

# Culmore Parish Newsletter

Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Feast of Corpus Christi

## **FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI – THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

As part of the final blessing each time we attend Mass, we are asked to go forth in faith and love, taking up the mission of Jesus and spreading the fruits of the Eucharist. Our participation in the Eucharist at Mass unites us with Jesus and with one another in a unique and intimate way that defines our very identity as baptised children of God and our call to mission. We pray today that our familiarity with Holy Communion and with the dismissal words of the Mass will never allow us to become complacent about the everlasting gift that Jesus gave us or its centrality to the responsibilities and challenges that come with the privilege.

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

The **Feast of Corpus Christi** reminds us of one of our central beliefs as Catholics, namely that Jesus is fully and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. So, when we receive Holy Communion, we are receiving Jesus Himself into our bodies and souls.

This belief, and our celebration of it today especially, challenges us to respect the presence of Jesus in our brothers and sisters too. Just as the Eucharist is the Body of Christ, so too are we who call ourselves Christians, followers and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the question we might ask ourselves today (and every day) is: does my respect for the Jesus I worship in the tabernacle, or in the monstrance, when I’m at Mass and / or receive Holy Communion, translate into respect for my neighbour, particularly my neighbour who is most vulnerable or most in need?

# CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** The annual feast of Corpus Christi gives us the opportunity to reflect on and give thanks for the mystery we celebrate every Sunday and every day. The Eucharist is the Church's food of life and our daily bread.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> St Colman.** Settled at Dromore, Co Down about 514, and became bishop there.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> St Columba (Colm Cille),** abbot and missionary, Patron of the Diocese of Derry and secondary patron of Ireland. Born at Gartan in Co. Donegal in 521, he studied under St Finian of Moville and St Finian of Clonard and founded monasteries at Durrow, Derry and possibly Kells. In 563 he left for Iona, which became his principal foundation, and from there missionaries went out on their work of conversion. He is noted for his great love for people and all living creatures. He died in 597.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> St Ephrem the Syrian** (306-373) was a native of Mesopotamia and became a monk and deacon near Edessa in modern Turkey. He wrote commentaries on scripture, and hymns which were later included in the liturgy. He defended the faith against Arianism and encouraged devotion to Our Lady.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> The Sacred Heart of Jesus,** a feast that celebrates the immense love of God for us revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**St Barnabas** was born in Cyprus and was one of the first converts in Jerusalem before he went to preach in Antioch. He became a companion of St Paul and accompanied him on his first missionary journey. He returned to Cyprus to preach, where he died.

**Online Theological Training** on Tuesday, 15 June exploring the relationship between theological understandings of suicide, the historical developments and finally, mental health and, how this translates into pastoral action. If you would like to register, please visit [www.wewillflourish.com](http://www.wewillflourish.com) or email [info@wewillflourish.com](mailto:info@wewillflourish.com)

**Prayer for Vocations:** Heavenly Father, inspire the men You call to priesthood to answer Your invitation to serve Your people by offering Mass and nourishing them with the Body and Blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We Pray to the Lord.

"It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit and then you will be my disciples." Are you being called to love the Lord and His people as a priest, sister or brother? If you are considering such a vocation, speak to Fr Pat or to the Diocesan Vocations Director (Fr Chris Ferguson - +447973421352) or email the National Vocations Office: [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie)

**The Diocesan Vocations' Council** is organising a **Come and See Day** for anyone interested in exploring the possibility of a religious / priestly vocation. It'll take place in St Mary's Church, Creggan, Derry, on Saturday 10 July. Further details will be provided shortly.

**Lough Derg 2021** – Sadly, it will not be possible for the authorities at Lough Derg to reopen Station Island for the traditional Three Day Pilgrimage or even for the autumn programme of Day Retreats. They will, however, offer the opportunity to “**Do Lough Derg from wherever you are**” on 3 – 5 July. The outdoor **Pilgrimage on the Lough Shore Pilgrim Path** will also be available over the summer. Further information from the Lough Derg office (071) 9861518 or [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org)

**Radio Maria – Ireland:** Is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies. If you are not already a follower of the station, Radio Maria Ireland encourage you to join their growing faith family! You can tune in to the station in a variety of ways:

- *Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210/ Freeview TV (Channel number varies per location in NI)*