th December
in St Joseph's Church,
Galliagh

with a speaker each week.
Reflection followed by
Candlelit Rosary,
Adoration, & Benediction.



Diocesan Diary

Diocesan Vocations Mass: Mass for Vocations in the Derry Diocese will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 25, at 7.30 pm, in St Columba's Church, Waterside. This will be followed by a Holy Hour, from 8-9 pm. The December Vocations Mass & Holy Hour will take place on Tuesday, December 2.

ACCORD Inishowen: On-line Marriage Preparation Programmes will be hosted on Nov 21&22 (Fri 7-10pm and Sat 10am-4pm), or Mon, December 1, 8, 15, at 6.30pm. All materials posted to address on booking form. Book online at accord.ie or for further details contact 0749374103/inishowen@accord.ie

...other Diary Dates

Eucharistic Procession: There will be 24-hour Adoration in Termonbacca, starting at 8 am on Saturday, November 22, to pray for the success of the Eucharistic Procession in honour of Christ The King on the Sunday. It closes with 8 am Mass on Sunday morning. Led by Bishop Donal, the procession will take place from St Columba’s Church, Long Tower, following 12 noon Mass.

Book Launch: All are invited to the launch of Fr Gerard Mongan’s book, ‘A Light for My Path’, on Saturday, November 22, at 12 noon in Cloisters Café, Long Tower. It is a selection of reflections for the Sundays, Seasons and Feasts of the new liturgical year A, which begins this Advent. The book is priced £10 and all proceeds go towards the Cause for Sister Clare’s Canonisation, and to support the people of Gaza through the Papal Charity: Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

Anam Og Praise & Worship: On Sunday, November 30, at 7 pm,

in Termonbacca, there will be an evening of praise and worship led by various local singers. All proceeds from the evening will go towards funds for the youth group, Anam Og and Rachel’s Vineyard, a post abortive healing ministry. The evening is open to all who wish to come along. Entry is £10 and can be paid at the door.

WYD 2000 Reunion Day: A World Youth Day 2000 Reunion will be held in Benburb Priory, on Friday, November 28, starting at 6 pm. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Gerry Campbell at 6.30 pm, and food and some craic from 7.30 pm.

Knock Vigil: A bus will be leaving Carndonagh on Sunday, December 7, at 3.45 pm, for the All Night Vigil in Knock celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It will be going via Moville, Quigley’s Point, Muff, Bridgend, Manor, etc. The cost is 60 Euros for the bus, with return evening meal included in the Yeats Country Inn. Contact – Siobhan on 00353860658753 to book a seat

and arrange collection points.

Youth 2000 Retreat: The annual Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat will be held in the Dominican College at Newbridge, Co Kildare, from December 12-14, with the theme ‘Prepare the way of the Lord’ (Luke 3:4). This is for young people aged 16-35 and free buses will be organised for the donation only event. Book online via the website at youth2000.ie.

Sr Clare Prayer: ‘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.

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 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>

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 now a weekly prayer hour in the new chapel on Mondays, praying for the intercession of St Therese, 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.

