



Parish News

Sunday 25th APRIL

I am the Good Shepherd.

It is an ancient custom in our Catholic Church that this fourth Sunday of Easter time is given to a reflection on chapter 10 of St John's gospel, with its theme of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. ...

In more recent years, it has also become customary that on this Sunday we remember specially our Church's need for more people who will give themselves to the task of shepherding God's people. They do so by joining the ministry of the entire Church. On this Sunday then, we pray for more and better vocations to the priesthood.

In the tenth chapter of John's gospel, the focus is on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. This language is to be understood in the light of Old Testament ideas that God was the shepherd of Israel and that their kings were meant to follow his example. Often they failed in this duty and the people were abandoned. It is also to be read in the light of what took place in chapter 9 with the man born blind. The Pharisees in that story represent blind leaders who are incapable of leading the people to God. Jesus, on the other hand, as the Good Shepherd, is the one who lays down his life for his sheep. Not only that, he is aware of them not simply as a flock but he knows each of them individually and they know him. In John, the verb to know has a particular importance because it highlights the fact that coming to faith involves getting to know Jesus. It is all about a personal relationship. Each of us is invited to come to know the one who lays down his life for us in an act of love.



In this time between Easter and Pentecost we might be tempted to think of these events as historical moments in the distant past which gave rise to the religion which we practice today. This religion for many is then seen as a moral code by which they live in the hope of attaining heaven. For Peter and John, however, the Christian experience was something very much in the here and now. They felt that their lives were driven by the Spirit of Jesus which made them aware on a daily basis of how God was at work in the world and in their own hearts. These readings are a powerful witness to the terrific dynamism which characterises a genuine Christianity. If it seems too far removed from our experience perhaps it is a sign that we need to invite the Holy Spirit to reawaken in us the joyful energy which comes from understanding the love that the Father has lavished on us. We are challenged to come to know Jesus as our Good Shepherd who even now leads us to restful waters and gives us repose.



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The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist Bishop Barron's [Keynote talk](#) (Youtube) at the 2020 L.A. Religious Education Congress, I spoke about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Vatican II says that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. However, recent polls show a widespread misunderstanding of the Eucharist and a massive failure in communicating the doctrine of the Real Presence.

Masters in Catholic School Leadership

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. An information session via ZOOM will be held on Monday 7th June at 3:30pm. If you are interested in attending this session or require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org.

Trócaire Please return your Trocaire box as soon as possible. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Parish Envelopes. The Parish envelopes for those who are in the Gift Aid Scheme have been distributed. If you have not yet received your envelopes please contact the parish office on 02871342303. The pink boxes are available at the Church doors. If you are working and paying taxes and not already on the Gift Aid scheme we would ask you to consider completing a Gift Aid form. We would also like to thank people for their continued generosity and support especially over the last few weeks

Derry Diocesan Vocations Week 17th to 25th April 2021: The annual celebration of Derry Diocesan Vocations Week finishes today (Good Shepherd Sunday, 25th April). The theme for this year's Vocations Week is based on "Patris Corde" ('With a Father's Heart'), Pope Francis' recent publication for the year of Saint Joseph.



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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.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Monday, 31 May 2021

Submit your comments, questions and suggestions to Patricia McCormack

by: Email: laudatosiderry@gmail.com

Telephone/text: 077 1190 0420

Facebook: Laudatosiderry



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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)

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:

Mary Elizabeth Murray, St Breacan's Park, Dennis McLaughlin, Meadowbank Care Home and Neil Mellon, who died last week

Anniversaries:

Anthony King, Phyllis and John McCourt, Kathleen McFeeley, Johnson Joseph, Joe Arbuckle, George and Eamon O'Neill, Joe Browne, Ethna Ivey, Louise Casey. Liam McColgan, Barney McGowan

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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