



# Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey  
10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 – First Sunday after Epiphany

## Bible Reading for Today – Mark 1 : 4-13

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

## Collect for Today

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: Grant to us, who are born of water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Rector's Thoughts

Level 5 COVID restrictions mean we will be without in-person church services until at least the end of January. The Tánaiste told some businesses to expect closure till the end of March, and churches could be in the same boat. Now is the time for each of us to plan how we will sustain ourselves spiritually in this 'wilderness' time, making use of the many resources available in our parish and beyond. Let's make sure we harness these opportunities in the power of the Holy Spirit, like Jesus in Mark ch1!

## Online Services (on Facebook Live)

Sundays at 11am, Wednesdays at 8pm & Fridays at 1pm

## Announcements

**Hope Groups:** During difficult times how can we find Hope & Help? Online groups Tues and Fri 2-3pm (for anyone) and Thurs 8-9pm (for men only). Each day we will look at different people in the Bible who find themselves in difficult situations. Although we may not be experiencing exactly the same difficulties let's discover together how each of them found help and hope. Contact Sandra or Brian on 083 3515400 for further information and log in details.

**Early Birds:** Saturday Morning Discipleship with the Mustard Seed. 10-11am online via Zoom. 'Together, Growing & Experiencing God' All welcome! Contact Sandra or Brian (083 3515400) for enquires and log in details.

**Wednesday Fellowship Group:** On Zoom on Wednesdays at 10.00am. Talk to Bev 074 9721075 for info and to join in.

**The Mustard Seed:** Is closed due to Level 5 restrictions. We are continuing our Food and Toiletries Appeal, these can be dropped off on Fridays between 10am and pm. Many thanks!

**Envelopes:** Please ensure that envelopes (weekly giving, Christmas, Harvest, Sustentation etc.) and any other monies for 2020 are returned to the relevant treasurer before the end of January for inclusion in the annual report. Please also speak to them or to Louise about setting up a Standing Order. Many thanks to our treasurers for their work in 2020.

**Thank you:** To everyone who worked hard to facilitate our church services in December, including the Churchwardens, cleaners, polishers, musicians, decorators and many others. Thanks also to David and Thomas for cleaning moss off Laghey Church roof and to David, Nigel and William for power washing at Donegal Church.

## Contacts:

Rector: Archdeacon David Huss 074 9721075 or 087 2882484

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