



Parish News

Sunday 13th FEBRUARY

Jesus *"fixes his eyes"* on us

Jesus *"fixes his eyes"* on us so that we can get to know him well and recognise his presence among us. His loving look is also a call to conversion so that we may be more like him.

"How happy are you who are poor!"

This is not an abstract statement but a joyful exclamation at the greatness of the people he sees before him. It reminds us of another text which says that Jesus was "filled with joy by the Holy Spirit" as he contemplated the wisdom of the little ones to whom God had revealed things which he had hidden from the "learned and the clever".



Jesus is so different from us. We tend to relate to the poor in a condescending way. Even when we love them we do it pityingly, we call them *"disadvantaged"* or *"less fortunate than ourselves,"* we want to *"do things for them"*, even to *"pray for them."*

Right through his life Jesus did the opposite. In the presence of those his society considered poor - the *"little ones," "sinners," "tax-collectors and prostitutes"* - he felt inspired, was filled with awe, and he told them so. *"Yours is the kingdom of God,"* means that they are the ones who have the wisdom and the courage to make the kingdom a reality in the world.

We now see why St Luke says that Jesus *"stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering"*. He didn't want to talk down to people; he would *"cure them of their diseases"* by conversing with them at their level, entering into the greatness he saw in the midst of their poverty, hunger and tears.

He knew that like many poor people, they tended to look up to the ruling elites, the superstars of his time, with awe, perhaps with some envy, so he urged them not to be intimidated by their shallowness and false values. They must remain true to their own values and then their hunger would be satisfied and their weeping would become laughter and celebration.



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Pantry Service Food Appeal: We have seen an increase in food poverty and the demand on our pantry service is increasing. We are appealing for donations of items such as tea, coffee, cereal, dilute juices etc.. which can be brought along to our parish offices or churches. The collection of the items is Monday 14th February.

The Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will resume this year, from 3 - 8 July 2022. Cost: £689 per person sharing, with single room supplement £150. Price includes flights, transfers and full board. The pilgrimage will be suitable for pilgrims who do not require medical, nursing or personal assistance as, unfortunately, this cannot be provided this year. The intentions of the sick of the diocese can be taken to Lourdes. The Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, will be open for enquires and application forms on Thursdays and Saturdays, 11.00am – 1.00pm, from 3rd March. Tel: 028 71 260293 or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE Bookings are now being taken for a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje later this year. It will leave from Dublin Airport on 24th August returning a week later. The cost of the Pilgrimage is 765 Euros (approx £630) per person sharing. This covers return flights, accommodation and meals. There is an additional charge for single room occupancy. The Pilgrimage is organised through Marian Pilgrimages in Dublin. Early booking is strongly recommended with a small deposit required to secure your place. For more details please contact John Murray on 02882 841265 or 0780 1105575

Exploring Priesthood – Zoom with Seminarians and Priests: On Tuesday, 1st March at 8.00 pm there will be an opportunity for men to join in on a Zoom to find out more about priesthood and to hear directly from a priest and from two young men who are currently studying for the priesthood in our National Seminary in Maynooth. The event is being run by the National Vocations Office. Further information and registration details can be obtained by emailing info@vocations.ie or alternatively by visiting vocations.ie/zoom The Zoom session should end by 9.30 pm at the latest. There will be a short time spent watching YouTube videos on priesthood and vocation, and a Questions & Answers session with the seminarians and the panel.



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Synod 2021 2023

The entire Catholic Church is called to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops. This Synod is entitled; ***For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.***



Pope Francis is asking every diocese to gather – clergy, religious and laity together, to listen to each other. The goal of this journeying together is not just to create a new vision or pastoral plan. Rather, the goal of our journeying together is to be present with one another, to listen and learn with each other, and to grow closer to the Lord and His Church.

What are we being asked to do?

The Holy Father, Pope Francis is asking that the entire Church participates in this Synod. The faithful, clergy and religious are invited to pray, listen, and talk together with the Bishops before the 2023 gathering of Bishops in Rome. In the Derry Diocese we will pray, listen and talk with one another through parish and diocesan listening sessions.

In creating the opportunity for listening and dialogue on the local level through this Synod Pope Francis is calling the Church to rediscover its deeply Synodal nature. This rediscovery of the Synodal roots of the Church will involve a process of humbly learning together how God is calling us to be as the Church in the third millennium.

The Synod's Theme – For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.

In the ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops in October, Pope Francis declared that *“the world in which we live and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission”*. This call to cooperate in the mission of the Church is addressed to the entire people of God. Pope Francis made this clear when he issued a direct invitation to all people of God to contribute towards healing: *“every one of the baptised should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does”*. In April 2021 Pope Francis initiated a synodal journey of the whole people of God to begin in October 2021 in each local church and culminating in October 2023 in the assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Details of the listening sessions for our parish will be publicised soon. All parishioners are invited to express their views on how we can help the universal Church develop its mission to witness to the gospel through our active participation at a local level.



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Our Parish Mass Schedule

Weekday schedule

09.15am Immaculate Conception
10:00am St Columb's,
11:00am St Oliver Plunkett
11:00am St Mary's Oratory (**Wednesday only**)
07:30pm St Columb's

Saturday Morning

10:00am St Columb's
11:00am Immaculate Conception

Weekend schedule Vigils

06:00pm Immaculate Conception
06:00pm St Oliver Plunkett
07:00pm St Columb's
08:00pm Immaculate Conception

Morning (Sunday)

09:30am Immaculate Conception
10:00am St Columb's
11:15am St Oliver Plunkett
12 noon Immaculate Conception

Evening (Sunday)

12:30pm St Columb's
06:00pm St Columb's

NB! Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Newbuildings on Wednesday at 11:00am

The [full schedule](#) is available on the parish website

All Liturgies are streamed on www.youtube.com/watersideparish



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Rest in Peace

Deaths:

Margaret Hargan, Carlin Terrace

Anniversaries:

Pat Simms, Jean Foster, Peggy Walker, Nora Brolly, Anne Shiels, Frank Cassidy, John Murray, Mary Sullivan, Michael and Mary McConnell, John Mullan, George Caldwell, Joseph Kelly, Dee Dee Kelly John Harkin, Ian Milligan, Kimmy Cirillo, Alec and Mary Arbuckle, John Deehan, Margaret and Michael McGonigle, Laurence and May Deane, Fr Cathal McGonigle, Gerry Mc Laughlin, Johnny Crumley, Lizzy McGee, Charles McIntyre

A 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 as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Contact Details

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