DDS Daily Masses 2025-2026

St Eugene's 17 Jan, 9 Mar, 29 Apr, 19 Jun, 9 Aug, 29 Sep, 19 Nov	Donaghmore 12 Dec 2025, 1 Feb, 24 Mar, 14 May, 4 Jul, 24 Aug, 14 Oct	Claudy 27 Dec 2025, 16 Feb, 8 Apr, 29 May 19 Jul, 8 Sep, 29 Oct	Fahan 11 Jan, 3 Mar, 23 Apr, 13 Jun, 3 Aug, 23 Sep, 13 Nov
St Columba's 18 Jan, 10 Mar, 30 Apr 20 Jun, 10 Aug, 30 Sep, 20 Nov	Termonamongan 13 Dec 2025, 2 Feb, 25 Mar, 15 May, 5 Jul, 25 Aug, 15 Oct,	Banagher 28 Dec 2025, 17 Feb, 9 Apr, 30 May 20 Jul, 9 Sep, 30 Oct	Clonmany 12 Jan, 4 Mar, 24 Apr, 14 Jun, 4 Aug, 24 Sep, 14 Nov
The Three Patrons 19 Jan, 11 Mar, 1 May, 21 Jun, 11 Aug, 1 Oct, 21 Nov	Langfield 14 Dec 2025, 3 Feb, 26 Mar, 16 May, 6 Jul, 26 Aug, 16 Oct,	Ballinascreen 29 Dec 2025, 18 Feb 10 Apr, 31 May 21 Jul, 10 Sep, 31 Oct	Carndonagh 13 Jan, 5 Mar, 25 Apr, 15 Jun, 5 Aug, 25 Sep, 15 Nov
St Mary's, Creggan 30 Nov 2025, 20 Jan, 12 Mar, 2 May, 22 Jun, 12 Aug, 2 Oct, 22 Nov	Sion Mills 15 Dec 2025, 4 Feb, 27 Mar, 17 May, 7 Jul, 27 Aug, 17 Oct,	Limavady 31 Dec 2025, 20 Feb, 12 Apr, 2 Jun, 23 Jul, 12 Sep, 2 Nov	Malin 14 Jan, 6 Mar, 26 Apr, 16 Jun, 6 Aug, 26 Sep, 16 Nov
Our Lady of Lourdes 1 Dec 2025, 21 Jan, 13 Mar, 3 May, 23 Jun, 13 Aug, 3 Oct, 23 Nov	Ardstraw East 16 Dec 2025, 5 Feb, 28 Mar, 18 May, 8 Jul, 28 Aug, 18 Oct,	Dungiven 30 Dec 2025, 19 Feb, 11 Apr, 1 Jun, 22 Jul, 11 Sep, 1 Nov	Iskaheen 15 Jan, 7 Mar, 27 Apr, 17 Jun, 7 Aug, 27 Sep, 17 Nov
Holy Family 2 Dec, 2025, 22 Jan, 14 Mar, 4 May, 24 Jun, 14 Aug, 4 Oct, 24 Nov	Ardstraw W & C'derg 17 Dec 2025, 6 Feb, 29 Mar, 19 May, 9 Jul, 29 Aug, 19 Oct	Magilligan 1 Jan, 21 Feb, 13 Apr, 3 Jun, 24 Jul, 13 Sep, 3 Nov	Culdaff 16 Jan, 8 Mar, 28 Apr 18 Jun, 8 Aug, 28 Sep, 18 Nov
Culmore 3 Dec 2025, 23 Jan, 15 Mar, 5 May, 25 Jun, 15 Aug, 5 Oct, 25 Nov	Clonleigh 18 Dec 2025, 7 Feb, 30 Mar, 20 May, 10 Jul, 30 Aug, 20 Oct	Coleraine 2 Jan, 22 Feb, 14 Apr, 4 Jun, 25 Jul, 14 Sep, 4 Nov	1ST FRIDAY MASS FOR LIVING MEMBERS 2025 / 2025
Glendermott 4 Dec 2025, 24 Jan, 16 Mar, 6 May, 26 Jun, 16 Aug, 6 Oct, 26 Nov	Drumragh 19 Dec 2025, 8 Feb, 31 Mar, 21 May, 11 Jul, 31 Aug, 21 Oct	Garvagh 3 Jan, 23 Feb, 15 Apr, 5 Jun, 26 Jul, 15 Sep, 5 Nov	Magilligan 12/5/25
Donagheady 5 Dec 2025, 25 Jan, 17 Mar, 7 May, 27 Jun, 17 Aug, 7 Oct, 27 Nov	Cappagh 20 Dec 2025, 9 Feb, 1 Apr, 22 May, 12 Jul, 1 Sep, 22 Oct	Kilrea 4 Jan, 24 Feb, 16 Apr, 6 Jun, 27 Jul, 16 Sep, 6 Nov	Granaghan 1/2/26
Leckpatrick 6 Dec 2025, 26 Jan, 18 Mar, 8 May, 28 Jun, 18 Aug, 8 Oct, 28 Nov	Greencastle 21 Dec 2025, 10 Feb, 23 May, 13 Jul, 2 Sep, 23 Oct	Greenlough 5 Jan, 25 Feb, 17 Apr, 7 Jun, 28 Jul, 17 Sep, 7 Nov	Termonamongan 2/6/26
Ardmore 7 Dec 2025, 27 Jan, 19 Mar, 9 May, 29 Jun, 19 Aug, 9 Oct	Badoney Lower 22 Dec 2025, 11 Feb, 24 May, 14 Jul, 3 Sep, 24 Oct	Bellaghy 6 Jan, 26 Feb, 18 Apr, 8 Jun, 29 Jul, 18 Sep, 8 Nov	Ardstraw W /Castlederg 3/6/26
Strathfoyle 8 Dec 2025, 28 Jan, 20 Mar, 10 May, 30 Jun, 20 Aug, 10 Oct	Badoney Upper 23 Dec 2025, 12 Feb, 25 May, 15 Jul, 4 Sep, 25 Oct	Lavey 7 Jan, 27 Feb, 19 Apr, 9 Jun, 30 Jul, 19 Sep, 9 Nov	Cappagh 4/10/26
Camus 9 Dec 2025, 29 Jan, 21 Mar, 11 May, 1 Jul, 21 Aug, 11 Oct	Maghera 24 Dec 2025, 13 Feb, 5 Apr, 26 May, 16 Jul, 5 Sep, 26 Oct	Moville 8 Jan, 28 Feb, 20 Apr, 10 Jun, 31 Jul, 20 Sep, 10 Nov	Donagheady 5/1/26
Urney & Castlefin 10 Dec 2025, 30 Jan, 22 Mar, 12 May, 2 Jul, 22 Aug, 12 Oct	Desertmartin 25 Dec 2025, 14 Feb, 6 Apr, 27 May, 17 Jul ,6 Sep, 27 Oct	Granaghan 9 Jan, 1 Mar, 21 Apr, 11 Jun, 1 Aug, 21 Sep, 11 Nov	Donaghmore 6/5/26
Mourne 11 Dec 2025, 31 Jan, 23 Mar, 13 May, 3 Jul, 23 Aug, 13 Oct	Faughanvale 26 Dec 2025, 15 Feb, 7 Apr, 28 May, 18 Jul, 7 Sep, 28 Oct	Buncrana 10 Jan, 2 Mar, 22 Apr, 12 Jun, 2 Aug, 22 Sep, 12 Nov	Langfield 7/3/26

