

Ardmore Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 8 May 2022

Day of Prayer for Vocations

I know them

John's Gospel is sometimes referred to as the 'spiritual Gospel,' as it has beautiful, reflective passages. During the Easter season, we read and hear mostly from John. It is a lovely opportunity to meditate more deeply on the Word. Today, we are given the image of Jesus as the Shepherd and of his people as the flock. We hear the words 'I know them.' Jesus knows each person intimately. He knows our deepest desires, our worries and fears, our insecurities and pain. Jesus is as close to us as our own breathing. Nobody can interfere with this intimate friendship, even though at times we may feel differently. We may experience discrimination because of our faith, or be attacked in some way. When things are not going so well, we may feel as if Jesus has abandoned us; sometimes we simply want to give up on the whole thing. We become distant. Let this passage be a reminder to us that Jesus is always very close to us and knows our struggles. We simply need to share those struggles and fears with Him, for 'no one will snatch them (you) out of my hand.' We may forget this from time to time. This week, can you spend five minutes each day meditating on this passage? Focus on the breath. A phrase to repeat might be: 'Jesus, I know that you are as close to me as my own breathing.'

Jane Mellett

Vocations Sunday, 8 May, is a very special day in the life of our diocese, when Michael McCaul will be ordained as a Deacon. Michael's ordination will take place in Christ the King Church, Strathroy, Omagh, at 3.00pm. We remember Michael in prayer and recall his time here during previous summers on pastoral placement.

Accord Derry Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Course on Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 May and Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 June. The courses are now online for booking. Please go to www.accordni.com to book.

No Visible Scar: Comfort for those Bereaved Workshop

Losing a loved one can be a lonely, isolating and disorienting experience. These feelings of loss have been felt even more keenly in the time of a global pandemic. This workshop provides a gentle, safe and comforting space to help those bereaved before or during the pandemic to better understand their feelings, sensitively unpack the layers of grief their loss has brought and learn how to respectfully carry grief and embrace life again. The workshop is from Friday May 20 (arrive 5.00pm) - Sunday 22 May (depart 2.00pm) in the Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry. Cost £220.00.

Workshop Facilitator: Fr. Hugh Lagan SMA. To book please contact Jacinta or Louisa on 3082 1964 or email: admin@dromantineconference.com.

Lough Derg Pilgrimage Season re-opens.

One Day Pilgrimages will take place on 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 and 30 May. The Three-Day Pilgrimage will commence on Wednesday 1 June and continue until 15 August 2022. Admission for the one-day Pilgrimage is €45 and for the 3 Day Pilgrimage €80. Booking is essential. To book telephone 00353 71 9861518 or info@loughderg.org.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lough Derg from Friday 24 June - Sunday 26 June 2022. Spiritual director Bishop Donal McKeown. Cost £80 per person, includes transport from the Cathedral. If you wish to go on this Pilgrimage, you must be 16 years or over. For booking contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 02871 264087 or email: lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org.

Rosary at the Grottos

The Rosary will be prayed each day during the month of May at grottos around Ireland. To see a list of locations, or to register a grotto visit www.coastalrosaryireland.ie. You can register by texting 0872786552. We are praying for Ireland and for peace in the world.

Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars

Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars, Sacred Heart Church, Omagh, Thursday 12 May at 7.30pm Mass with Homily. This Seminar is on *Receiving God's Gifts* and presented by Fr. Damian Bresnahan SMA, Dromantine.

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service is seeking Marriage Preparation Programme Facilitators. Anyone interested in volunteering for this role and who has a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church and the enthusiasm to be part of a team supporting couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. Accord has 54 centres in dioceses across Ireland. Successful applicants will receive professional training and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes locally in accordance with best practice. Contact Deirdre on 07980898399 or email info@accordni.com. The closing date for receipt of registration of interest forms for this year is Friday 27 May. Registration of Interest Forms and additional information about becoming a facilitator are available on www.accordni.com

Anam Cara Donegal, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thursday 12 May at 7.15pm in the Radisson Blu, Letterkenny. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. Please contact us on 085 288 8888/info@anamcara.ie for more information.

Thinking about Fostering? Come along to one of our face-to-face information events to find out about fostering teenagers. Everyone welcome. The Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen on Tuesday 10 May from 7.30pm – 8.30pm. The Waterfoot Hotel, Derry on Thursday 19 May from 7.30pm – 8.30pm. If you would like to attend telephone 0800 0720 137 or email your name, postcode and telephone number to info@fostering.hscni.net

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 3 – 8 July (ex-Belfast) £689.00 pp sharing. Places are still available. Contact the Pilgrimage Office on 71260293 or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com

Pope's Monthly intention for May Faith-Filled Young People We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

A Day of Retreat and Reflection on St Therese will take place on Saturday 14th May from 11 am - 5 pm at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca. There will be a relic of St Therese available for veneration during the retreat. The day costs £25 and includes a 3 course lunch. If you would like to come along please get in touch to book a place.

The Little Way Novena in St Eugene's Cathedral – 7th May to 15th May: The theme is 'Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love'. The Novena will begin at the 7.30 pm Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick on Saturday, 7th May. Devotions and talk on Sunday, 8th May at 6.00 pm. Monday to Friday (9th to 13th May) Novena Masses at 6.30 am and 10.00 am each morning and an evening service with a guest speaker at 7.30 pm. Saturday, 14th May 10.00 am Mass for those who have died. The Novena will close on Sunday, 15th May at 3.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to St Eugene's Cathedral for this time of prayer and petition.

May Altar

What is a May Altar? In simplest terms, a May Altar is a small surface in your home that is dedicated to honoring Our Blessed Mother during the month of May, which is also known in the Catholic church as the "Month of Mary". It is a place for focusing Marian devotions and coming together with Our Lady in prayer

The worship Committee of the Irish Bishops present an online talk on 'Church Music after COVID' on Friday 13th May 7.30pm-8.30pm. Access is on www.rednuns.com