



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
Email: stannes@downandconnor.org

1st Sunday of Lent

Our Church is closed until 1st April

Sunday Eucharist: Vigil 5pm and 11am

Mass this week: Tues, Wed & Thurs 10am

All Masses are live online



Parish Office: Mon to Fri 9am to 1pm

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

LENTEN PIONEER PLEDGE

Why not take this opportunity to perhaps help yourself or someone you know with an alcohol or drug problem by offering your sacrifice for freedom from addiction? Please consider taking the short- term Lenten Pledge and make a difference to someone's life and say the following daily prayer.

PRAYER: " I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent."

Your Giving This w/end - **Weekly Offering and Sick & Retired Priests**

- We would recommend that you set up a **Standing Order**. Call the parish office on 028 90610112 and leave your details or email us on stannes@downandconnor.org

OR Donate Online to St. Anne's Parish

A/C No. 07707787
Sort Code 93 83 00

Your continued generosity is much appreciated.

This LENT in St. Anne's!

We are presenting two programmes:

1. Walking with Jesus along the Via Dolorosa.

This is a five session program beginning this **Monday 22nd February at 7.30pm** and continuing for the next five Mondays. It includes a Gospel Reading, Reflective Prayer and Scriptural Rosary and will be available **LIVE** on our YouTube Channel.

The accompanying leaflet is available to download from our website. We can also deliver it to you if you let us know.

2. Lectio Divina in Lent

This program is held on **Zoom** and takes place on **Thursdays at 7.30pm** for approximately one hour. This is a great opportunity for us to connect with one another and to the Word of God. Spaces are limited, so leave your **name** on stannes@downandconnor.org . We will then send you the link.

TRÓCAIRE in LENT



This Lent, we learn more about the suffering of people who have lost their homes and loved ones to war, and how they are rebuilding their lives through love, friendship and solidarity. Awut and Ajak lost their homes and loved ones to the conflict in South Sudan. They fled their villages with nothing but the clothes on their back, trekking through miles of dangerous bushland with no food or water for themselves or their children. Awut arrived in the community of Malek frightened, but was welcomed with loving arms by her new neighbours. Some time later, Ajak returned to Malek after having been away with her husband who was a soldier. Here, in this remarkable community, people whose lives were brought together by pain and suffering are starting new lives based on love, friendship and kindness. Every day remains a struggle for Awut and Ajak and their families. They struggle to earn money, grow food and attend school. Life continues to be full of challenges and obstacles for these amazing women, but they face these challenges together, with dignity and solidarity

Trócaire are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on www.trocaire.org and donations can be made to the Lent campaign in the following ways:

Online at www.trocaire.org/donations/now/

By phone: 0800 912 1200 (Northern Ireland)

The contents of each and every Trócaire donation, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Trocaire Boxes can be picked up outside the church between 10am to 4pm each day!

If you would like a box to be delivered to your home, please call or email the parish office.



Our New Live Streaming Service! Our recently installed cameras and new sound equipment has made a huge improvement in our online streaming service. This has been a big investment for the future and it will allow us, in these very uncertain times of Covid-19, to continue to provide strong and good quality communication. **If you are in a position to do so, may I ask you to please consider making a donation?** Your continued generosity to the upkeep of our parish in these difficult days is very much appreciated, and please continue to help us provide you with the best pastoral care and service. We continue to hold each other in prayer during these pandemic days.

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.



- Please Stay Home !
- Wear a Mask !
- Keep Apart !
- Wash Your Hands !

Ajak and Awut in their village community, helping each other and working together for their families



Photo credit: Achuoth Deng

trócaire

Elizabeth Prout Lecture Series: "Perseverance: Love and Prayer in a Time of Pandemic" with Dom Christopher Jamison OSB (Thursday, 4 March 2021)

This will take place on **Thursday, 4 March at 7:00 pm** hosted by Drumalis via Zoom. The speaker is **Dom Christopher Jamison OSB** and the theme is **"Perseverance: Love and Prayer in a Time of Pandemic"** – To book, please phone Drumalis Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm – 028 28276455/28272196. Bookings are also being taken for the next date in the series, **Thursday, 25 March at 7:00 pm** with **Sr Joan Chittister**, an American Benedictine Sister, best-selling author and international speaker.

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

- 1.** Jesus he is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.
- 2.** Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time. Later, with hindsight, we may see them as being good for us. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life.
- 3.** Repent and believe the good news was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God, others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?
- 4.** There is immediacy about the call of Jesus: 'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near'. Recall when you had a realisation that NOW was the moment of opportunity – for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say 'yes'?

John Byrne OSA

Today's Scripture Themes

St Ambrose reminded the newly baptised of the water, the wood and the dove in the story of Noah. The water of Baptism saves us through the merits of Christ's death on the wood of the Cross. The Holy Spirit breathed life into that water so that we might have fullness of life.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis *9:8-15*



God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept

away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 24*

Response: *Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.*

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **Response**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **Response**

3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **Response**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter *3:18.22*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels of the Dominations and Powers his subjects.



Gospel acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark *1:12-15*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



(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.)

Sharing the Good News is our monthly magazine for dioceses and parishes. The February 2021 issue has just been published featuring: the Bishops' Submission on the Dying with Dignity Bill 2020; the launch of the Living Lent social media initiative for 2021; Archbishop Michael Neary's welcome for the World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly; Archbishop Dermot Farrell's homily on the occasion of Mass marking the 40th anniversary of the Stardust tragedy; Trócaire's Lenten Campaign for this year; the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse and more.

Click [here](#) to view/download the February issue.