Did you hear about the

Long Tower Christmas Village?

Save the Date!

20th November

6pm - 8pm

@ Long Tower grounds and Cloisters cafe

The whole town is invited to pop in and see Santa, enjoy hot chocolates and support local vendors all in aid of a brilliant cause.

More details about this unmissable event coming soon!



Forty Hours - 2025

Sun 9 Nov	Sacred Heart Church	Omagh
Sun 9 Nov	St Patrick's, Castlederg	Ardstraw West & Castlederg
Sun 16 Nov	Holy Family Church	Ballymagroarty
Sun 23 Nov	St Mary's, Sessiaghoneill	Donaghmore

Life is changed...not ended *Fr Johnny Doherty CSsR*

MANY years ago, when I was a young priest in St Clement's Retreat House, Belfast, friends of mine gave me a poster for my room that has meant a lot to me over all the years. The picture on the poster was of a beautiful sunrise. I always thought that that picture must have been taken in Donegal. Nowhere else could have such natural beauty!

The caption on the poster read: Life is a journey, not a destination. And that has shaped much of my life since. It speaks a very simple truth that has a profound meaning and gives great meaning to so much of life.

Going on a journey

Every journey, especially important ones, means that decisions have to be made about three elements.

1. Where are you going? You know exactly where you are going for each journey, otherwise there will be chaos.

2. Why are you making the journey? The reason for any particular journey has to be clear, otherwise you will not set out on it.

3. How are you going to get to your destination? Many decisions are generally made around this question. Mistakes can be made in the organisation of things. Changes have to be made to those arrangements. Unforeseen things can happen both before the journey starts and also at any point along the way. These have to be dealt with. If these three elements are true about the ordinary journeys we make during our lifetime, how

much more so they should be true of the main journey, life itself.

The journey of life

For many people, death is the end of life, the end of our personal journey. Death is our destiny and with it comes extinction. It is inevitable. There is nothing we can do, except make the most of it for ourselves and for those we love.

