

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

Sixth Sunday of Easter 17th 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.

St. Clare's Manorhamilton has joined those who broadcast Masses online. Masses on Sunday 11.30am and on weekdays at 9.30am can be accessed at <http://churchtv.ie/st-claire-manorhamilton.html>.

Mass Leaflets: Newsletters will be left in 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.

CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE:

0818 222 024

If you have concerns or queries about COVID-19
call ALONE's dedicated support line everyday, 8am - 8pm



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 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. 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.

The Backpack Program: Several Online Backpack Courses are beginning in the coming weeks. There will be online Zoom courses available for various age groups; teenagers, young adults and adults, including an Adult Faith Formation Course. Get in touch for more details: 083 487 7325 / ontact@thebackpack.life. Visit: www.thebackpack.life to register your interest.

FREE full-time Adult Education courses: Starting in The Further Education and Training Centre, Drumshanbo, located in the Enterprise Centre on the Hilly Road, this September 2020. QQI Level 5 Business & IT, Tourism with Business, Traditional Irish Music and Health Nutrition and Food Science. For more information please go to www.fetchcourses.ie, www.vtosleitrim.ie, Facebook and Twitter @VTOSLeitrim, email Seán Bailey at vtosleitrim@msletb.ie or call on 086-0624200.

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading:

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

The mission of Philip to Samaria marks a decisive moment in the development of the Acts of the Apostles. The messianic community has been established in Jerusalem. Now it begins to spread abroad. Already it is moving beyond the borders of Judaism as it touches in the lives of the Samaritans. The principle of communion is established when Peter and John are sent to Samaria by the apostolic group in Jerusalem to authoritatively lay their hands on and receive the new converts to the ever enlarging community.

Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:15-18

When coming to the attention of non-believers, how does one react? That is the issue of the reading. The starting point is an interior attitude of reverence. There is a core dimension of being in the presence of God. Having a good conscience is the consciousness of God already alluded to in the epistle (2:19). This is an awareness of the supporting loving God who drew Jesus from life to death. That spiritual composure enables a gentle response to the questions that come their way and a strength in the difficulties that they have to endure.

Gospel Reading:

John 14:15-21

How will they love him in his apparent absence - by keeping his commandments. This is something tangible and real: there is also the Holy Spirit who will help them in His absence. He is 'the Spirit of truth', the Spirit who communicates truth. There is a parallel between the coming of Jesus and the coming of the Spirit. What the Spirit does is actualise a new presence of the Risen Christ. Through the Spirit they will share in a new vitality springing from their communion with Christ in communion with the Father. The union of love will draw them all together, Father, Son and believers.

Reflection 1:

The mission of the Apostles, Peter and John, to the Samaritan converts was not primarily an exercise of authority and control. It was first and foremost an affirmation of the centrality of the Risen Christ in the Christian communion. The twelve were originally selected because of the symbolic role of that number. In the Biblical tradition, the People of God were descended from twelve founding fathers. In recognition of this, Jesus established a core community of Twelve which will be the spring boards of the New People of God. When selecting a replacement for Judas, Peter makes clear what qualifies one to be a member of the Twelve. It was day to day familiarity with Christ for the whole of the public ministry up to being a witness of the Resurrection. In drawing the Samaritan converts into

the world of the Twelve and being recognised by them, they are brought into a community in which Christ is central.

The first epistle of Peter is ascribed to Peter. Whatever the historical basis of this might be. It is clear that the throbbing heart of the author's message in the person of the Risen Christ. Earlier in the letter he wrote about loving the Lord Jesus Christ; he described Him as the 'shepherd and guardian of your souls'. In the mind of the author, the soul would not be the spiritual dimension of our humanity. That is not the way he thought. The soul is the totality of what one is. In faith, all of our being is brought into the circle of Christ. In suffering and in joy, the Christian enters into the rhythm of the death and resurrection of Christ.

An essential feature of the Fourth Gospel is an intense focus on the inner life of God, the relationship of the Father and the Son into which we are brought through the life-giving activities of the Spirit. When he writes of life and eternal life, the author of the Gospel is communicating his sense of the expansion of our consciousness and the transformation of our being which comes from our participation in the divine life. He struggles to express his sense of our rebirth into a new dimension of existence in many ways. Here he writes of Christ being in the Father and we in Christ and Christ in us.

The Deep End - An Inside View.

'If you want somebody to understand what the major intellects of the world religions mean by God, you could do a great deal worse than introduce them to Anna'

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams is among the many fans of *Mister God, This is Anna*, the story of four-year-old Anna and her friendship with 16 year-old Fynn, the author. Anna's outpourings on life, science and God, or 'Mister God' as she calls Him, have entranced readers for years, bursting as they do with joy, inquisitiveness and insight. During a discussion on 'Mister God' and the ways in which He is different from people, Anna concludes; "So you see, Fynn, people can't talk about Mister God from the outside; you can only talk about Mister God from the inside of Him" As an illustration of the mystery of God's presence with us, it goes a long way. It is this mystery that Jesus breaks down for His disciples in today's Gospel when He promises to send His Spirit to be with them. "On that day you will understand that I am in my father and you in me and I in you". Four-year-old Anna seems to have a handle on this mystery.

Triona Doherty