



# St. Anne's Parish

**Pastoral Community of Derriaghy & Colin**

Fr. Peter O'Hare, PP  
Rev Pat McNeill, Deacon  
Sr. Mary Murray, Parish Sister

Parish Office: 02890610112  
www.saintannesparish.net

Parish Centre: 07745169205  
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## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### This Week in St. Anne's

Sunday Mass: 5pm Vigil & 11am

Weekday Mass: Tues, Wed & Thurs at 10am

Confessions: Sat 4.30pm or before any mass.

Remember -

All services are streamed live online



Parish Office: Mon to Fri 9am to 1pm.

Parish WhatsApp Group – Keep up to date with what is happening in our parish community .....text your name and number to 07714691281 to be added to our WhatsApp group.

Recently Deceased: Gerry Murphy, Matt Brown, Seamus Gorman  
Anniversaries: Joseph Sloan, Geraldine Conlon, Patricia O'Hare, Patrick & Sarah McGarvey.

FoodBank: The Foodbank is accepting donations. As always, thank you for your continued generous support. The collection boxes are available outside the church every day from 10am to 4pm.

Your Giving This w/end - **Weekly Offering & Monthly Offering**

We would recommend that you set up a **Standing Order**. **You can download the necessary forms from our website...or** call the parish office on 028 90610112 and leave your details or email us on [stannes@downandconnor.org](mailto:stannes@downandconnor.org)

**OR Donate Online** to St. Anne's Parish

**A/C No. 07707787**  
**Sort Code 93 83 00**

### St. Vincent de Paul

Anyone wishing to donate, can do so online:

Account Name: St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Anne  
Account No. 65576181 Sort Code: 938300.



## **SEASON OF CREATION: RESTORING OUR COMMON HOME**

"The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder." (LS', 97) As a diocese we are blessed with so many areas of natural beauty and we are encouraged this week to take time to contemplate, with wonder and awe, the world in which we are blessed to live.



**"Is that you, God?"** - Ignatian Discernment for our Day starting 8 September 2021 hosted by Drumalis via Zoom. This series will take place over five Wednesday evenings from 7:15 pm – 8:30 pm (8, 15, 22 and 29 Sept and 6 Oct) and will be led by Virginia Blass, an experienced retreat giver and author from USA. If you would like to better recognise God's loving presence in your daily life, engage in making more Spirit-led decisions and find more purpose and meaning in life, then this course may be for you. For further information, please contact 028 28276455/28272196 during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm) or email [maura@drumalis.co.uk](mailto:maura@drumalis.co.uk) Details are also available on the Drumalis website - <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

# **EARTH MATTERS**

A Creation Time Opportunity  
to engage with the ecological issues of our day  
and to explore a way forward for all



Tues 7, 14 & 21 Sept 2021  
10.30am—12.30pm via zoom

Anne Harnett CP & Margaret Rose McSparran CP



Suggested donation: £30 per person

To book: email [drumalis@btconnect.com](mailto:drumalis@btconnect.com)

02828 272196

[www.drumalis.co.uk](http://www.drumalis.co.uk)

## Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

1. The healing of the deaf mute provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of communication in our lives. The healing touch of Jesus brought the man from isolation into community. Who have been the people who touched you when you felt isolated and alone (perhaps during the recent lockdown) and helped you to come out of painful aloneness? For whom have you done this?
2. Deafness is symbolic of being unable to hear what is being said to us. What a difference when our ears are opened! Perhaps you can recall a time when your ears were opened, and you heard in a new way that you were loved – by God or by another person.
3. Words are not the only form of communication. Actions can speak louder than words. Recall times when this was brought home to you.
4. Being able to say what is in you is the other side of communication. Perhaps there have been occasions when you have struggled to find words to express what is deepest in you – your faith, your values, your love. Then something changed and you found the words. What was it like to be able to express your deepest self?

## Today's Liturgy of the Word

### **Scriptural theme**

*The Messiah has come in Jesus Christ, and we are witnesses to his presence in the life of the Church. Ears have been opened to the Good News and the response of faith has been spoken.*

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah 35:4-7



Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing*

*for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.*

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10

### **Response: My soul, give praise to the Lord.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *Response*
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. *Response*

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

*Response*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James 2:1-5



My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come

this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

## Gospel Acclamation 1Sam 3:9

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 7:31-



Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to

him, '*Ephphatha*' that is, '*Be opened*' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened, and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

(Taken from *THE JERUSALEM BIBLE*, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.)

## *Will a cry wake you from your sleep?*

When we have something important to go to the next day, we set our alarm clocks so that we won't miss that flight or an important appointment for which we simply can't afford to sleep in.

I have to admit that as a mother the most effective thing to get me out of bed is the cry of one of my children. It doesn't matter what the time is – I will be sitting upright listening for the type of cry and readying myself for action. You might see this in a playground how even with dozens of children a mother will hear a cry, know when it is her child, and bolt across the playground with the first aid kit of cuddles and plasters to tend to any hurts.

A cry simply cannot be ignored.

But do we ignore cries?

Are we ignoring 'the cry of the earth'?

Are we ignoring 'the cry of the poor'?

Do we roll over and put a pillow over our heads?

We can't pretend that we haven't heard the cry – it fills every newspaper, we've watched the documentaries, our phones ping with breaking news of humanitarian crisis after crisis. The alarm clock on the climate crisis has already sounded and the clock is ticking.

So, what to do?

The first step is always to acknowledge what is happening and our responsibility in being part of the solution. We are all equipped with a first aid kit to heal the earth and to tend to the needs of the poor.

What's in the first aid kit? Our decisions.  
Everything we do is interconnected.

Each small choice has influence.

Cut the grass or let the bees enjoy the clover?

Cheap food easily wasted or fair-trade food valued?

Scrolling, retweeting, liking posts, or taking the time for genuine advocacy and writing to our MLAs and MPs ensuring that the cry of the earth and the poor don't fall off the political agenda?

Let us set aside time in the Season of Creation for us to marvel at the beauty of the earth that we live in and commit ourselves to restore this common home that we all share. Let us set aside time to be in awe of each human life that God has created and to pray and commit to the possibility of every person living in dignity.

May we be attentive to 'the cry of the earth' and 'the cry of the poor' and may we respond with the love, compassion, and healing that a cry deserves.

## *Wonder and Awe captured in Laudato Si'*

"St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us" (LS, 1).

"From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe" (LS, 85).

"It is also a continuing revelation of the divine" (LS, 85).

"The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God" (LS, 84).

# Restoring Our Common Home

