

Ardmore Parish Newsletter

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 2nd May 2021

Bound together

Have you ever visited a vineyard, with its rows of vines, heavy with clusters of ripe grapes? If you're not familiar with vines, think of an apple tree laden with apples, or a fruit bush ripe for picking. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine to describe his relationship with his disciples. He tells them that he is the vine, and they are the branches. The life of Jesus flows into us and sustains us, and this is the reason our lives can bear fruit in love, in kindness, patience, compassion and welcome.

The symbolism of the vine works on many levels. If a branch is separated from the vine, it cannot flourish on its own. It must be connected to the vine from which it gets its nourishment. Each of us must be firmly rooted in Jesus and nourish that relationship. He invites us to 'remain' in him – to rest in him, to be part of him. And if you look at a vine plant, often its branches are so entangled, it can be hard to know where one ends and another begins. We note that Jesus is addressing the disciples as a group rather than as individuals: 'you are the branches'. We are a community, and we grow together, bound together by the love of God.

Today, we reflect on what it means to be so intimately connected with Jesus, the true vine. We bring to mind the many gifts he has given us, and the ways in which his love bears fruit in our lives.

Triona Doherty

Celebrating Mary in the Month of May

May is a very special month for the Church as we remember Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother. A full month is given over to Mary and during this month we are encouraged to honour Mary in different ways. To help parishes, families and schools to do this, the Diocesan Catechetical Centre has created a number of resources including prayers, Gospel reflections, colouring and craft activities, examples of May Altars and ideas on how to pray the Rosary. These resources are available on line at: catecheticalcentre.org/category/celebrating-mary-in-the-month-of-may-2021/

In our parish this weekend we are inviting you to take home a pack consisting of a picture of Mary and a pair of rosary beads for your May Altar. For the first week of May, on Thursday (all day) we are inviting you to make a pilgrimage from your home to St. Mary's Church when you can pray the Memorare, light a candle at

Mary's altar and take a candle home with you for your May Altar. Then as a family we invite you to pray the Rosary together—or even a decade of the Rosary. **Mary, Queen of the Family, pray for us.**

Diocese of Derry Environmental Strategy

The Diocese 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 areas as land, buildings, energy, food travel and waste. A draft has been posted on the Diocesan website to view or download at www.derrydiocese.org. In order to ensure it is as helpful as possible to various parish communities we would appreciate any constructive feedback on it that you may wish to give.

You are invited to:

- (1)** Read and give feedback on aspects you think could be improved.
- (2)** Begin to implement any aspect you feel could be put into practice easily and quickly.
- (3)** Encourage parish groups and individuals to give feedback on the strategy - especially schools and groups or individuals who have a particular interest in environmental issues. *Submission deadline for comments:* Monday 31 May 2021.

Please submit your comments, suggestions or questions to Patricia McCormack. Telephone 077 1190 0420 or email: laudatosiderry@gmail.com

Life In The Spirit Seminars:

Will take place in conjunction with 7.30pm Holy Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh. Join via the webcam at drumraghparish.com. Thursday 6 May: "The New Life" - Bishop Donal McKeown.

Pope's Intentions For May

Universal-the world of finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the 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. An information session via ZOOM will be held on Monday 7 June at 3.30pm. If you are interested in attending this session or require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 71264087 or email: tferry@derrydiocese.org

Mary's Meals – Pray in May

This May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in our prayer campaign for the work of Mary's Meals, which is reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal in 19 countries every school day. We pray in thanksgiving for each little act of love that makes this work possible and we also pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through His providence it will always flourish enabling us to reach more hungry children. Prayer resources and further information can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay

COVID-19 Support Line

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

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.