



Parish of the Three Patrons

25th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: YEAR A - 20th SEPTEMBER 2020

Parish Clergy

Fr Michael McCaughey PP – 028 71262360 – stpatricks@threepatrons.org

Fr Gerard Mongan CC – 028 71351261 – stbrigids@threepatrons.org

Fr Chris Ferguson (Priest in Residence) – 028 71351261 – stbrigids@threepatrons.org

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal - 028 71419980 - facebook: derryfranciscans

www.threepatrons.org [threepatronsfacebook](https://www.facebook.com/threepatronsfacebook)

Unequal Opportunities

Jesus does not see things as we do. Time and time again in his parables, he turns our expectations upside down and helps us to see things in a different light.

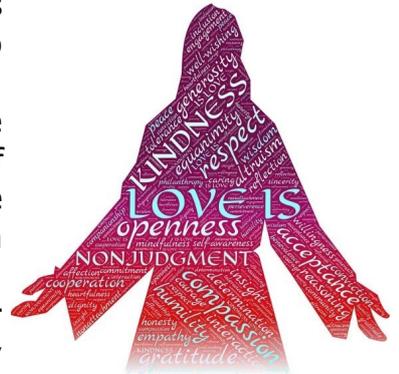
Today, he tells the story of the landowner who pays the same wages to all his workers - those who were hired at the crack of dawn and those who only joined late in the day. Naturally, the 'early birds' are put out by this - they feel it is unjust, even though they received the wage they were promised.

Maybe we sympathise with the complainers. In our individualistic society, we can fall into the trap of thinking that only certain people deserve good things. Those who work hard, who are law-abiding, who make the most of opportunities - they deserve a decent standard of living. Think of how often we hear people complaining about those who are struggling, saying they do not deserve assistance or 'handouts'? Such criticisms fail to take into account that not everyone has the same opportunities or privileges in life.

But in this parable of Jesus, the landowner treats everyone the same, regardless of their productivity. He recognises that not all of them had the same opportunity - some were just luckier than others, in the right place at the right time. God is just and generous, and he expects us to have the same respect for everyone, regardless of their position in life.

Sadly, we do not live in an equal world where everyone's dignity is respected and everyone has equal opportunities. In this Season of Creation, we are mindful in particular of the world's poor who suffer most as a result of environmental destruction - damage that is often caused by the comfortable lifestyles of others.

'Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out.' (Pope Francis, Laudato Si) *Triona Doherty*



Season of Creation 1st September - 4th October 2020

One of the striking features of the Covid 19 pandemic crisis was the way people turned to nature. Many spent more time in their gardens, getting in touch with the life, and beauty, and complexity of nature. Some found themselves

dwelling within the spiritual shelter of nature, communing with the Creator of creation.

During this season, we are invited to get in touch with the wonders of creation and discover the presence of God. Dwelling within nature, listening to nature, reading nature gives us a little glimpse of the mystery of God living among us.

'Close to nature, Close to God', as Elizabeth Barrett Browning from 19th century puts it.

'Earth is crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God. . .' (Auror Leigh)

Sit and enjoy nature. Let it become a sacred space for you, for your family and for all creatures in our common home.

Growing Hope Week The Derry Diocese will mark the week 27th Sep - 4th Oct as 'Growing Hope Week'. During the week they will share on their website, Zoom and social media channels, a daily programme of prayer, live Mass, school projects, film clips, live interviews and guest speakers from parishes / schools across the diocese on the theme of Season of Creation. Be part of Growing Hope Week. Follow and share at: Web: derrydiocese.org Facebook/[derrydiocese](https://www.facebook.com/derrydiocese) Instagram/[dioceseforderry](https://www.instagram.com/dioceseforderry) Twitter: [@dioceseforderry](https://twitter.com/dioceseforderry)

We welcome people back to the public celebration of the Eucharist in the three churches of our parish. For those who prefer to do so, we invite you to join us via webcam in Three Patrons' Parish by watching our live streaming which can be viewed online at churchservices.tv/pennyburn, churchservices.tv/carnhill, churchservices.tv/galliagh or the parish website at www.threepatrons.org/webcam. Please note change of Mass times to facilitate fair distribution of people attending Masses. We encourage you to use the three churches of our parish to ensure adherence to social distancing regulations.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, PENNYBURN

Sunday 20th September - Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year

6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 8.00 am, 10.00 am & 12 noon: Mass

Monday - Friday

7.30 am: Mass; 9.40 am: Rosary; 10.00 am: Mass;

Saturday

9.40 am: Rosary; 10.00 am: Mass

Sunday 27th September - Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year

6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 8.00 am, 10.00 am & 12 noon: Mass

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH, CARNHILL

Sunday 20th September - Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year

6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 10.30 am & 12.30 pm: Mass

Monday - Friday

9.00 am: Mass followed by Rosary

Sunday 27th September - Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year

6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 10.30 am & 12.30 pm: Mass

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GALLIAGH

Sunday 20th September - Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year

7.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 9.00am & 11.00 am: Mass

Monday - Friday

11.00 am: Mass followed by Rosary

Please visit the Franciscan Friars' facebook 'derryfranciscans'

Sunday 27th September - Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year

7.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 9.00am & 11.00 am: Mass

It is very important at this time that we pray asking God for protection. Perhaps individuals or families could commit to praying the Rosary each day for relief of this crisis.

A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus by Fr Brian Grogan S.J

Dear God, in 1879 the Apparition at Knock gave hope and courage to the people of Ireland in difficult times. We ask that Our Lady may now protect your beloved people from the coronavirus. May its victims be strengthened by the spiritual support of the Christian community and restored soon to full health. We also pray for the medical personnel who deal with the virus. This we ask in confidence through Christ Our Lord. Amen. *Our Lady of Knock, pray for us, St Joseph, pray for us, St John the Evangelist, pray for us. Amen.*

Congratulations to the children who received their First Holy Communion over the last two weeks in our parish. May they grow in their love of God and each other through the celebration of the Eucharist. Heartfelt thanks to all those who prepared the boys and girls to receive the sacrament. We acknowledge with thanks our school communities, parents, volunteers and our Parish Youth workers, Kathryn Ellis and Aoife O'Neill for all their work.





AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

"My Jesus, I believe that you desire to make your home within me and that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace your love as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen."

Requiescant in Pace Shauna Stokes, Kelsie Marie Stokes, Derrymore, Tony Pyke, Carnhill and Cornwall, Mary McCarron, Sappagh, Muff, Brian McKeever, Marlborough St / Temple Court, John Daly, St Eithne's Park, Charlotte Smith, Bradley Pass.

Anniversaries Bridget Sweeney, Brian Tierney, Jim McDonagh, Bishop Séamus Hegarty, Gerry Hasson, Troy Morris, Dominic O'Doherty, Paul Daisley, Philip Kelly, Frankie McDaid, Mary McCourt, Anne McCarron, Stephen Corbett, Brian Boyle, Anna Patricia McGarvey. Susie O'Donnell. May they rest in peace.



Baptisms We welcome into God's family Daithi Sean McCloskey-McLaughlin, Ellen Rose Mullan, Millie-Rose O'Hagan, Aidan Charles Fergal Callaghan.

Supporting Your Parish Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the offertory collection through envelope, standing order, online payments and the 'donate' button on our parish website. Your support is greatly appreciated. **Boxes are available in our three churches to return your parish envelopes.** If you require information about any of the above methods of supporting Three Patrons Parish, please contact the parish office - stpatricks@threepatrons.org or 028 71262360. The bank account details for Three Patrons' Parish are: sort code: 90 49 74; account number: 51442271.

Parish Youth Ministry We acknowledge the ongoing development of youth ministry in our parish. Our parish youth workers, Kathryn Ellis and Aoife O'Neill have worked closely with local primary schools in developing sacramental preparation with special focus on the 'Do This in Memory of Me' programme. At post-primary level, young people taking part in the John Paul II Award have been facilitated in various roles in our parish so that they may achieve their awards. We thank parents and young people and all volunteers who continue to be a great support in developing youth ministry at various age groups. We thank our schools for their support of parish activities. We pray for all involved in various forms and opportunities of youth ministry. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them. A second collection towards Parish Youth Ministry will be taken up at Masses in our parish next weekend (envelope in the box). Thank you for your support.

