



Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey
25th April 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Bible Reading for Today – John 10 :11-18

The good shepherd and his sheep.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

Collect for Today

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: Raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Rector's Thoughts

The government's Covid-19 response took a surprising turn in recent days with a decision to formally criminalise attendance at religious worship. With Churches having been closed for 42 Sundays since mid March 2020, and having complied meticulously with all restrictions on the 15 Sundays we were allowed to open, the government's action at this stage is perplexing and regrettable.

Christians should always seek to protect life and we have willingly foregone gathering together to help reduce the spread of the virus. At the same time, we long to meet again and receive the real benefits of in-person worship, with Covid protections in place.

We will continue to pray for wisdom for our leaders, success for the vaccination programme, protection for the vulnerable and re-opening for our churches.

Phone Service (074 97 10199)

From any phone at any time.

Online Services (on Facebook Live)

Sun 11am, Wed 8pm, Fri 1pm

Announcements

Easter Vestry meetings: This year we will hold our annual meetings online using Zoom. Do not go to the church/hall! Dates of meetings (at 8pm): Donegal Tue 27th, Laghey Thu 29th April. To join from smartphone/tablet/computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84566087444?pwd=T2l5dTFJenVTQi9uY2FncjJSVVN1UT09>. For further instructions, including how to join from an ordinary phone, see the info with last week's Parish Update.

COVID-19 restrictions: There is a *possibility* that in-person worship might begin again from Sunday 9th May but this awaits confirmation from the Government, presumably depending on Public Health advice. Keep praying!

Good news: Lough Eske Parish has been awarded a grant of €3,500 from Donegal County Council's Development Fund Initiative towards the avenue repair at Christ Church, Lough Eske. This work is now scheduled for the early summer.

Online groups mid week: Hope Groups Tue 12-1pm & 2-3pm, Fri 2-3pm (anyone), Thu 8-9pm (men). 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. A huge thank you to everyone who has given. Lent boxes can also be returned to the Mustard Seed or the Rectory.

Thank you: To everyone who has continued to support the parishes financially throughout the pandemic. It is very heartening. Remember that you can give via your treasurer or you can set up a standing order if so desired.

Contacts:

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