

# Ardmore Parish Newsletter

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 20th June 2021

## 'Let us go across to the other side'

'Let us go across to the other side' is an important phrase in Mark's Gospel which occurs many times. Jesus and the disciples are crossing the Sea of Galilee from what is a predominantly Jewish area to a more Gentile (non-Jewish) region. While this phrase signifies Jesus' geographical position, it also suggests that he is inviting the disciples to go a little deeper on their journey. They are perhaps entering into the unknown, moving out of their comfort zones and therefore feeling anxious. The crossing of the water does not go so well for the disciples as a storm begins to brew and eventually the water begins to endanger the boat. To the disciple's astonishment, Jesus is asleep through the whole ordeal. Their anxious call is understandable, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' After all, Jesus has led them, and 'other boats' into this situation and now appears not to care what will happen to them all.

In times of turmoil in life, we too may feel totally abandoned, swamped by fear and anxiety, adrift in a storm where even Jesus appears to be asleep. During such experiences, we might remember the words of Jesus from today's Gospel and repeat them, like a mantra, 'Peace! Be Still'. While the wind is howling around us it can be frightening but Christ is always with us, present within our very selves, offering us this deep peace. Often, coming back into the awareness can help us navigate through the storm and remind us that Jesus is very active in our lives, especially when we are entering into unknown territory. What is required of the disciples in this account, is a more mature faith, a deeper trust in their Teacher, that he will not abandon them.

*'May the peace of Christ go with you wherever he may send you; May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm; May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you; May he bring home rejoicing.'*  
(Shane Claiborne)

*Jane Mellett*

## **PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE?**

**Catholic Engaged Encounter:** A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 11-12 September 2021. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. Information/Booking: [marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie) or 028276 38512

## **LOUGH DERG 2021**

Lough Derg regrets that it will not be possible in 2021 to reopen Station Island for the Traditional Three-Day Pilgrimage or even for the autumn programme of Day Retreats. Lough Derg will again offer the opportunity to "*Do Lough Derg from wherever you are*" on 3 – 5 July. The outdoor *Pilgrimage on the Lough Shore Pilgrim Path* will also be available as the summer goes on. Further information from Lough Derg office 0 (0353) 71 9861518 or [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org).

## **THE NET**

The June edition of The Net is now available online, on <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.

**DIPLOMA IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY -** Drumalis Retreat Centre, in association with St Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth, invites applications for this two-year, part-time,

intensive course which begins in September 2021. The course will run on the basis of 6

in-house days and 18 evening sessions per year for two years. The main aim of this course is to equip people for skilled and supervised active lay ministry within a parish or church

community. The course is knowledge and skill-based and grounded in experiential learning. During the course, participants will

- Study and reflect on Christian life and ministry,
- Combine pastoral theology and the acquisition of skills with supervised experience in pastoral placements,
- Develop the skills of theological reflection, so as to enable them to relate theology and ministry to everyday life,
- Engage in ongoing formation of social, organisations, communication and leadership skills

**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 seven Saturdays in each of two successive years, from 10am until 4.30pm. 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](http://derrydiocese.org/news/certificate-in-christian-thought)

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** - My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. **AMEN**

**FEAR NOT FOR I AM WITH YOU**

*One Minute our lives are free and easy.*

*Next minute we are cast down.*

*All it takes is a piece of bad news and suddenly  
for us the whole world becomes dark and somber.*

*Waves of discouragement, fear, and despair  
rise up all around us, threatening to engulf us.*

*In such moments, who will save us from drowning and help us  
to keep the barque of our lives on course?*

*Christ our Brother will.*

*He who is our companion on the voyage to the eternal shore.  
All we have to do is awaken ourselves to a sense of his presence,  
and call out to him in our distress, as the apostles did.*

*Then we will hear his gentle voice saying to us:*

*"Fear not, for I am with you".*

*And the waves of fear will subside,  
And the sun of hope will shine for us again.*

## **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.