For us though, as followers of Christ, death is the door through which we enter into eternal life. Life is changed, not ended. We believe this on the word of God given to us in the Scriptures. We believe this especially on the Word of God, Jesus Christ, given to us as our Lord and Saviour and who has, Himself, risen from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of God. Where He, our Head, has gone, we, His Body, will follow.

Why travel this journey?

We travel the great journey of life because this is what each of us was created for – to journey back into the heart of God, to experience for eternity God's immense love for us and to live fully with the new life won for us by Christ.

What we need to travel freely

Christ gave us his two commandments as the key to safely travelling our journey of life into eternal life: Love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole mind and your whole strength. Love your neighbour as yourself. These commandments are not just for life here on earth. They are the commandments that will be our way of life in eternity. Eternal life is the never-ending

journey of a life of love as we journey ever more deeply into the mystery of God's love, God's will, God's wisdom, God's knowledge, etc.

November, celebrating eternal life

One of the things that we, Catholics, do well is funerals! Of course, it is not the only thing we do well. In fact, I believe that we do most things well when we are celebrating human life. But certainly, funerals are usually a highlight. The reason is that we are firm believers in "the resurrection of the body and life everlasting". At every weekend Mass, we proclaim this faith as we say the Creed together. And every Easter, we renew that faith as we renew our Baptismal vows, because it was there, at our Baptism, that this great faith was given to each of us personally.

November - a celebration of all who have died

Every year, for the full month of November, we celebrate those who have died. The month is introduced to us by two days in which we remember All our Saints and all Holy Souls. These two days are a unit, which is meant to include everyone who has lived through this life and have now gone ahead of us into Eternal Life.

Many have completed their journey and are now in the full life of God. Some of these are canonised saints, given to us as inspiration for our own journey of faith. Others are the people we ourselves know, who have passed through into the full embrace of God's love. Many others are still

on their way, in what we know as Purgatory, as they prepare for entry into Heaven. With the Feasts of All Saints, November 1, and All Souls, November 2, we give thanks to God for every human life that has been lived as we unite ourselves with the Communion of Saints.

November - a parish celebration of all who have died

As November approaches, each year people in most of our Catholic parishes are invited to write out a list of their beloved dead and submit these lists to the parish office. These are then taken and, in many parishes at least, are kept before the altar in the church to be part of our prayer at every Mass throughout November. Many parishes have a special celebration to commemorate those who have died within the past year. Their memories are fresh. Their loss is still very painful. It is a lovely way for a community to honour them and those who mourn for them.

But November is a time to be conscious of, and give thanks for, all who have lived as members of the Body of Christ in the parish over generations. In this way, we pray for all those who have gone before us in our community of faith. But, we also unite ourselves with them in prayer for ourselves, the people who now make up that community of faith, as we too journey with them into the mystery of God.

Local cemetery

In more rural towns and villages, there is a local cemetery where the deceased of the parish are buried.

November is a time when this cemetery is highlighted and when the graves are visited more than usual. City parishes, unfortunately, do not have this constant reminder of those who have gone before us.

Our cemeteries are very important to us as a faith community. In them, each person is named as having lived and belonged, not just to a family but to a community. And each person is treasured as having the ongoing vocation of witnessing to our faith in the resurrection. Life is changed, not ended. Our deceased live on in the memory of the community that brought them to Baptism and the other Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. They live on in the heart of God.

And our cemeteries stand as a proclamation of faith to the society in which we live, that death is not the end. The motto of each cemetery is: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Each one buried there is a guarantor of this faith.

November - a family celebration of our loved ones who have died

In our Catholic tradition, the family is described as the Domestic Church, or the Church of the home. It is here, especially, that those who have died should be particularly remembered. It is in the family that each person is most lovingly remembered. It is in the family that each person has had the greatest and most lasting effect. It is in the family that each person will be treasured.

