

Ardmore Parish Newsletter

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 September 2021

Welcoming the Child

In today's gospel Jesus is instructing those who will follow on from him and carry on his work for future generations. He took a little child and said to the disciples, *'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'* As we continue our journey through the Season of Creation, we are reminded of Pope Francis' words in *Laudato Si - On Care for Our Common Home*, where he challenges us to reflect: *'What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?'* (*Laudato Si*, 160). In the context of the environmental crisis our world is facing, how are we welcoming the generations to come? Pope Francis does not hold back when referring to the challenges: *'We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth'* (LS, 161). We know that climate change and the biodiversity crisis are driving so many problems in our world at present. *'Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.'* (LS, 25). Yet our pace of consumption does not ease. Young people are standing up and calling governments and world leaders to account, rightly concerned about their future.

During the Season of Creation, we must pray for our world, and act. How can we restore our common home and ensure that our world is liveable for the generations who are coming after us? Can your parish explore becoming an Eco-Parish, setting up a care for creation team, turning church grounds in areas which promote biodiversity? There is so much we can do, and no action is too small. We must listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of our young people.

'The one thing we need more than hope is action. Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come.' – Greta Thunberg.

Jane Mellett

Guided Pilgrimages on the Lough Derg Pilgrim Path will be offered on Sunday 26 September and Sunday 3 October, with Mass outdoors, weather permitting. The full route is a 12km loop, with a shorter 8km option. Advance booking is essential. For more information email info@loughderg.org or telephone 00353 719861518.

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. Applications for the Autumn intake close on 30 September. For more information please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org

A Triduum in Preparation for the Feast of St. Padre Pio will take place at the Franciscan Friary, Rosstown from Monday 20 September to Thursday 23 September. There will be Mass, Homily and Blessing of Relic at 7.30pm each evening. The preacher will be Fr. Pius McLaughlin, OFM who met Padre Pio.

'Beyond the Bruising:' An oasis hour for those seeking serenity as they live with fractured relationships. Available on zoom on Saturday 9 October at 11.00am. For details contact thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org.

QUB CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY :

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University has reopened for the new academic year. We are a vibrant community of faith and friendship at the heart of campus where students feel welcome, listened-to, valued and supported. For more on our liturgy schedule, events, facilities and Café, visit qubcatholic.org

DROMANTINE RETREAT CENTRE:

The following Retreat and Workshops will be offered by **Fr Hugh Lagan SMA:**

'Called by a New Name' : Retreat – refocus, recharge and reconnect in a post-pandemic world. Sunday 3rd, 5pm – Friday 8th October, 9.30am. Cost £420/€490.
'Broken Open' Workshop – How difficult times can help us grow. Friday 19th 5pm – Sunday 21st November, 2pm. Cost £200 / €230. Enquiries and reservations: Tel 028 (048 from ROI) 30821964. Email: admin@dromantineconference.com

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2022

Parish of Leckpatrick and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Derry City pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 14th – 18th May 2022. Direct flights from Dublin to Tarbes (Lourdes). Cost £575pps. Single room supplement £140 (limited availability). Staying at the 4* Hotel Astrid. Accompanied by Fr. Gerard Sweeney and Fr. John McDevitt.

As this is a joint pilgrimage, places are limited to 25 people from Leckpatrick Parish. For booking form and further information please contact the Parish Office (028) 71882274 from Monday 27th September.

AMBITION?

Our scripture readings for this weekend seem to suggest that ambition is something of a 'dirty' word. It is condemned by Jesus and St. James. However, on closer examination, we come to realise that it is not ambition itself that is condemned but the wrong type of ambition. Ambition in itself is a good thing. The real question is: what are we ambitious about? Those who are consumed by ambition can often sacrifice too many things to attain the goal of success. They can end up neglecting family life, relationships, even life itself.

In our gospel we have a very good example of false ambition. The apostles fight among themselves over who would have the most important status and positions. Jesus aware that this type of false ambition only leads to conflict and division and is very damaging to the group, teaches them an important lesson. He reminds them that true greatness is to be found in serving others. The really great people, those often most fondly remembered, are not those who sought to further themselves and their own interests, but rather those who devoted themselves to furthering the interests of the community. The call to 'serve' is an invitation to use one's gifts and talents not for one's own selfish ends but for others. If we do so, we will help to build a better world.