

Culmore Parish Newsletter

Third Sunday of Easter - Sunday, 18 April 2021

GOSPEL: ST LUKE 24:35-48

The disciples are trying to make sense of recent events. Jesus tells them how what has happened to Him had all been foretold in the Scriptures and that His suffering, death and resurrection were central to the fulfilment of God's plan for salvation. As God's children – children of the Resurrection – we are all part of God's plan. We, the disciples of today, try to make sense of events in our lives too; we experience fears, doubts, hopes and joys, but in the ordinariness of our daily and family lives – in the experiences of love, forgiveness, compassion, reconciliation, generosity, the work of justice and the making of peace – are the signs of the Spirit of the Risen Lord within us and among us.

We thank God today for revealing His great love and mercy to us in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist and we ask Him for the grace to open our hearts and minds to these great gifts and to follow His glorious plan for our lives.

'You are Witnesses of these things'

Today's Gospel is one of the resurrection accounts from St. Luke's Gospel. It begins with the disciples recalling their experience on the road to Emmaus and how they recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread. The Gospel continues into another account of the Risen Jesus with his disciples. Jesus interrupts the disciple's story and greets them with 'Peace' (Shalom) yet, in this account, they are terrified by this. Jesus shows them his wounds and Luke tells us that they are full of joy, but they still can't believe it and think it is a ghost. Jesus shows them that he is no ghost as he asks for food and eats fish with them. Jesus then journeys with them back through the scriptures in order to open their minds. He speaks to them compassionately, trying to relieve their anxiety and fear.

Jesus tells the disciples that 'you are witnesses of these things'. Luke wants to establish an important point, that these disciples are witnesses to the Resurrection, they ate with Jesus after his death and he opened their minds. The Resurrection accounts in the Gospels are not fantasy, they are the actual experiences of Jesus' disciples. So often in Luke's Gospel Jesus conveys his message through food and banquets, moments of celebration. The Risen Christ brings compassion and joy into difficult spaces. Today let us share with Jesus the situations in our lives which need an injection of compassion and Easter joy.

'Every year the dull and dead in us meets our Easter challenge: to be open to the unexpected, to believe beyond our security, to welcome God in every form, and trust in our own greeting.'

(Joyce Rupp) Jane Mellett

Trócaire Boxes can be returned to the church over the coming weeks. It would be a great help if coin could be changed into notes. If you prefer you may send a cheque directly to Trócaire at 50-52 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD or use online banking to Trócaire: Sort code 93-80-92 Account No. 88227020 or by telephone. The freephone number is 0800 912 1200. Trócaire also have a Donate facility on their website.

Centenary Celebrations for the Legion of Mary: As part of the centenary celebrations for the Legion of Mary, there will be a special Mass for the Legionaries of the diocese live streamed from St. Theresa's Church, Sion Mill, on Wednesday 28 April at 7.00pm the Feast of Louis Marie de Monfort, the saint who had a major influence on Frank Duff. Because of Covid-19 restrictions only a small number of representatives of the Parish Legions in Co. Tyrone will be able to attend. You are invited to attend via the Sion Mills Parish webcam. The Rosary along with the Legion of Mary Prayers will be recited.

Derry Diocesan Vocations Week 17 - 25 April 2021. The Theme for this year's Vocations Week is based on '*Patris Corde*' ('*With a Father's Heart*'), Pope Francis' recent publications for the year of St. Joseph. On the five evenings of Monday 19 April - Friday 23 April, Bishop McKeown will host a series of interviews with guests throughout the diocese discussing how they have answered God's call to vocation. These 20 minute interviews will be broadcast live online at 7.00pm, followed by a broadcast of the celebration of the Daily Examen. At 8.00pm, after 7.30pm Mass, Bishop McKeown will lead the Rosary before concluding with night prayer. The live broadcasts can be viewed at derrydiocese.org and derryvocations.org at the times mentioned.

RADIO MARIA IRELAND

Radio Maria, based at St Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22, 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). Download FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"

Streaming on website, www.radiomarie.ie (subscribe and donate here also)

'Listen Live Radio' link on Facebook Page. (Like, Share and Follow us on Facebook)

Phone – get live radio feed by calling 003531 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).

Prayer and song requests welcome. "A Catholic voice in your home". Fr Eamonn McCarthy is Director.

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE?

Catholic Engaged Encounter: A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 27th to 28th March 2021. This 2-day course is a positive way of

preparing for Marriage, where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. For information and booking go to marriageencounter.ie or call 028 2763 8512.

THE NET: The April edition of The Net is now available to read online, on www.derrydiocese.org. As always, it contains a wide range of interesting articles and interviews on faith matters and photos of events in parishes across the diocese.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT Seminar in Omagh will take place over a period of seven weeks in conjunction with 7.30pm Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, starting on Thursday 22 April. Please join at 7.30pm each Thursday via the parish webcam: <http://www.drumraghparish.com/webcam.html>. 22 April: God's Love - Fr Damian Bresnahan; 29 April: Salvation - Fr Joe Gormley; 6 May: The New Life - Bishop McKeown; 13 May: Receiving God's Gift - Fr Christopher McDermott; 20 May: Baptism in the Spirit - Fr Eddie Magee; 27 May: Growth - Fr Colum Curry; Thursday 3 June: Transformation - Fr Kevin Mc Elhennon.