

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10th May 2020

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

Neighbouring Priests: Fr T Mannion 964 3014 - Fr P Casey 916 4143 -

Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

Tune in to Church services at - www.churchservices.tv or <https://www.mcnmedia.tv> and search for your local or favourite church for Mass.

Mass Leaflets: And newsletters will be left in each Church each Saturday morning.

Envelopes: Parishioners are asked to keep the envelopes until the churches are open again for Masses. If you want to pay by cheque, then the offertory contributions that go to the individual Churches can be paid to; Drumkeeran Church Account, Creevelea Church Account or Tarmon Church Account. The Dues can be paid to, Priest's Revenue Account. Thanks for your support and stay safe.

Accord: If you need to speak to an experienced Couples and Relationship Counsellor, please contact 01 531 331 open 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday.

Meidheal Wanted: Volunteers who could mow the grass in our local graveyards until the RSS workers are back on duty?

North Leitrim Women's Centre: Even though our doors are closed we are still here for you. We are available to talk, email or private message with any woman who needs us. We are here to listen, give advice (where appropriate) or just even to have a chat in these very isolating times, remember we are physically distancing not socially distancing give us a shout. We always love to hear from you. Stay Safe. We can be contacted in the following ways - phone 0719856220, email info@northleitrimwomenscentre.ie, Facebook private message, search NCCWN -North Leitrim Women's Centre.

North Leitrim Well Woman Health Clinic: "Woman to Woman" Clinic Mon 11 May and Mon 25 May. By Appointment Only; adaptable/flexible/friendly surroundings. This clinic will be held in The North Leitrim Women's Centre, Bee Park Community Centre, Manorhamilton. This clinic will be held by Dr Helen Fitzsimons. To make an appointment and for further details, please contact 071 9856220. Clinic starts at 7am. This Clinic is free to medical card holders.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading:

Acts 6:1-7

The rapid growth of the Jerusalem Christian community outstripped its administrative ability. In the ancient world, widows were listed among orphans and exiles as those chronically needy. There were problems which needed to be addressed. The names of the seven deacons are given and further information is given about two of them - Stephen and Philip. Both are described as preachers of the Word - Stephen disputes with the Greek speaking Jews in Jerusalem; Philip preached in Judea and Samaria.

Second Reading:

1 Peter 2:4-9

The historical temple in Jerusalem was the centre of Jewish worship; it was the place of divine presence and authoritative direction and teaching. In the Christian context the Temple is neither a static building nor identified with a particular location. With Christ as its living binding force, the New Temple is spread across the world with every believer a living part of the fabric of His building. This world embracing Temple is inhabited by a universal priesthood which together with Christ offers true worship.

Gospel Reading:

John 14:1-12

The theme of departure is to the fore in this part of Jesus' teaching (1-3). Jesus invites them to "believe in Him", "trust in Him". But this will involve a risky commitment to a doomed man and therefore Jesus has to give them further reassurances. When He is gone, the disciples will not be cast adrift in the world. They will always share a home with Him. The Father's house is not a dwelling reserved for occupancy in the next world.

"I am the Way." He is the way because He is the truth and the life. Be assured of all this because there is unity of word and action between the Father and the Son. In Johannine terminology, the works understood as signs are credentials for Jesus' mission. They are signs that the Father and Son are one and Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus.

Reflection 1:

The spiritual dimensions of any form of Christian ministry are clearly stated in the First Reading. Prayer is seen as the foundation of the service of the word of God. And this service is not the monopoly of any one ministry. The seven deacons received authority through the laying of hands to serve at table. No doubt this task was attended to. However, we are told of two of them were clearly involved in the word with dramatic effect.

Both in the Old Testament and the New, the whole People of God are called a priestly people. The entire community has a general liturgical vocation. United

with the offering of Jesus Christ everyone is called to worship and to service in the world.

When Jesus reveals that He is the "way", the "truth" and the "life", He is not speaking about three distinct revelations. In answer to Thomas' question, He describes himself as the way. Truth and life are explanatory remarks. As truth, He is the revealed reality of God. Truth is a person and learning that truth is an encounter with that person in faith and love. As the Father is the source of life, so now the Son is. He sends us the Spirit the transcendent spring of all energy. Christ departs and the Church continues His action. It has greater numerical and geographical scope than Jesus had. And yet, these greater works are the work of Him without whom the disciples can do nothing. (15.5)

The Deep End - Have a little faith.

"I am not self-conscious. I am confident. I can do anything." The 2010 documentary, 'The Sound of Mumbai', follows the story of 11 year old Ashish and his friends from the Mumbai slums who come together for one night to perform 'The Sound of Music' with the Bombay Chamber Orchestra in the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

As he prepares to take on a solo in the concert, Ashish gives himself a pep talk every night, writing out and repeating the mantra "I am confident. I have confidence". Amid self-doubt and some jealousy from his peers, and with the hopes of his entire family riding on this one performance, Ashish carries off his solo with aplomb.

The documentary ends with him bidding 'auf wiedersehen' to his mentor, Austrian-born orchestra conductor Johannes Steinwender who is returning home. "I'm going back to Austria and they are going back to the slums," he remarks, promising Ashish that they will meet again when he returns. The grinning boy returns to his family life, with the memory of his moment in the spotlight and his dreams of a brighter future.

Today's Gospel speaks to us of trust, and of hope. "Do not let your hearts be troubled," are the comforting words of Jesus. "Trust in God still, and trust in Me." Jesus is going away but he will return. As well as trusting in Jesus, the disciples must trust in themselves and their experience of Jesus. In spite of Thomas and Philip's questions, they already know the way to the Father, because Jesus is the way. They have already seen the Father, because he is in Jesus. And if they truly believe they will perform 'even greater works' than Jesus himself. All it takes is faith!

Triona Doherty

Spiritual Communion Prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my Soul.
Since I cannot, at this moment, receive you sacramentally, please come
spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself
wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

Poetry: The children in Lough Allen have been asked to write a poem about the current situation with Covid-19 and the lockdown as part of their homework. This week we are sharing one such poem, if any budding poets would like to share their homework poems too, then please send them on to me at newsletter@inishmagrath.com and we could maybe include them over the coming weeks.

There was a young lady from the border
Who suddenly became a hoarder
When they said "Lockdown!"
She rushed into town
And bought all the loo roll and pasta

Corona virus is a killer
It's like something from a thriller
It's most dangerous to the old
So I'll do as I'm told
To pass through Covid the killer

Before lockdown we run
On Saturdays, just for fun
Now I'm sat on my tech
Getting a stiff neck
But at least we're enjoying the sun

By Connor and Dorothy Spurway