I suggest the following for the family remembrance of our loved ones during the month:

1. Create a sacred space with a table, a couple of candles, a crucifix etc;

2. Draw up a list of the names of your family members who have died, going back as far as anyone can remember. Include on this list others who have been significant in your family life;

3. Put out photos of your loved ones, in so far as possible. Include in this any memoriam cards you may have;

4. Photographs and memoriam cards are a very special way of handing on knowledge of those who have died to the children who may not have known them, or have only vague memories of them;

5. Allocate a name, or names of your people, to each day of the month, with the intention of thinking about and praying for those people day-by-day throughout the month. Commit to a decade of the Rosary for them each day, to be prayed together if possible, and if not, to be prayed individually;

6. Have a family celebration sometime during November, in which you will joyfully give thanks to God for the wonderful people of your family who have brought you to today;

7. If at all possible, visit the graves, together if possible, of your loved ones who have died, and again marvel at the gift each one is to you as you read their names and note the date on which they entered eternal life.

The mystery of faith: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The power of asking our children to pray for us *by Sinéad Strong*



PRAYER has always played a big role in my family's life. It is something that I have leaned on to help nurture my children's faith and well-being. I recently heard a talk where the speaker emphasised the importance of parents asking our children to pray for them. At first, it might feel a bit odd, after all, aren't we supposed to be the ones guiding them spiritually? But I have found that this simple act can really strengthen our family bonds, and help our kids grow in empathy, emotional intelligence, and spiritual confidence.

One experience brought this lesson home to me in the most powerful way. In October 2021, I tested positive for Covid-19. After a week, I ended up in hospital, and my continued deterioration led to me being admitted to the ICU in St James' Hospital in Dublin. I was pregnant at the time and devastated at the thought of losing my baby and leaving my family.

After a particularly dismal

weekend and further decline in my lungs, I realised I had to talk with my husband about what to do if the worst happened. I asked him to make sure that they wouldn't switch off the machines until my baby was old enough to be born. My husband, though aware of how ill I was, didn't want me to lose hope. He called our children and had them speak to me, hoping their voices would lift my spirits. When I heard my youngest, just two years old at the time, something in his voice struck me deeply. Immediately, I told my husband that he needed to get the children to pray for me to help me come home. I was filled with conviction that my children's prayers were what I needed most in that desperate situation. From then, my children prayed the Rosary for me every day and continued even after I returned.

My recovery was nothing short of miraculous. The next morning, all my levels improved, and the following day I was transferred out of ICU, and a week after that 'phone call, I was back home in my children's arms.

When I ask my children to pray for me, I am telling them, "I trust you. Your prayers matter." It gives them a sense of responsibility and shows them that they are important contributors to our family's spiritual life, not just

bystanders. I have noticed that this helps them mature and realise that what they say and do truly makes a difference.

Support

Praying for someone else, especially a parent, encourages children to think beyond themselves. When I share my worries or joys with my children and ask them to pray, they learn to listen, show compassion, and understand what it means to support others. Over time, I see them becoming more patient, kind, and selfless - qualities that will serve them well throughout their lives.

I also think that asking our children to pray for us builds their spiritual confidence. Sometimes, children feel like their prayers aren't as 'good' as adults'. But when we seek their prayers, they learn that sincerity is what counts, not fancy words. It reassures them that their relationship with God is real and valued, and it encourages them to pray openly and honestly, not just for us but for others too. Sharing prayer in this way creates a powerful connection. When my children know their prayers are cherished, they feel more connected to me, and I am reminded of the unique perspective and innocence they bring to our family's faith.

Finally, I have realised that asking for prayer from my children is an act of humility. It is a way of admitting that I don't have all the answers and that we all need each other's support. They are more likely to share their own worries, knowing that it's okay to be vulnerable. This teaches them that it is okay to ask for help and to rely on others, which is so important in a world that often pushes self-sufficiency above all else.

In the end, inviting our children to pray for us is a simple but powerful practice. It affirms their place in the family, helps them grow in empathy, and deepens their spiritual understanding. Most importantly, it reminds them - and us - that their voices matter, their hearts are heard, and their prayers are powerful.

In a world that sometimes under-estimates young people, giving them this role is a true gift to them, to our family, and to the generations that follow.

Heavenly Father, bless our family with faith, hope, and love. May our prayers for one another draw us closer to You and strengthen the bonds that unite us, especially in times of need.

If you are interested in finding out more about Catholic Mothers Ireland, please visit www.catholicmothers.ie.

Catholic Mothers Ireland

Retreat Day

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2025

THE PARISH HALL @ ST JOSEPH'S, ANTRIM. BT41 1JZ

Join us for a day of Spiritual Restoration, Inspiring Talks, Holy Mass, Prayer and Confession.

