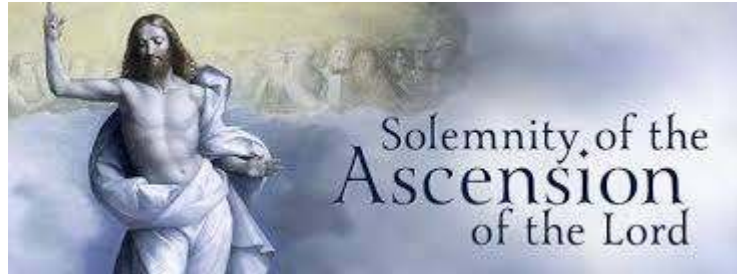


Solemnity of the Ascension

Errigal Parish News – 16th May 2021

USUAL WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF MASSES IN EACH CHURCH



Weekday Masses: St. Mary's Church: Monday through Thursday at 10am.

St. Mary's Church: Anniversary Mass - For Lilly Lagan on Saturday 22nd May at 6pm.

Anniversary Mass – For Maureen O’Kane on Sunday 23rd May at 10am.

St. Joseph's Church:

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Sacrament of Initiation Dates 2021 (provisional): Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in St. Mary's Church on Saturday 5th June at 11am.

First Communion – St. Mary's Church Saturday 12th June at 10.30am. St. Joseph's Church Saturday 12th June at 12.30pm. **(Further details will follow for the celebration of the Sacraments via each school in due course).**

Ascension Reflection - O Lord, Your Ascension into heaven, marks the culmination of the Paschal Mystery, and it contains an important teaching for us. May we live life as an earthly reality and develop our human potential to the fullest. May we make use of the results of science to achieve a better life on this planet. But in our best moments we know that there must be more than all of this, a transcending Reality. As Christians, we know that this Reality is Your loving Father who awaits us with You and the Holy Spirit. Where You have gone, we ultimately will come - if we are faithful.

'This Day You Will Be with Me' At Your right side there I hung, on Your every word. To Your jaws did cleave Your tongue, still Your voice I heard. Pardon for them did You seek, sparing no excuse. And Your humble heart so meek, answered not abuse. Whence I wondered: "What if I pardon, too, should seek?" But recalling all my crimes stole my breath to speak. Arms outstretched, you welcomed me, after all I had done. Mercifully questioning: "Still from Me you run? "Having suffered in your pain, shouldering your cross. When your love I sought in vain, then I grieved your loss. "What you have to offer me, now to make amends. Is today's fidelity, and we shall be friends." "*Jesus, please remember me!*" *From the depths I cry.* "This day you will be with me, nevermore to die."

Ascension Sunday: Ascension Day is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday, the fortieth day of Easter (following the accounts given in (Mark 16:19/ Luke 24:51/ Acts 1:2) although some Christian denominations have moved the observance to the following Sunday. Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 CE. According to the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus met several times with his disciples during the forty days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the

40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven. Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before Pentecost. Depending upon the phases of the Moon in a particular year, Ascension Day is usually celebrated on a Thursday. However, some national churches may choose to celebrate it on the following Sunday. It is at the discretion of the Bishops' Conference to request the change from the Vatican and move the feast to the following Sunday as is the case in Ireland since 1997.

Requiescant in Pace: We extend our sympathy to the family and relatives of Dessie Rafferty 12 Drumbane Road who died during the week.

Consultation on Method of 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 the Synodal Pathway consultation, bishops are inviting submissions to reflect on what methods/models to adopt in these coming two years of conversations. Individual and groups are invited to submit ideas as to

- how the national conversation might best be conducted,
- what hard-to-reach groups need to be involved.

For further information on making a submission go to www.catholicbishops.ie/synod. Please note that submissions are sought by 23rd May 2021 and can be made directly online through that website.”

WELCOME RETURN TO A CAUTIOUS GATHERING IN OUR CHURCHES:
Statement by the Northern Bishops announcing that public worship may resume in Northern Ireland from Friday, 26 March 2021

Date of Statement: 17th MARCH 2021

- **Bishops in the North announce a cautious return to public worship for the faithful from 26th March, in time for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter.**
- **Bishops emphasise the need for continued caution and a rigorous application of all mitigations and safeguards required to ensure the safest possible return to public worship in our Churches.**
- **Every person should consider carefully if returning to collective worship is the safe and appropriate step for them, at this time. Families are encouraged to join those celebrating the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus in churches, from the 'domestic church' of their own living rooms, *via* live-streaming.**
- **Bishops, together with other Church leaders, encourage all on Easter Sunday to pray and reflect in a spirit of remembering, solidarity and hope in the context of the current pandemic.**
- **FULL STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE ON THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE – www.derrydiocese.org**

