



Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey

Sun 28th June – Trinity 3

Bible reading for Today – Ezra 1:1-5

¹ In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

² ‘This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

“The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. ³ Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. ⁴ And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.”

⁵ Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites – everyone whose heart God had moved – prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.

Online Services (on Facebook Live)

Sundays at 11am (changing to 12noon from 5th July)

Wednesdays at 8pm & Fridays at 1pm

Collect for Today

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rector's Thoughts

The reading opposite from the book of Ezra may seem a bit obscure! It tells of a time in Old Testament history when the people of God were allowed to return from exile to worship again at the temple in Jerusalem. While this is not exactly the same as our return to gathered worship in our church buildings on 5th July, there are some parallels. There will be a mixture of thankfulness and apprehension, and everyone will need to decide in their own heart how they respond. Some will be eager to come, others will need to remain at home for now. We are confident that God will be with us in the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead.

With love & prayers, *David*.

Announcements

Thankyou: A very special word of thanks to all those that have supported the Food Bank over the past number of weeks. Your donations have made a real difference to many needy families.

David's parish bike tour: The journey continues and I hope to get to everyone in the end...! I will be out on Wed & Thu.

Reopening Sunday 5th July: In line with Phase 3 of the reopening roadmap, services will be held in church next Sunday: 9:30 Killymard, 10:45 Laghey, 12:00 Donegal. A separate letter will be going out with full details of how this will work. The key messages are: **1. DO NOT come if you have COVID symptoms** (fever, cough, breathing difficulties). **2. Maintain social distancing** of 2m. **3. Sanitise hands** on entry and exit. Please arrive early to allow for orderly entry and seating (some pews will be blocked off to maintain social distancing). Consider government advice on face coverings and cocooning for the vulnerable. Note that there will be no Holy Communion or singing for the time being. The services will be shortened to approx 30 mins and the 12.00noon service will be live-streamed to our Facebook Page.

Alpha Course Online: We plan to run an online Alpha Course in August using Zoom videoconferencing. A great opportunity to do the course which has been experienced by over 20 million people worldwide. More details to follow...

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