The collage features several items from the 'Sharing the Good News' newsletter:

- Archbishop Eamon Martin**: A cover with a purple background and text about Lenten practices like prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
- Sharing the Good News**: The main newsletter cover with the title in purple and a photo of hands holding a loaf of bread.
- 'Good palliative care upholds absolute respect for human life' - Bishops' submission on 'Dying with Dignity Bill 2020'**: An article cover with a photo of hands holding a loaf of bread.
- Stardust tragedy has 'cast a long and deep shadow' - Archbishop Dermot Farrell**: An article cover with a photo of Archbishop Dermot Farrell.
- Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse**: A cover with a photo of hands holding a loaf of bread.
- Help is at hand on the Digital Hub**: A cover with a photo of hands holding a loaf of bread.
- Dedicated Catholic News Feed for parish websites**: A cover with a photo of hands holding a loaf of bread.

Pastoral message by Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ for Lent 2021

16. FEB, 2021

We're almost a full year into the Pandemic now. What has it meant for you? I'm addressing that question to everybody who reads this in the full knowledge that the answer will be utterly unique in every case. For one person this time will have brought the greatest personal tragedies of a lifetime as a result of sickness and loss of lives. For another it will have meant serious limitations and loss, frustrations and disappointments. For others still it will appear as a time of challenge, refocus and even renewal of commitment in life.

So, I ask you again; how has it really been for you? Is there something of all of the above going on for you? Challenge along with tragedy; refocus coming from frustration?

The most glorious and significant thing about your life is that it is a walk with God. God is the centre of all things. To know God and to love and serve Him in the bits and pieces of your life, is always a possibility no matter how your life seems to be at any moment. You might doubt God; God doesn't doubt you. Perhaps you feel totally unworthy of God's love and concern; it may make no sense to you but God is desperately keen to be in relationship with you.

Opening our hearts to God, worship of God is the most worthwhile and important thing that human beings can do. This pandemic experience may have made that very difficult for you. On the other hand it may have opened your heart up to see it afresh.

It has been said by some persons in public service that 'religion is non-essential', that gathering for Mass and other religious services is less important than shopping or physical exercise or many other things. I know that some of you feel that, by cooperating as fully as we are with the government, we are acquiescing in the falsehood that God and his service and our public witness to him are not essential. Parish communities all over Ireland took the utmost care to make sure that our churches are as safe as possible, and I am grateful for the dedication of clergy and countless numbers of volunteers who made this happen. I want you to know that I long for our churches to be open for Mass and the sacraments as soon as possible. We need to let our political leaders know that God and our worship of Him are central to us; they are utterly essential. Pope Francis pointed out recently that; 'the right to worship must be respected, protected and defended by civil authorities like the right to bodily and physical health'.

And now Lent is upon us; and Lent is not a dreary burden but a marvellous annual, God-given opportunity for a personal and communal shakeup. I invite you wherever you are at – even in the midst of tragedy – to see Lent as a gentle and generous invitation from God to open your heart to new beginnings, to a new and deeper walk with God in your life.

But, Lent has to be about a personal choice. I invite you to ask yourself: Am I slipping away from a sense of God? Does this long break from the public practice of the faith mean that I or those close to me are getting out of the habit? Will it simply seem not so important going forward? Could you be saying to yourself: "We got by without it for months on end ...maybe it's not that important,"?

Use this time of Lent to take stock. Where am I on my journey with God? What is God saying to me at this moment? Be certain that he is calling you to turn towards him and come close. He is saying: 'Come back to me with all your heart,' or simply, "Come to me you who labour and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest."

So, what do we do? We pray. If you don't pray much put some new act of prayer into your day, every day. Do it, whether you feel like it or not. If it is the case that you say an awful lot of prayers already, then what you need to do is to be quiet; spend some time each day in silence and let God speak to your heart. In fact, all of us need to put at least some minutes of quiet into our day when we let God show us what is really going on. You could make a practice of joining something online. One of my most profound experiences over this pandemic has been leading *An Tobar Domhain* at 9.15pm from our Cathedral on the Cathedral webcam (www.churchservices.tv/letterkenny) and Raphoe Diocese Facebook page. To know that I was joined by the People of God from across the Diocese helped me to stay connected with God and his people. You will be most welcome to join me and the Cathedral team each evening at 9.15pm during Lent for this time of Rosary and quiet reflection on our lives.

The second thing is make a sacrifice. Discipline yourself in relation to something you like as a sacrifice. You know-what it should be. The-most important reason for our taking on prayer and fasting this Lent is not about any agenda of our own however important it is. The overarching good reason for praying more intensely during Lent and for backing the prayer up with a genuine sacrifice or fast is to beg God to live in our hearts. Eastern Christian theology says that what happens through the life of prayer, the sacraments and Christian living is that we become like God. God takes us where we are at, however weak and sinful we feel ourselves to be, he will slowly but surely over time make us more like Himself.

That is the purpose of human life, of every Christian life; to become like God. Lent is a special time for committing to that process. It is not our work; it is all God's work but it cannot happen without our cooperation. Lent, our time of prayer and sacrifice, is that cooperation.

So many of us are longing for the day – let it be soon – when we can gather together to celebrate God's love especially in the Holy Mass. However, no matter what happens or when it happens, Lent is a great gift NOW. Let us turn to God with all our hearts.

Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry
- Message for Lent 2021

<https://youtu.be/sm6JHsmm6Ug>

Worksheet for children.

Click on the link to download and print:

[LOOK-21st-February-2021](https://www.catholicresources.com/worksheets/LOOK-21st-February-2021)