

# Culmore Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Lent, 14th March 2021

## Laetare Sunday

### **Out into the light**

Today, the 'middle' Sunday of Lent, is known as Laetare Sunday – *Laetare* means 'Rejoice!' We tend not to think of Lent as a time to rejoice, but signs of joy are central at Mass today, such as the use of flowers on the altar and rose-coloured vestments for the priest instead of the usual Lenten purple. The shadow of the cross still looms large, but we look forward with hope to Easter, when light will conquer the darkness.

We are offered an opportunity today to pause and reflect on our Lenten journey. In our gospel we hear that 'the [person] who lives by the truth comes out into the light'. On the other hand, Jesus says that those who 'prefer darkness to the light' live in fear that their actions will be exposed.

We hear a lot of talk these days about transparency. We have seen the damage caused by those whose private actions gravely contradict the message they proclaim in the public sphere. Some questions we might ask ourselves this Lent are: Am I living a truthful life 'in the light'? Am I honest in my dealings with others, trying always to choose what is right and just, or are there things I do in secret that are unkind or dishonest? Am I attentive to the needs of others or am I more inclined to think of myself? Lent offers us an opportunity to step out into the light, to allow the light of Jesus to sweep away any darkness or destructive habits and to begin again.

*'We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence, and we are able to share it with others; when we know when to smile with those who smile, and weep with those who weep; when we accompany those who are sad and at risk of losing hope; when we recount our experience of faith to those who are searching for meaning and happiness... and there – with our attitude, with our witness, with our life – we say 'Jesus is Risen,' with our soul.'* (Pope Francis)

*Triona Doherty*

**Aid for the Children of Yemen:** Fr. Neal Carlin's new book, *'The Eagle, The Tiger and Covid'*, is now on sale at £10 and can be purchased by contacting [goldenagecentre@hotmail.com](mailto:goldenagecentre@hotmail.com). All proceeds are being sent via a direct contact to aid the Children of Yemen.

## 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).

## Census 2021 is here!

The census happens only once every ten years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in Northern Ireland. You should receive a census pack in the post. It will include an access code for completing online or details on how to request a paper form. If you have already completed your census we are very grateful. Your answers are important and completely confidential. Your personal data will never be shared. If you do not receive a pack or have lost your access code or have any questions call our contact centre for free on 0800 3282021 or visit our website at [www.census.gov.uk/ni](http://www.census.gov.uk/ni).

## *The Net* – March 2021

Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese. With Covid-19 restrictions still in place, the March edition of '*The Net*' will only be available on the Diocesan website - <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-march-2021>

However, the publication will be available again in parishes when the restrictions are lifted. ***Enquiries to – editorthenet15@gmail.com.***

### ***Coverage in this month's edition includes:***

- \* Great response to virtual sacramental preparation *by Therese Ferry*
- \* Forever grateful for unique way God's Grace brought into our home *by Jennifer McGill*
- \* Lenten focus for Derry Youth online
- \* Lockdown with Youth 2000
- \* *Owen Doherty* reflects on his faith and Youth 2000
- \* *Young writers share thoughts on* – Confession, St Patrick, The Way of the Cross, Trocaire, Lourdes, Catholic Education and Parish PJII youth in action
- \* Derry teen penning book on chastity
- \* Deirfiúr – Online Catholic sisterhood launched by Derry-Donegal trio
- \* Exodus 90 – Empowering men to reach their full potential
- \* *Hollie Frystal* reports on St Eugene's virtual vigil of prayer
- \* Celebrating the priesthood of Fr Donal Bennett and his late brother, Fr Terry
- \* Vocations Holy Hour from Cappagh
- \* Week of prayer to celebrate Sr Clare's anniversary
- \* Novena to Sleeping St Joseph
- \* Lenten feature *with comments from around the Diocese*
- \* Every generation is a time of hurt *by Bishop Donal*
- \* Cuimhní Cóivide 2 - *Irish Page by Fr Oliver Crilly*

- \* Children's Catechism Club – C3 *by Veronica Harley*
- \* Season of Lent – Freedom to love *by Fr Johnny Doherty CSsR*
- \* *Bishop Donal* reflects on Sacrament of Reconciliation
- \* Preparing for Divine Mercy Sunday *by Mary McMenamin*
- \* Set the embers ablaze *by Fr Joseph Varghese*
- \* Journeying with the Holy Spirit *by Fr John McLaughlin SSC*
- \* The Leaving of Lagos *by Fr Peter McCawille SMA*
- \* St Teresa of Avila teaches Devotion to St Joseph *by Fr Stephen Quinn OCD*
- \* The 'Patrick' on the hill *by Vera McFadden*
- \* St Patrick's Way – Come and be amazed *by Martina Purdy*
- \* A pilgrim's perspective *by Berni Doody*
- \* Memories through the Stations of the Cross *by Fr John McLaughlin SSC*
- \* Quiz Time *with Lawrence*