It is important as has been achieved previously with safety guidelines, that we open both of our churches at the same time. Hence with the following precautions we shall return to our normal weekend schedule effective from next weekend -

The following directives apply as before for the foreseeable future. **1.** Wearing of facial coverings unless you are except. **2.** Respecting Social Distancing. **3.** Use of sanitizer upon entering and leaving the church. **4.** Limited Numbers in choir and in the Church. (Empty seat in front and behind the seat that is occupied). **5.** Provision of stewards and ushers in and outside the church. **6.** Directions offered by the stewards/ushers to leave the church safely. **NB – The numbers present at funerals and weddings is determined by a risk assessment of the church, and the ‘family bubbles’ that can safely gather.**

The bulletin is available at the back of the church each weekend. Presently it is not recommended that we provide missalettes in the church.

St. Mary’s Church - Eucharistic Ministers - 22nd/23rd May

Vigil 6pm. - Irene McIntyre & Don Robinson.

Sunday 10am - Martina Bradley & Gillian O’Neill.

St. Mary’s Church Readers - 22nd/23rd May

Vigil 6pm - Mary McLaughlin.

Sunday 10am - Bernie McGilligan.

St. Joseph’s Church - Readers – 22nd/23rd May

Vigil 7.30pm. - Roisin McGinley.

Sunday 11.30am. - Lawrence O’Kane.

Eucharistic Ministers - 22nd/23rd May

Vigil 7.30pm. - Kieran Quigg & Chris Toal.

Sunday 11.30am. - Fidelma O’Kane & Bronagh McLaughlin.

St. Joseph’s Church Glenullin (Renovation Committee): We hope everyone in the area recently received a letter regarding contributions to the parish and specifically to the Renovation Fund, and a form for you to indicate your preferred option for donations. In response to this, collectors have called to houses around Glenullin recently to collect these envelopes. We request that you place your name and details in the sealed envelope provided. We thank you all for your continued support. If the letter has been misplaced further copies are available in the sacristy. **Renovation Committee.**

Presently 110 responses have been received of the 340+ letters in circulation regarding the letter as stated above. As the collection of the envelopes have taken place in recent weeks, we would appreciate any further returns to be made via the church collection box.

CLARIFICATION – Apparently there is some difficulty with registering with on-line banking. (Errigal Glenullin: Sort Code - 950346 Account No. 90062596 is the No 1 a/c) Errigal Parish: Sort Code 950689 – Account No. 90083712 is the Renovation a/c). Details as provided in the letter circulated, it would seem the title of the account is where the problem arises. Account titles are in red as stated above.

Parish Collections - Thank you.

260 boxes of envelopes in circulation. Returns - (Pink 136/White 95)

St. Mary's - Parish: £1005.00 Renovation £445.00

St. Joseph's - Parish £575.00 Renovation £655.00

Trócaire Total Collection - £7258.00.

Parish Envelopes: The new box of parish collection envelopes are presently in use. In recent years as previously stated a lot of work to update the parish data base has provided the information required for the distribution of envelope boxes, hence the computer will provide the list for distribution upon usage. There are a substantial number of boxes in circulation in the parish presently un-used, this is the case even prior to Covid-19. Following discussion with the Parish Finance Committee we encourage consideration for those who use envelopes infrequently to consider the use of a standing order, (through this medium you have full control), of the donation at your disposal. Further information is available from the parish website.

Parish Finance: If you wish to contribute to the parish by standing order - forms can be forwarded upon request by sending an email to - errigalparish@gmail.com At the end of each month we shall include in the collection figures the amounts relating to the increase in standing orders, these figures are stated in brackets.

Year of St. Joseph: In this year dedicated to St. Joseph, Pope Francis recalls the 150th Anniversary of St Joseph as Patron Saint of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, Pope Francis has proclaimed a “**Year of St Joseph**” and asks us to recite the following prayer:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; In you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us Grace, Mercy and Courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Feasts during the Week: Tuesday - St. John I: Was the first Bishop of Rome to visit Constantinople. He was involved in Arian controversies and imprisoned at Ravenna, where he died in 526. **Thursday - St. Bernardine:** Was born in Siena in 1380. He became a Franciscan, travelled through Italy, preaching with great success. He promoted devotion to the Holy Name. and to St. Joseph. He died in 1444. **Saturday - St. Rita of Cascia (1386 – 1457)** She was married for eighteen years. Her husband, an ill-tempered and abusive man, was murdered. Later Rita entered the Augustinian convent in Cascia and spent forty years in prayer and charity and working for peace in the region.

