



Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey
21st March 2021 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Bible Reading for Today – John 12 : 20-33

Jesus Predicts His Death

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me. "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Collect for Today

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rector's Thoughts

It's now a year since the first Covid-19 restrictions came into force in Ireland. 22nd March 2020 was the first Sunday on which our churches closed their doors for gathered worship. Few of us imagined that we would still be in this position a year later and, while technology has been a great blessing, the absence of in-person worship has been tough, especially in relation to funerals and weddings.

My prayer is that the difficulty and heartache of this past year will pave the way to a new beginning full of life and hope. This is not just wishful thinking: in the reading from John 12 for this 5th Sunday in Lent (Passion Sunday), Jesus speaks about his death as like a grain of wheat falling into the ground and then bearing a crop. The apparent tragedy of Good Friday led to the triumph of Easter. May it be so for us.

Phone Service (074 97 10199)

From any phone at any time.

Online Services (on Facebook Live)

Sun 11am, Wed 8pm, Fri 1pm

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 21st, 28th @7pm (or watch later).

Holy Week: We look forward to some joint services (online) with the Methodist & Presbyterian Churches 31 Mar – 2 Apr.

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 & Easter: Unfortunately Level 5 restrictions prevent us holding indoor or outdoor services and also prevent the rector going into houses or hospitals except in emergencies. Nonetheless, please keep him informed of any illnesses or other needs so he can pray. We are awaiting guidelines on whether/when/how Easter Vestries may be held this year.

Contacts:

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