



# Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Mothering Sunday

## Bible Reading for Today – Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

## Collect for Today

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: Strengthen us in our daily living, that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Rector's Thoughts

*Happy Mothering Sunday! This week's Bible passage gives us a rare glimpse into Jesus' home life. The final verse mentions him growing in strength, wisdom and grace and I wonder if I'm right in detecting the influence of Joseph, Mary and God the Father respectively in this threefold growth? In any case, on Mother's Day we can give thanks for Mary and the God-given role she played in nurturing our Saviour through his early years. Surely an encouragement and an example to all mothers, and to all those who play a motherly role in someone's life. Sincere thanks to you all!*

## Online Services (on Facebook Live)

Sun 11am, Wed 8pm, Fri 1pm

## Phone Service (074 97 10199)

Ring from any phone at any time.

## Announcements

**Easter video:** I'm asking everybody to record a short (<5 second) video clip of you saying, "The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!" and email or WhatsApp it to me (contact details below). It's for use in our Easter Day worship! Thanks!!

**Sunday evening services:** on our Facebook & YouTube pages on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> @7pm (or watch later).

**St Patrick's Day:** Online Service at 11am on Facebook Live. No Wednesday evening service – back on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Online groups during the week:** Hope Groups Tue & Fri 2-3pm (anyone), Thu 8-9pm (men only). Early Birds Sat 10-11am (anyone); contact Sandra/Brian 083 3515400. Fellowship Group (anyone) Wed 10am; contact Bev 074 9721075.

**The Mustard Seed:** We are continuing our Food and Toiletries Appeal, these can be dropped off on Fridays 10am-1pm.

**Level 5:** With vaccination fairly slow and case numbers quite high, the signs of a return to gathered worship soon are not good. Please keep praying about the pandemic and remember to get in touch if we can offer any support or help.

## Contacts:

Rector: Archdeacon David Huss 074 9721075 or 087 2882484

Parish Outreach Worker: Sandra Ross 083 3515400

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