

Ardmore Parish Newsletter

SUNDAY 1st AUGUST 2021

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

GOSPEL: ST JOHN 6:24-35 'I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE'

Food that satisfies.

Growing up, did you hear any 'old wives' tales' about food – eating carrots helps you see in the dark; bread crusts will make your hair curly; an apple a day keeps the doctor away...? These wise old sayings, passed down the generations, were employed to encourage us to eat certain foods, mainly healthy fruit and veg. Many even had an element of truth. These days we can easily establish the accuracy of such claims, but many parents still find themselves falling back on these nuggets of wisdom. Behind it all is a desire to see children grow up strong and healthy.

Recent years have seen an increased focus on health, both physical and mental. Nourishing one's body and mind and keeping them healthy are essential long-term projects, the work of a lifetime. In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about a different type of nourishment – bread that gives life, food that satisfies, food that endures. 'I am the bread of life,' says Jesus. It is Jesus who nourishes us at the very core of our being, who knows our every need and gives meaning to our lives. He tells us today: 'Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life.' As we continue on our way, learning how best to nourish our body and mind, let us not forget to nourish our spirit with Jesus, the bread of life.

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ... 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)

Tríona Doherty, Intercom

Wednesday of this week, 4th August, is the Feast Day of St John Vianney, Patron Saint of priests. You are invited to pray the following Derry Diocesan Prayer for Vocations to priesthood and Religious life:

Lord Jesus Christ, gentle Shepherd,

You know Your sheep and You draw them to Yourself.

Give to the people of our diocese hearts that are open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Speak inwardly to us that young people may hear Your call to follow You in the Church and serve Your people as priests or Religious.

Awaken in all of us the courage to answer: 'Here I am, Lord, send me.' St John Vianney, pray for us.

Foyle Hospice is currently seeking new volunteers to join the team in their Day Hospice. With services re-opening Foyle Hospice are in urgent need of volunteer Hairdressers, Complementary Therapists and Beauticians/Nail Technicians. The Day Hospice is a friendly and welcoming environment where patients receive specialist palliative care services and support combined with key complementary therapies. The Day Hospice is operational on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you have these skills or qualifications and have a few hours to spare please contact Rachael Osbourne, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Foyle Hospice, 61 Culmore Road, 028 71351010 or email rachael@foylehospice.com.

Certificate in Christian Thought: Drumalis Retreat Centre, in association with St Mary's University College, Belfast, invites applications for this two-year, part-time, intensive course which begins in September 2021. The course will be delivered over 7 Saturdays in each of two successive years, from 10.00 am until 4.30 pm. The Certificate in Christian Thought programme aims to offer a space where adults can explore, reflect upon, discuss and study faith and how it relates to life in today's world, both at a personal and community level. During the course, participants will cover topics on: Spirituality, Pastoral Theology, The Eucharist, Living the Christian Life, The Sacraments, The Scriptures, Where in the World is God? And much more. Full details are available at: derrydiocese.org/news/certificate-in-christian-thought.

Irish Volunteer Agency Creates Online Global Network: Viatores Christi, a faith-based development organisation has specialised in the recruitment, training and deployment of overseas volunteers since 1960. VC have just launched, along with our partner agencies in Volunteering for Humanity, a new Online Discussion Forum that is open to all! The Forum is an online community that is free for everyone to join and to start discussions about volunteering - how to become a volunteer; to share stories and to find volunteering opportunities such as the #EUAVI. To learn more about the forum go to our website www.vcvolunteers.ie

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

The Net, is now available online at <https://www.derrydiocese.org/images/the-net/the-net-june-2021.pdf>.

As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese.

Radio Maria Ireland is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies. 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).*

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