St. Joseph’s Church – Rosary & Divine Mercy: Every Wednesday evening at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

Derry Diocesan Laudato Si Group: Mindful of Pope Francis’ words at the beginning of last September’s Season of Creation that “Today, not tomorrow, we have to take care of creation responsibly”, we look forward to hearing from you. **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, 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. Submit your comments, questions and suggestions to Patricia McCormack by: Email: laudatosiderry@gmail.com Telephone/text: 077 1190 0420 Facebook: Laudatosiderry

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/

Radio Maria – Ireland: Is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station with commercial-free broadcasting of Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies. If you are not already a follower of the station, Radio Maria Ireland encourage you to join their growing faith family! You can tune in to the station in a variety of ways:

- *Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210/ Freeview TV (Channel number varies per location in NI)*
- *Download FREE App “RADIO MARIA IRELAND”*
- *Streaming on website, www.radiomarie.ie (subscribe and donate here also)*
- *‘Listen Live Radio’ link on Facebook Page. (Like, Share and Follow us on Facebook)*
- *Phone – get live radio feed by calling 003531 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).*

Prayer and song requests welcome. “A Catholic voice in your home”.

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre: Confirmation Preparation Sessions: It has once again been a quite different and challenging year for our Year 7 and 6th Class children, who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bearing in mind concerns over having children well prepared to receive the sacrament, the Diocesan Catechetical Centre has put together a programme to support parents, schools, and parishes as they prepare the children in this very important stage of their faith journey. Linking with Filled with Joy, pupil workbook and Disciples of Jesus, parent booklet (which many schools and parishes already have, and which are still available from the Diocesan Catechetical Centre) the programme will consist of four sessions, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th May from 10am to 12noon on the catecheticalcentre.org/webcam/. Each day the sessions will include catechesis on different aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation, prayer, creative activities and music.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Following enquires regarding the reception of this Sacrament (Confession) provision can be accommodated respecting social distancing and wearing a facial mask, by arrangement either in the space provided in the church or alternatively in the Parochial House.

Stamp Boxes: There is a box at the back of each church for the collection of used stamps for the missions.

Sacraments of Initiation: MyFaith.ie is a parish-based programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It releases new modules every two weeks or so as the children and their families prepare for the Sacraments. Each module begins with a short lesson - for parents - on the content of that module before the next item, a taught lesson for the children. The programme is highly interactive, and learning is reinforced through challenges, quizzes and interactive games which are scored but can be repeated indefinitely. This is offered to parents/guardians as a format of instruction during the pandemic.

Face Coverings/Numbers at Services: We request the wearing of face coverings as they are now mandatory upon entering and leaving the church. Some people are exempt from the wearing of face coverings, even in situations which would otherwise be mandatory. Please continue to observe social distancing, to use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving each of our churches.

Diocesan Paper 'The Net': The May edition of 'The Net' is now available online, on the parish and diocesan website. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles, and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read 'The Net', on the diocesan or parish website, at your convenience. To forward items of our parish or faith activities - email: editorthenet15@gmail.com or ring/text 07809292852.

Preparing for Marriage. - Accord Derry: Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme - (limited to 15 couples per course). Booking now online at www.accordni.com. Course Dates July 6th/7th - August 10th/11th - Sept 14th/15th - Oct 12th/13th - Nov 9th/10th - Dec 7th/8th.

The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre: Working in Partnership with Saint 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. The next intake will be Autumn 2021. If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 028 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org.

Anniversary Masses: Anniversary Masses/Month's Mind Masses either to be booked or to be added to the weekend list, need to be recorded in the Anniversary Book in each sacristy. As is the custom previously established, the requested Masses can take place during the week or at the weekend, when the date is available. It is advisable where possible to book well in advance in the case of anniversaries. **In the case of a booked Anniversary Mass please inquire of the sacristan before the Mass begins that the Mass is offered for the intention you request.**

Derry Diocesan Society (DDS): In each of the parishes of the diocese Mass is offered alternating in each parish (list at the back of each church) for deceased and living members who are registered in the society. The deceased members registered are remembered in the anniversary list for three consecutive weekends each quarter (three months). Registration is

£20 and can be given to a sacristan or Fr. Crowley - please ensure name and address of the person to be enrolled, and whether it is for a living or deceased member.

Prayer for our Parish in Challenging Times: God of love, we the people of the Parish of Errigal, turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as a people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

Healing God - Bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and loved ones. We pray especially with those who isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Generous and Merciful God: Fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear!

God of Strength: Accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical and nursing professions and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of their communities. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

Ballerin GAA Lotto: There was no winner of the Lotto the No's were 8, 9, 20, and 22. J/P £10,000 2nd J/P £10,000. 3rd J/P £4,200 (approx.) £50 winner Bonnie Robinson.

Church Safeguarding: If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact: Noel O'Donnell, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, 71362475, mobile 07596500793 or Celine McKenna, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, 71362475, mobile 07707311358 or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services.