

# Culmore Parish Newsletter

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday, 7 March 2021

## **A question of authority**

It is tough at times to figure out who has authority on certain issues. There are 'experts' everywhere, telling us how we should eat, exercise, manage our finances... the list goes on. Something that has struck me during the current pandemic is how hard it can be to know who to believe. We hear from doctors and virologists, politicians and economists, and their opinions don't always align. It can take us a while to trust the voices we hear in the media.

The Temple scene in today's gospel sparks a debate about Jesus' authority. While he certainly cuts an authoritative figure as he drives out the stall-holders and money-changers, he is immediately questioned. The Jews demand a sign to explain his provocative words and actions, as if to say 'Who do you think you are?' It is interesting to note that in John's Gospel, this scene takes place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (unlike the Synoptic Gospels where it comes towards the end). This would explain the disbelief of the witnesses.

In calling the Temple 'my Father's house' Jesus identifies the source of his authority. But his interrogators do not understand, nor do his disciples, though we are told it later makes sense to them after the resurrection. This scene offers more than an angry Jesus and a clueless audience. It is a public revelation of Jesus' identity and authority, as the one in whom God's presence dwells. It also emphasises the radical new way of living that Jesus has come to bring about. As we journey through Lent, we ask ourselves where the message of Jesus has become obstructed in our lives, and how we might open our hearts again to his presence and guidance.

*'I invite all Christians, everywhere, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them... The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.'* (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*)

*Triona Doherty*

# Diocesan Daily Lenten Prayer

Loving Father, To prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world, Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

## DETAILS OF LENTEN 5-WEEK PRAYER RESOURCE

You can follow the resources as they are published at

[www.derydiocese.org/news/categories/lent-2021](http://www.derydiocese.org/news/categories/lent-2021)

## Trócaire

Parishioners are asked to note that the Trócaire campaign has resumed this Lent as in other years. There are some Trócaire envelopes available in the Church porches. Alternatively, here is a link to enable parishioners to donate online, if you would prefer to support the Lent Appeal this way -  
<https://www.trocaire.org/donations/now/>

## COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

(ALONE is a member of the National Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Subgroup for Vulnerable People and is managing the national support line for older people with concerns regarding the Coronavirus and COVID-19. )

**COMMUNION** - My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. AMEN

**ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS** *In times of calamity and disaster such as the outbreak of a plague which in these days is called Covid-19 or Corona virus – we take the advice and example of the Saints and Consecrate our parish and our family and friends to the safety and Protection of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

**PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH - NOVENA PRAYER** - March 11th – March 19th

*To thee, O Blessed Joseph, we have recourse in our tribulations, and, while imploring the aid of thy most holy spouse, we confidently invoke thy patronage also. By that love which united thee to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and by the fatherly affection with which thou didst embrace the Infant Jesus, we humbly beseech thee graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by His Blood and to help us in our necessities by thy powerful intercession.*

*Protect, O most provident guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen children of Jesus Christ: ward off from us, O most loving Father, all taint of error and corruption; Graciously assist us from Heaven, O most powerful Protector, in our struggle with the powers of darkness; and as thou didst once rescue the Child Jesus from imminent peril to His life, so now defend the Holy Church of God from the snares of her enemies and from all adversity. Shield each one of us with thy unceasing patronage that, imitating thy example and supported by thy aid, we may be enabled to live a good life, die a holy death, and secure everlasting happiness in Heaven. Amen.*

## Preparing for Marriage?

***Catholic Engaged Encounter:*** A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation Course is planned for 27 – 28 March 2021. This two-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how to enrich your future relationship. For information and booking telephone 0287638512 or log on to [marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie)

**Tarsus Scripture School** will offer reflections on the readings for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. The programme offers one webinar and one meditation. The meditation – after Easter – will be an opportunity to 'take in' what we have celebrated over Holy Week and Easter.

*TTS for Lent and Easter 2021*

*Easter: Weaving the Tapestry of Death and New Life*

9 pre-recorded lectures; 1 webinar; 1 meditation (€30).

'Behold my servant': the Servant of the Lord in Isaiah.

'And when I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself': Easter in John.

'Dying and raised to new life in Christ': Salvation in Romans.

**For registration and further details please go to [www.tarsusscriptureschool.ie](http://www.tarsusscriptureschool.ie).**

**Working in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham, the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre** offers a Masters in Catholic School Leadership.

This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn 2021. If you require any more information please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 71264087 or email: [tferry@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org).

## PRAYER FOR OUR PROTECTION

We ask for prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus. Placing all our trust in the Lord, and asking Our Lady to intercede for us, we invite everyone to pray these prayers:

### ***Extract from Saint Patrick's Breastplate***

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

### ***Memorare***

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.