Lunch and refreshments provided.

This all-day retreat will run from 10am – 6pm at a cost of £40.

To book, please call or WhatsApp the admin team on 00353851471516 or email catholicmothers@outlook.ie

Come join us for a day of reflection, community, and spiritual growth. These retreats are specially designed for Catholic mothers looking to connect with others and deepen their faith. Throughout the day, we will have inspiring talks, group discussions, and quiet time for personal reflection. It is a great opportunity to recharge and find support in a welcoming environment. Don't miss out on this chance to nourish your soul and connect with other Catholic mothers. We can't wait to see you there! Booking essential: <https://forms.office.com/r/8bVaRSMpsP>

Children's Catechism Club - C3

by Veronica Harley

HELLO children. C3 welcomes you to the month of November. Winter has arrived, so the days are shorter, and the nights are longer. Traditionally, this month is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Although November can be dark and cold, we still have many special days to celebrate. We begin November with a splendid feast – All Saints Day!



All Saints' Day

The Feast of All Saints is celebrated on the 1st of November. On this day, we go to Mass to honour all the saints and martyrs, known and unknown, who have died and are now with God in Heaven. Saints are people who have loved God very much and who have dedicated their lives to living God's Will.

The Lord calls us all to be saints, to be holy people (CCC 2013). We give thanks to God for the saints and all their good deeds. These are an example for us to live by each day. We, too, can live like the saints and one day join God in Heaven for we shall be saints.

Saints of the Month

November 3: St Martin de Porres
November 11: St Martin of Tours
November 17: St Elizabeth of Hungary
November 30: St Andrew the Apostle

All Souls' Day

The Feast of the Holy Souls is November 2. On this day, we especially remember all those people who have passed from this life to the next. The Holy Souls are the people who have died in the state of God's grace and friendship. These souls are assured of reaching Heaven and eternal salvation. The Holy Souls remain in Purgatory because, after their death, they still need to be purified of their sins. With this purification, they achieve the holiness needed before entering Heaven (CCC 1030). The word 'purgatory' was originally a Latin adjective meaning 'clean'. This gives us the English word 'purge' with the same meaning.

Purgatory is more than a place. It is a process in which we are made holy and pure so that we can live with God forever in Heaven (CCC 1054). The Holy Souls are not separated from God while in Purgatory but, instead, are surrounded by God's love and mercy. We can help to purify the Holy Souls by praying for them. We pray at their graves, but

the Mass is the greatest prayer for the dead. By making small sacrifices, we can make an offering to God to ease the suffering of the Holy Souls (CCC 1032).

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Presentation of Mary in the Temple (CCC 721)

The Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple is celebrated on the 21st of November. On this day, we celebrate the fact that Our Lady's parents brought her to the Temple when she was just three years old. It was here that she came to live for a long period of time and where she, unknowingly, began to prepare herself to be the Mother of God.

In the Temple, because she was exceptionally holy, Our Lady entered the service of God. This beautiful Feast stresses an important truth about Mary; from the beginning of her life, she was dedicated to God. She, Herself, became a greater temple than any made by human hands. God came to dwell in Her in a glorious manner and sanctified Her for the unique role She would have in God's saving work.

On this tremendous day, we turn to Mary and ask Her to assist us in our own task of sanctification, as the Holy Spirit did with her in the Temple in Jerusalem. This helps us to remember that we, too, are temples of God, who are sanctified so that we might share in God's saving work.

