



Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey
2nd May 2021 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Bible Reading for Today – John 15 :1-8

The Vine and the Branches

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

Collect for Today

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: Grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

Rector's Thoughts

The idea of Jesus as the True Vine reminds us that he is the source of life for all who believe in him. Fruitfulness comes from remaining connected to Jesus – communicating with him through the word and prayer, experiencing the work of his Holy Spirit in our hearts, and allowing him to 'prune' us. The latter may refer to the times when difficulty or suffering lead us to cling more tightly to the Lord, knowing that "apart from him we can do nothing." Covid-19 has taught us the importance of staying connected in many ways, especially staying connected to the True Vine.

Phone Service (074 97 10199)

From any phone at any time.

Online Services (on Facebook Live)

Sun 11am, Wed 8pm, Fri 1pm

Announcements

COVID-19 restrictions: The Taoiseach has announced that churches will be allowed to re-open from 10th May, for up to 50 people (this limit will also apply to funerals and wedding ceremonies). This means our first Sunday back will be 16th May when we plan to be in Killymard (9.30am), Laghey (10.45am) and Donegal (12.00noon). Full details in next week's Update. Let's thank God for this answer to prayer, and please continue to observe all the public health measures meticulously.

Easter Vestry meetings: All 4 online annual meetings went well. Many thanks to our vestry members, churchwardens, glebewardens, secretaries and treasurers for all their work. Congratulations to all church officers who were re-elected.

Online groups mid week: Hope Groups Tue 2-3pm & Wed 1130-1230. Early Birds Sat 10-11am; contact Sandra/Brian 083 3515400. Fellowship Group Wed 10am; contact Bev 074 9721075. These groups meet online using Zoom.

Good news: Lough Eske Parish has been awarded a grant of €3,000 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.

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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