



Parish of the Three Patrons

Sunday 17th January 2021 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Clergy

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

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

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Come and See

There is a Brazilian proverb used when a visitor is leaving ones home: 'Whoever drinks of this water keeps coming back'. Offering a beverage such as a cup of water or tea to a visitor is a universal gesture of welcome and hospitality.

Today we hear how Jesus invites two of his disciples to 'come and see' where he lives. He welcomes them into his home and they stay with him for the rest of the day, undoubtedly eating and drinking and conversing with him. Jesus' invitation is simple, yet intimate. We don't know where he lived or what his living arrangements were, but we know he wanted his friends to spend time with him and get to know him. This precious early time with Jesus must have set his friends up for a lifetime of discipleship.

We too are invited to 'come and see', to spend time with the Scriptures and in prayer to get to know Jesus. He welcomes us with open arms.

As we reflect on the inviting love of Jesus, we are also encouraged to extend a warm welcome to others in a spirit of friendship. Pope Francis has often spoken of our responsibility, as individuals, communities and church, to welcome everyone - including those who are homeless or who have been forced to leave their home or country. Our welcome is a response to the Lord's supreme commandment to love the other, the stranger, as ourselves. We all have opportunities to do this in our communities.

'Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age.'

Pope Francis

Requiescant in Pace: we extend our deepest sympathy to the family & friends of: Ellen Stokes, Glengalliagh Park; Breege McCaul, Philip Street; Brother Vianney Kerr, formally Maybrook 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

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Jim McCarron; Bridie Meehan; Margaret McCartney; Patrick Johnston; Jade Joy McCloskey & Christine Quigley, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Feast Days of the week: Wednesday: St Fabian & St Sebastian; **Thursday:** St Agnes; **Friday:** St Vincent.

Readings for Sunday 24th January - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Jon 3:1-5, 10. Ps 24:4-9, R/ v4. 1 Cor 7:29-31. Mk 1:14-20. (Lect 1:743)

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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity The Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Monday 18th January and lasts until Monday the 25th. The theme this year is "**Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit**", based on John 15:1-17. We pray for the fruits of a closer communion with all Christians, a living witness to our common baptism and a deeper solidarity with all creation. You are encouraged to pray in your homes and if possible, via online

Prayer for Christian Unity: Jesus Christ, you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship and lead us to a life that is ever more complete. Grant us the confidence to answer your call so that we may be transformed and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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 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.



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.

Preparing for Marriage? Catholic Engaged Encounter: A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 27-28 March 2021. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. Information/Booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028276 38512

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.

AA Can't Stop Drinking? Call Alcoholics Anonymous on 90351222, we are here to help.

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*