Anniversary Masses and Prayers If you wish to have an anniversary Mass offered or a Mass or prayers offered for any intention, please email the parish offices at stpatricks@threepatrons.org or stbrigids@threepatrons.org or phone the parochial houses at St. Patrick's (028 71262360) or St. Brigid's (028 71351261).

Readings for Sunday 27th September, Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28; **Responsorial Psalm:** 24: 4-9;

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11; **Gospel:** Matthew 21:28-32

Readings for Sunday 27th September *First reading* Ezekiel offers us words and ways that will restore our relationship with God; *Second reading* St Paul charts a way for us so that we always consider the other person to be better than ourselves; *Gospel* The gospel asks our opinion about God's will and our own way of response. Jesus makes a startling statement about the sort of people who will make their way into the kingdom of heaven. We are in for major surprises and shocks . . . when . . . if we get there!

Thank You We extend our thanks to those who volunteer as stewards in our three churches. Thanks also to those who clean our churches everyday and ensure they are safe spaces for all.

"Seek the Lord while He is still to be found . . ." (Isaiah 55:6)

While seeking Him in prayer and the sacraments, listen to Him. Could it be you are being called by Jesus to serve as a priest, religious sister or brother? If you think He may be offering you this grace, speak to your local priest, or call your Diocesan Vocations Director, visit derryvocations.org or email the National Vocations Office at info@vocations.ie.

A Prayer for Vocations based on the words of Pope Francis

LORD of the Harvest,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving - for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may co-operate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

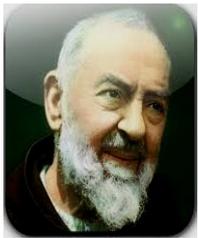
Adapted from Pope Francis' Message on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Saints of the Coming Week

Monday: St Matthew, apostle and evangelist; **Wednesday:** St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), St Eunan (Adomnan), abbot; **Friday:** St Finbarr, bishop;

Saturday: Ss Cosmas & Damian, martyrs.



Prayer to St Pio of Pietrelcina (Feast day 23rd September)

O God, You gave St Pio of Pietrelcina, Capuchin priest, the great privilege of participating in a unique way in the passion of Your Son. Grant me through his intercession the grace of which I ardently desire; and above all grant me the grace of living in conformity with the death of Jesus, to arrive at the glory of the resurrection, Amen. (Glory be x3)

St Joseph's Young Priests' Society acknowledge with thanks a donation of £300.

Zoom Family Rosary October is the month of the Rosary! Come and join us to pray the Family Rosary on Zoom every Saturday at 6 pm. The Family Rosary lasts for 20 minutes. It starts with a short 2-minute video followed by the Rosary, which is led by parents and prayed by children from participating families from different parts of the world. To join the Zoom Family Rosary follow <http://bit.ly/Zoom Family Rosary>. *'To pray the Rosary for children, and even more, with children, training them from their earliest years to experience this daily "pause for prayer" with the family, is admittedly not the solution to every problem, but it is a spiritual aid which should not be underestimated.'* St John Paul

Accord Marriage Preparation Courses will take place on Saturday 10th October, 21st November, 5th December 2020 at St Eugene's Community Hall, Infirmary Rd, Derry, BT48 9AP and Saturday 26th September, 24th October and 21st November 2020 at Strand Hotel, Ballyliffin. Limited places. To book visit www.accord.ie.

Accord Couples' and Relationship Support Line If you need to speak to an experienced couples and relationships counsellor during this time of unprecedented stress and pressure on family life contact 003531 5313331, 028 956800151 or 003531 9059555. Lines open 9am - 8pm Monday - Friday. All calls charged at local rate.

Totus Tuus Magazine Due to the Covid 19 outbreak, Totus Tuus magazine is now being delivered straight to your door. If you would like to start receiving Totus Tuus to your home then please tel Fiona at 00353 868760058.

Queen's University Catholic Chaplaincy reopens on Monday 21st September. Our liturgies, faith events and social gatherings are popular with students and alumni. We have a range of groups and societies whose activities appeal to a wide range of interests. Our chapel, food bar and study space are open throughout the academic year. Wherever you are on your faith journey, know that we are here for you. For more visit qubcatholic.org or drop by for a coffee and chat at 28 Elmwood Ave, Belfast. Join us on Facebook.