

Culmore Parish Newsletter

Second Sunday of Lent - 28 February 2021

Transfiguration

Can you recall a time when you had an 'aha moment'? One of those moments when something suddenly makes perfect sense to you. It may have been a long time coming, a combination of various pieces of a jigsaw fitting together or it may be an insight you received from spiritual practice. These are special moments. We are never quite the same afterwards, something changes, even a small thing, but something in us changes. These moments move us outside of ourselves or beyond ourselves in some way. They are moments of transfiguration.

In the Gospel today, Peter is desperate to stay on the mountain in that blissful moment with Jesus, so much so that he offers to build tents. One can understand Peter's request, after such an experience of course he would want to stay there. What moments of encounter in your own life do you recall? An encounter where you simply did not want it to end? It may be something very deep and meaningful which gave you a glimpse of God or a moment of complete contentment?

As with all blissful moments, the disciples must come down from the mountain top. Jesus' way involves walking a very different path, a path that will not be so easy. Jesus' way is different to what Peter may have had in mind. These moments of Transfiguration strengthen us all for walking the more difficult paths, sustaining us on the way.

'The Lord is more constant and far more extravagant than it seems to imply. Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?'

(Marilynne Robinson) Jane Mellett

RADIO MARIA IRELAND, 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.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Next Sunday, 7 March, is the Third Sunday of Lent. The Gospel we will listen to is St John 2:13-25, 'The Cleansing of the Temple.'

MAKE LENT MEANINGFUL: Below are excerpts from an article by Fr Brendan McManus SJ on 'Make Lent Meaningful' in the February edition of The Sacred Heart Messenger:

"In preparing for Lent, Pope Francis quotes the prophet Amos, 'What I want is mercy not sacrifice', a shift of emphasis away from what *I do* to what *God does in me*.....Yet people may still get caught up in Lent as simply a time of self-sacrifice, a giving up of stuff through self-discipline or will-power. Nothing wrong with that but just notice the emphasis on 'self' and what 'I' am doing. It seems almost to cut God out of the picture. The better question is, 'What is God asking of me at this moment, and what is holding me back; how can I bloom and grow?' The quote from Amos is inviting us to act in a merciful or loving way which is subtly different. For example, a person may be called to go the extra mile with someone, to mend a fractured relationship, to ask forgiveness for a hurt caused, to turn away from vice and reform their life.....Obviously there is sacrifice involved here, and there is always a cost in changing for the better, but the goal is not sacrifice, it is trying to do the right thing, the loving thing.....doing what God wants, though brings its own courage, hidden strength and grace that allows us to go beyond our normal selves."

Each day of Lent everyone is encouraged to pray the Diocesan 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.

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

Western Health & Social Care Trust FREE Mental Health Courses

The WHSCT Recovery College is running free courses on mental health and emotional wellbeing. Courses start in March, and at the moment we are planning to deliver them via Zoom, but if Covid-19 restrictions allow later in the term we intend to run face to face workshops as usual in Derry, Enniskillen, Omagh and Strabane. We would encourage people to register even if they do not have computer access. Some shortened courses are already available free to watch online on the Recovery College page on the Trust website www.westerntrust.hscni.net/service/recovery-services/recovery-college and the Western Trust's YouTube channel. To enrol telephone 82252079 or 82833291 or email: recoverycollege@westerntrust.hscni.net or download an enrolment form at <https://westerntrust.hscni.net/service/recovery-services/recover-college/>

St. Angela's College, Sligo is inviting applications for the following course beginning Autumn 2021 – Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) with Online Delivery.

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The course is open to: Qualified primary school teachers; qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education may also apply. Closing date is Friday 14 May 2021. This date may be extended. For more information and application forms contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, School of Education, St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo. Email: mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie or visit www.stangelas.nuigalway.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.

TSS 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.

Derry Diocesan Trust Safeguarding Co-ordinator (2-year fixed term contract)

Based in Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. 14 Hours per week – Monday and Tuesday. £27,905 - £29,636 per annum pro rata.

For application packs contact Bishop's House, St. Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 71262302 or email: payroll@derrydiocese.org. Completed application forms must be returned to Personnel at the above address or email no later than 5.00pm on March 5, 2021.

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. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.