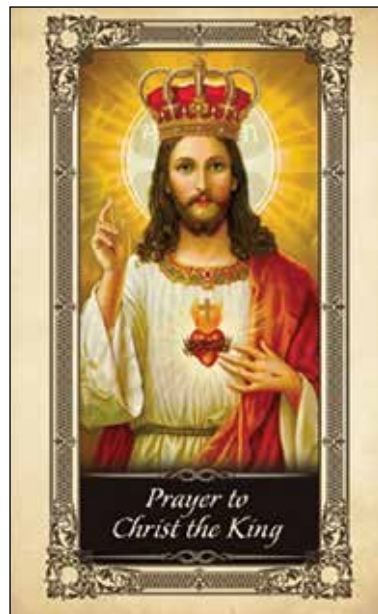
"We celebrate that dedication of



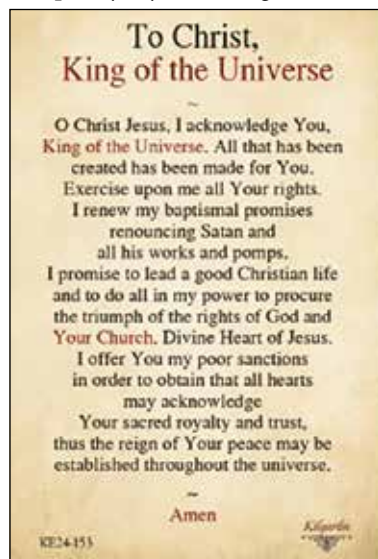
Herself, which Mary made to God from Her very childhood under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who filled Her with grace". (Liturgy of the Hours)

Feast of Christ the King

Every year, on the last Sunday before Advent, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King (CCC 559). This



feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925. At that time, the world was increasingly telling Christians to be completely loyal to the government



in power and to forget about God and His existence. Consequently, Pope Pius XI established this Feast to remind Catholics and the world that Jesus Christ is Lord of the Universe.

This wonderful feast day not only marks the end of the Liturgical Year for our Church (CCC 1168), but it is also a day on which we celebrate Christ's royalty and His reign over all of creation.

Jesus you are my King and my God and I love you. Help me to be your good servant.

The Season of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" (Matthew 3:3).

The beginning of our Church year is marked with the season of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent this year is on 30th November. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word 'adventus', which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas. It is a time of reflection and hope, as we keep in mind both 'advents' of Christ; the first in Bethlehem and the second at the end of time.

The Advent Wreath

The use of the Advent wreath, with the five candles, has been a tradition for hundreds of years. The wreath is a symbol of the four weeks in which we prepare for the birth of Jesus, with a candle being lit each week; three purple candles and one rose candle. The green branches remind us of the new life we have in Jesus, the circle signifies the eternity of God's love for us (with no beginning or end), and the candles represent hope and light, which Jesus brings into a dark world. The fifth candle is lit on Christmas Day, as a symbol of Christ, born as the light of the world.

St Andrew the Apostle

Andrew came from Bethsaida, in Galilee, where he and his brother, Peter worked as fishermen. Andrew

had been a disciple of John the Baptist and, after hearing John speak about Jesus as the Lamb of God (Jn 1:41, Mk 13:30), Andrew followed Jesus. The first thing that Andrew did was to find his brother, Peter to tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (Jn1:41).

In the Gospels, Andrew is present on some important occasions. It was Andrew who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes (John 6:8), and he was one of the four disciples who came to Jesus on the Mount of Olives to ask about the signs of Jesus' return at the "end of the age" (Mk 13:30).

After the crucifixion of Jesus, most of Andrew's mission work was in Greece and Constantinople (Istanbul). Some believe that he preached along the Black Sea and the Dnieper River, as far as Kiev, in Ukraine.

Andrew was crucified at the City of Patras (Patræ) in Achaea. Tradition speaks of how Andrew was bound, not nailed, to an X-shaped cross, 'saltire', now commonly known as a 'Saint Andrew's Cross', apparently at his own request, as he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus had been.

St Andrew the Apostle is the Patron Saint of Scotland and Russia. His Feast Day is 30th November. On this day, the annual prayer for Advent begins. The following beautiful prayer is traditionally recited 15 times a day until Christmas. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the real focus of Christmas, and helps us prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desire, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Quiz Time with Lawrence

