

Culmore Parish Newsletter

Pentecost Sunday

23 May 2021

The Spirit will guide

In today's Gospel, we see that Jesus is comfortable with an element of mystery. Speaking to the disciples before his arrest, Jesus is preparing them for the gift of the Spirit. The word he often uses is 'Advocate', meaning helper or comforter, indicating the disciples will not be left to struggle on alone. We hear Jesus say that the complete truth is too much for the disciples now. The mysteries of his life, death and Resurrection, and the implications for his followers – all will become clearer in due course. The Spirit will guide you, he says. Not everything is revealed at once.

Then in our first reading from Acts, we recall the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, just as Jesus promised. The disciples are gathered together when they have a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit, urging them out into the streets, proclaiming the Good News. The time has come. They must have remembered Jesus' promise then, finally understanding what he meant when he said the Spirit would lead them, when the time was right.

The Spirit is still at work in our world. As our journey continues – as humanity, as church, as individuals – the Spirit unveils God's message for our place and time. The Spirit is that life-giving force that animates our world, inspiring and energising us. Our task is to listen, to be awake to the many ways God speaks to us and calls us into the life of God.

'I have always pleaded for a deep listening to the voice of the artist in our midst, and also to the supreme artist who tries to lead us to completion, the Holy Spirit of God.'

(Mark Patrick Hederman) *Triona Doherty*

Life in the Spirit Seminars

The seminars continue for the next 2 weeks in conjunction with 7.30 pm Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh. You can join via webcam at:
<http://www.drumraghparish.com/webcam.html>

Thursday 27th May Growth Fr Colum Curry

Thursday 3rd June Transformation Fr Kevin Mc Elhennon

"Let him who is thirsty come; Let him who desires, Take the water of life without price" Rev. 22:17

Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all people.

Master of Arts in Religious Education and Social Justice

St Angela's College, Sligo, is offering this online part-time MA in Religious Education and Social Justice, starting in September 2021. The closing date for receipt of applications is 16th June. Please visit www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie or contact Mary Kearns on 0035371 9195550. Or Email: mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie

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.

INVITATION TO RESPOND – DIOCESE OF DERRY ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

The Diocese of Derry has launched a consultative plan about climate change and the environment and is inviting everyone within the Diocese to read, engage and respond to it. The plan identifies actions and behaviours that support rather than destroy the environment. The suggestions cover such areas as land, buildings, energy, food, travel and waste. A Draft of the Environment Strategy has been posted on the Derry Diocesan website, to view and/or download: www.derrydiocese.org/diocese/environmental-strategy. Every attempt has been made to make the Strategy both comprehensive and practical so as to suit each Parish's particular situation. In order to ensure that it is as helpful as possible to your various parish communities however, we would appreciate any constructive feedback on it that you may have to give. We ask if you could read the draft Strategy document and give feedback on aspects that you feel could be supplemented/improved.

- ❖ Begin to implement any aspects(s) of it that you feel can be put into practice quickly and easily
- ❖ Draw the attention of both parish groups and individual parishioners to the strategy and encourage them to give feedback. (This would be especially relevant to school and any groups/individuals with particular interest in environmental issues)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: - Monday 31 May 2021. Submit your comments, questions and suggestions to Patricia McCormack by: Email: laudatosiderry@gmail.com

Telephone/text 077 1190 0420 – Facebook: Laudatosiderry

MARIAN PILGRIMAGES have released their pilgrimage schedule for 2021 & 2022 to Lourdes, Medjugorje, Fatima, Italy & Holy Land. For more information or to register your interest please visit www.marian.ie or ring Marian Pilgrimages on (01) 878 8159.

The Net – May 2021

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

However, the publication will be available again in parishes when the restrictions are lifted. For coverage of faith stories just email editorthenet15@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL 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**

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. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. Of Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

Prayer for Exams

Lord Jesus,

As I now prepare for my exams, I ask you to grant me strength of mind and constant hope. Banish from my mind all fear, anxiety, regret and nervous distraction. May your gift of the Holy Spirit guide and enlighten my fragile mind. At this difficult time, give me the gift of self-confidence and an assurance that you will hear my prayer, answer my need and continue to guide me as I pursue life's journey.

I ask this prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.