



Sunday, 24th May 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Please consider printing this bulletin and giving a copy to those who don't have internet access.

Daily Mass: Mass is offered each day for your intentions, especially for parishioners who are sick and those who feel isolated. We remember those who care for others, especially health care workers.

Rest In Peace

Recently Deceased: Denis Keatings, Gary Agnew, Pat Hill,
Irene O'Neill

Anniversaries: Paul Montgomery Elaine Captain

Funerals: If you have to arrange a funeral, please contact your Funeral Undertaker and arrangements for interments will be made.



Daily Mass on RTÉ: RTÉ is broadcasting daily Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Eunan and Saint Columba, Letterkenny, Co Donegal, in the Diocese of Raphoe. The Mass is live at 10.30am each morning on RTÉ News Now.

Month of May: Pope Francis has asked that, during the Month of May, the Rosary should be recited in the Church across the World in the context of the coronavirus and its effects.

'The Lord goes up with trumpet blast, God goes up with shouts of joy'.

If you have been around for a few years you will know what it means to 'look back'. If you take the time you can think about the different experiences in your life. You can think of the people that you have loved, the places that you have lived, the work that you have done and, of course, the mistakes that you have made. Even with many good memories, if you were asked to go back in time, you would probably have enough sense to say: 'No thanks'.

Life may not be perfect in the here and now, but we have moved on, we change, grow up and grow away from different experiences. Who I am today is far more important than what has gone into the mists of time. Of course, there are people who love to live in the past, in the good old days, but that's only a deluded fantasy.



Jesus arranged with his disciples to go back to Galilee, to the place they first met, they went to what they used to know, and it was there that he left them to go to his heavenly home. The disciples returned to Galilee, Jesus returns to heaven. But they did not go back to their old ways of living. The three years they had with Jesus changed them forever. There was no way they would go back to their nets and the boats, all that was over for good. The time that they had with Jesus, what they saw first hand: the teaching, the healing, his life, death and Resurrection- all those experiences made it impossible for them to return to their old way of living. Jesus sent them out to teach and baptise, he put full confidence in them and they begin his mission of love to all creation.

Jesus sends us out to do the same, to leave the old ways behind and continue the mission of the disciples. We have been called to bring new faith into old surroundings, new joy into old relationships. We pray that the power of Christ will allow us to change, to transform our hearts by his healing love.

News from Trócaire: Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways: Online at www.trocaire.org, by phone: 0800 912 1200, by post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI) 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.



O Mary, woman and mother, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and make your own the stories that no one wants to hear. Teach us to recognize the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyze our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together. Pope Francis.

Pentecost The Birth Of The Church: The Diocese will close the month of May with a Triduum of Prayer to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. In the Christian tradition Pentecost is known as the Birthday of the Church. Over these three days, prayers will be offered for the Family (the Domestic Church), our local Parishes and Pastoral Communities (the Local Church), and for the mission of all Christians in the world (the Universal Church). The Triduum will run from Friday 29 May until Sunday 31 May 2020.

Bishop Noel Treanor warmly invites everyone to join with him as he leads the prayers on-line via the webcam (www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral) from St Peter's Cathedral in Belfast. Each evening will begin at 7.00pm and will last approximately 15 minutes.

Intentions may be sent by email to novena@downandconnor.org and they will be placed in front of the altar and included in the prayers each evening. A booklet of the prayers being used in the Triduum can be requested using the same email address.



One of the largest residential planning applications ever submitted to Belfast City Council has been received. The applicant, private and social house builder, the Braidwater Group, has submitted plans for a £95m development of social and affordable housing on a 75 acre site offering panoramic views over the city beside the Glen Road in west Belfast, known as '**Glenmona.**' The application outlines a vision to create a new mixed-use urban village of 656 homes, of which 550 units will be social housing and 106 will be affordable housing. It also includes provision for two care homes, a hotel, office and business space and children's play areas – all supported by public transport linkages. There also are plans to plant 10,000 new native trees, to create a tree lined linear corridor leading to an amenity and retail hub, along with cycle lanes and trails. A decision on the application is likely to be taken by the Planning Committee later this year. For further information, go to www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council and www.belfastcity.gov.uk/planning