1. What 1986 movie features Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short as a trio of out-of-work actors, who are mistaken for real-life heroes by the residents of a village under threat?
2. To which European country does the Faroe Islands belong?
3. Who currently holds the men's 200 metres world record?
4. Who wrote the novel 'The Secret Life of Adrian Mole'?
5. How many US states began with the prefix 'New'?
6. What character was played by Geoffrey Hughes in the sitcom 'Keeping Up Appearances'?
7. Of what country is Minsk the capital city?
8. What is the formal name for the process by which plants convert sunlight into energy?
9. Who was manager of Manchester United immediately before Alex Ferguson?
10. Who painted the iconic artwork 'The Last Supper'?
11. The novel 'The Day of the Jackal' is based on the failed assassination attempt of what World Leader?
12. Which country's flag contains the most colours?
13. With which US Basketball team did Michael Jordan win six NBA Championships?
14. Who had a 1973 hit record with the song 'Paper Roses'?
15. What two countries are separated by the Yellow Sea?
16. What political figure released her autobiography 'Becoming' in 2018?
17. What city is the setting for the '101 Dalmations' movie?
18. Name either of the two 'Stevies' who founded the Apple Computer Company in 1976?
19. What part of the human body produces insulin?
20. Which footballer won the English Premier League for the first time at the age of 42, and then won it again the following year with a different club?
21. Which US President gave the Gettysburg Address?
22. What seafood is most commonly used in Spanish Paella?
23. What is the Christian name of 'Bob The Builder's' wife and business partner?
24. What Radio 1 DJ won the first ever 'I'm a Celebrity....get me out of here'?
25. Which Leo Tolstoy novel contains a whopping 361 chapters?

Quiz Answers: 1, The 3Amigos; 2, Norway; 3, Usain Bolt; 4, Sue Townsend; 5, Four - York, Hampshire, Jersey and Mexico; 6, Onslow; 7, Belarus; 8, Photosynthesis; 9, Ron Atkinson; 10, Leonardo Da Vinci; 11, Charles de Gaulle; 12, South Africa (7); 13, Chicago Bulls; 14, Marie Osmond; 15, China and Korea; 16, Michelle Obama; 17, London; 18, Steve Jobs/Steve Wozniak; 19, The pancreas; 20, Mark Schwarzer; 21, Abraham Lincoln; 22, Shrimp; 23, Wendy; 24, Tony Blackburn; 25, War and Peace.

Aghyaran, Ardmore, Ardstraw West & Castlederg, Ballinascreen, Ballymagroarty, Banagher, Bellaghy, Buncrana, Carndonagh, Claudy, Clonmany, Coleraine, Creggan, Culdaff, Culmore, Desertmartin, Donnyloop, Drumquin, Dunamnanagh, Dungiven, Fahan, Faughanvale, Garvagh, Gortin, Greencastle,

Moville, Newtownstewart, Omagh, Plumbridge, Sion Mills, Steepestown, Strabane, Swatragh, Templemore - Long Tower and St Eugene's, Three Patrons, Waterside

Let Your Light Shine!

WORLDWIDE EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

CHRIST THE KING YOUTH CELEBRATION

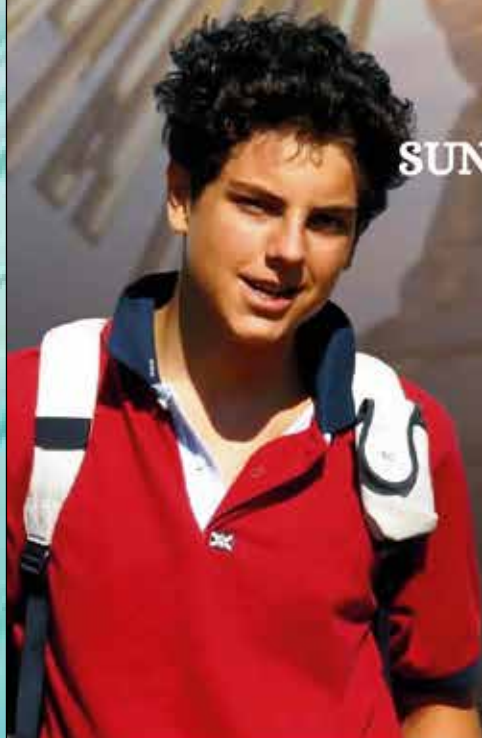
Led by

Bishop Donal McKeown

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23rd 12 pm HOLY MASS
ST COLUMBA'S CHAPEL,
THE LONG TOWER,
DERRY.

FOLLOWED BY
EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION
TO EBRINGTON SQUARE

CHRISTTHEKINGIS100@GMAIL.COM



Greenlough, Iskaheen, Killyclogher, Killygordon, Kilrea, Lavey, Leckpatrick, Lifford, Limavady, Maghera, Magilligan, Malin, Melmount,