

Ardmore Parish Newsletter

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 9th May 2021

All you need is love

'Love? Above all things I believe in love. Love is like oxygen. Love is a many – splendoured thing. Love lifts us up where we belong. All you need is love.' In an attempt to express the depth of his love, the character Christian from the film *Moulin Rouge* pulls together the lyrics of some of the most famous love songs of recent decades. Since time began, poetry, prose, and song have attempted to put into words the great mystery that is love. 'At the touch of love, everyone becomes a poet,' the philosopher Plato put it.

Today's Gospel offers one of the most eloquent passages on love in the Gospels. It reveals the vision of Jesus for his followers and explains how we should treat one another. We are to love each other with the same love Jesus showed during his time on earth, that great and generous love that culminated in his 'laying down his life for his friends'. It is in the way we love one another, the way we understand and forgive and support one another, that we experience the life and love of Jesus.

There are more than 20 references to love in today's readings. In the second reading we hear that 'everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God'. That love that God showed by sending his Son for us, is the same generous, wholehearted, self-sacrificing love we are called to show others – all others. God does not have favourites.

'We find it so hard to accept the revelation that it is God's delight to be worshipped in the way we touch and look at each other, in the way we listen and talk to each other, in the way we forgive and promise to start all over again.' (Daniel O'Leary)

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 online at catecheticalcentre.org/category/celebrating-mary-in-the-month-of-may-2021/

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.

Consultation in Preparation for Synodal Assembly: As you may have heard via the media, the Irish Bishops have decided to initiate a process in the Irish Church, leading to a Synodal Assembly in perhaps five years. The Bishops' Conference plans the next two years as a period of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a nationwide consultative conversation on this theme. Following this, there will be a three-year preparation for a National Synodal Assembly. Before embarking on this, bishops are inviting submissions to reflect on what methods/models to adopt in these coming two years of conversations. Individuals and groups are invited to submit ideas as to how the national conversation might best be conducted and what hard-to-reach groups need to be involved. For more information on making a submission go to www.catholicbishops.ie/synod. Submissions are sought by 23 May and can be made directly online through that website.

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 Environmental Strategy has been posted on the Derry Diocesan website, <https://www.derrydiocese.org/diocese/environmental-strategy> to view and/or download: <https://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 aspect(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 schools and any groups/individuals with particular interest in environmental issues).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Monday, 31st May 2021

Submit your comments, questions and suggestions to Patricia McCormack by:

Email: laudatosiderry@gmail.com

Telephone/text: 077 1190 0420

Facebook: Laudatosiderry

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.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a support line and additional supports for older people who are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (is open 7 days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024).

Life in the Spirit Seminars

The seminars continue for the next 4 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 13th May Receiving God's Gift Fr Christopher McDermott

Thursday 20th May Baptism in the Spirit Fr Eddie Magee

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.

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.