



Parish of the Three Patrons

Sunday 10th January 2021 - The Baptism of the Lord

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

Come to the Water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

Our Gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he submitting to God's will.

At this crucial moment, as soon as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice of God confirming him as 'Beloved Son'. It is a moment of divine approval, confirming Jesus' identity and launching him on his new mission.

The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission. We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, members of God's family. In today's first reading we are invited: 'Come to the water all you who are thirsty'. We are called to the water, to that moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to live as children of God. *"In order to live a life of holiness, we must first receive new life from God - we must be born from above."*

"As we celebrate the baptism of our Lord, we recall our own baptism and the promise of life we have gained through it. We pray that all would be given the opportunity to experience life in its fullness, both in this world and the next. Lord hear us."

Requiescant in Pace: *we extend our deepest sympathy to the family & friends of:* Haley Hctor, Ederowen Park; Liam McCandless, Dunvale Park; Bill Hannaway, Carnhill; Rosemary Organ, Moss Park; John McCaul, Rock Terrace.

Anniversary Masses and Prayers If you wish to have an anniversary Mass offered or a Mass or prayers offered for any intention, please telephone the parish offices during office hours or email: stpatricks@threepatrons.org; stjosephs@threepatrons.org or stbrigids@threepatrons.org

Feast Days of the week: **Wednesday** - St Hilary; **Friday** - St Ita; **Saturday** - St Fursa.

Readings for Sunday 17th January - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sam 3:3-10, 19. Ps39:2, 4, 7-10, R/vv 8, 9. 1 Cor 6: 13-15, 17-20. Jn1:35-42. Lect 1:740.

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 the parish is: sort code: 90 49 74; account number: 51442271.

Prayer to St Joseph: Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



**You are my Son,
the beloved:
my favour rests on you.**

At the very moment of our baptism. God spoke the very same words to us that Jesus himself heard. *"You are my Beloved: my favour rests on you"*.

If we only appreciated and realised the power of these words.

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.

Mass Times in the Parish of the Three Patrons for this weekend 9th/10th January and the coming week. (Please note the changes of times)

St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn

Sunday: Vigil (Sat) 6pm; 10am & 12noon.

Monday - Friday: Mass 7.30am & 10am.

Saturday: Mass 10am.

St Brigid's Church, Carnhill

Sunday: 10.30am & 12.30pm.

Monday - Friday : Mass 9am followed by Rosary

St Joseph's Church, Galliagh

Sunday: Vigil (Sat) 7pm; 11am.

Monday - Friday: Mass 11am.



- We welcome the children from the DTIM Programme who will view and participate in our masses this weekend. These children will make their First Communion this year.
- Please note: announcements regarding the Rosary and the Angelus will be made at masses this weekend

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."

Government Guidelines state that It is mandatory to wear face coverings inside the our church and when entering and exiting. Face covering exemptions also apply. Social distancing and appropriate protective measures are of vital importance. We remind parishioners to observe social distancing, and use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the Church. It is very important at this time that we pray asking God for protection.

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.

Accord Derry Virtual Marriage Preparation Programme Course Dates 9th & 10th February 2021 and March 9th and 10th 2021. Booking now online at www.accordni.com.

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.

Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland: “As many people as possible *stay at home* for the sake of health, life and the Common Good”

“Faith and prayer can be a tremendous support to individuals and society during these difficult times”

Statement

Following further briefing by the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Officer, and in consultation with The Executive Office, we are very concerned at the current serious public health position in which Northern Ireland finds itself: with the extremely high level of transmission of the Covid-19 virus; the continuing escalation of numbers in hospital and intensive care; the number of associated deaths; and, the increasingly unsustainable pressure on our healthcare staff. The clear message from health officials is that this situation is going to worsen significantly over the coming weeks.

We recognise the efforts of so many in our parishes who have been working to ensure that our gatherings for public worship are as safe as possible and we welcome the continuing engagement between the faith communities and the NI Executive which has led to consensus between us on the importance of people being able to gather in person for worship. At this time, however, we acknowledge and support the unequivocal message from public health authorities that the movement and gathering of people should be minimised and that as many people as possible *stay at home* for the sake of health, life and the Common Good.

In light of our ongoing consultations and of the current serious and worsening situation, and in line with clear public health guidance that people should *stay at home*, we have decided that for a limited period (**from midnight on Thursday 7 January until Saturday 6 February 2021**, subject to review in late January), the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies should take place without the physical presence of the faithful - with the exception of marriage, funeral, baptismal liturgies, (subject to regulations).

Arrangements for recording and/or livestreaming, and making individual visits for private prayer are also permissible in accordance with regulations. We encourage parishes, where possible, to continue to broadcast the celebration of Mass - and other devotions and prayer services - online and on other media, knowing that faith and prayer can be a tremendous support to individuals and society during these difficult times.

We make this decision reluctantly, conscious that not being able to gather for public worship can cause pain for all the faithful, but in the hope that this limited period of sacrifice will be for the protection of life and health and for the greater good of all. We once more ask for prayers for the sick, the bereaved and all those whose livelihoods have been particularly impacted by the pandemic. We keep in our prayers all health workers, carers, chaplains and other essential workers. We welcome the announcement that a similar position is being taken by the leaders of the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and many other denominations and faith communities in response to the unequivocal message from public health authorities that as many people as possible stay at home at this time.

Most Rev Eamon Martin DD, *Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All-Ireland*

Most Rev Noel Treanor DD, *Bishop of Down and Connor*

Most Rev Donal McKeown DD, *Bishop of Derry*

Most Rev Larry Duffy DD, *Bishop of Clogher*

Most Rev Michael Router DD, *Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh*