

Quarterly Newsletter

Reflect on your Lenten Journey

We remember so little of our lives. What we retain is such a small sampling of those years past. Do you know who remembers more about your childhood than you do? Your mother. We have memories, but we tend to turn to mothers and grandmothers when we want to know our past. They have stories, even about us, that we cannot recall. St. Luke twice mentions Mary's memory. When the shepherds withdraw from the manger, and when the boy Jesus is discovered teaching the sages of Israel in the temple, he obediently

accompanies his parents to their home in Nazareth. We are told, "Mary



kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" (2:19) and (2:51).

Disciples are meant to examine their lives. That is where we discover the

Holy Spirit. We seldom see the Holy Spirit approaching. Most often we discern the Spirit in the wake he leaves. That is why it is important for us to look back. Are we more or less loving than we were? Are

we closer or more distant to the Lord whom we love?



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Special points of interest:

- "Most often we discern the Spirit in the wake he leaves "

- "10% pay cut for cardinals"

- SVP works through the Covid epidemic

Pope Francis advances reform in Rome

After spending eight years of his papacy gently nudging Catholic hierarchs to embrace financial prudence and responsible governance, Francis got tough this year, he has ordered a

10% pay cut for cardinals across the board, and cut salaries to a lesser degree for Vatican employees, in a bid to rein in the Vatican's 50-million-euro budget deficit. To fight corruption,

he imposed a 40-euro gift cap for Holy See personnel. He passed a law allowing cardinals and bishops to be criminally prosecuted by the Vatican's lay-led tribunal.

January saw Phase 1 of Cathedral Repairs Begin

Following reports of damp within the Cathedral, an inspection to ensure our place of worship is a safe environment for parishioners and visitors was carried out. The initial inspection looking for tell-tale signs such as blocked gutters, damp patches and slipped slates, was conducted by parishioners, which then lead to professional assessments. Following on, quotations were obtained, and permission to commence

work was gained from the Diocesan Trust.



As the work progressed, it was discovered there was additional works required due to wet and dry rot in the roof. These

discoveries will lead to a second phase of the repair works, with substantial cost implications. The biggest threat to the survival of the Cathedral is water damage which affects stonework, woodwork, internal fittings, and decorations.

The bicentenary of the Cathedral will occur in 2029, and the Diocesan Trust have engaged the services of CONSARC, a conservation architecture firm, to carry out an in-depth study and report.



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"water damage affects stonework, woodwork, internal fittings, and decorations"

Keeping Safe in Church

We will gradually lift the Covid restrictions, while remaining sensitive towards those who still feel vulnerable or anxious. Holy Water will be returned to the fonts. Sanitising stations will remain in use. It is important that people continue to wear masks for now. Peo-

ple are encouraged to continue to receive the Sacred Host in the hand. Holy Week ceremonies will occur as normal, although veneration of the cross without the traditional kissing is recommended. The 'Sign of Peace' may be resumed as a gesture rather than a

handshake. During Lent, everyone (except those whose health is vulnerable or those who are unwell) is encouraged to return to Sunday Mass. From Easter Sunday, 17th April, this will once again be an essential expression of faith in Ireland.

Parish Book Club Report

Our book club moved to Zoom due to Covid. We read books with a spiritual dimension. This initiative was advertised in the parish and on social media. Our group meets monthly, for about an hour. We suggest book titles, and each month we pick from the list. To



date, we have read some amazing books from a variety of authors. Each participant brings their own appreciation of the book to the meeting. We have been introduced to

a variety of writers that we might never have dreamed of reading otherwise. The group welcomes new members. The email invitation contains a link to the Zoom meeting, click on the link, job done. Drop an email to fred@newrycathedralparish.org

"...we have read some amazing books from a variety of authors."

Gathering Information on Synodality

It is obvious to us all that religious practice e.g. attendance at mass has been on the decline for years. Are people lazy or is the Church “out of date”? Is there a different way to look at the decline of religious practice? Have people consciously rejected religion, or have religious institutions failed to involve them and respond to their needs? Do they lack belief in God, or do they no longer see the church as rep-



resenting the God they believe in?

The only way to find out is by asking, and the Catholic Church is attempting to do precisely that. Pope Francis announced that the meeting in 2023 of the Synod of Bishops—as the culmination of a three-year worldwide process—would focus on finding

ways to make the church one that “walks together” instead of one that follows the lead of a select few. Only by listening to those at the margins can the church truly be universal. The church should not be characterized by a hierarchy exerting its power over the laity, he has urged, but by charitable dialogue among all bishops, priests, deacons, lay people and religious, as well as with the wider world.



“The only way to find out is by asking,”

“Spread the Gospel of the Lord”

“Easter is a new beginning, pick one area and volunteer”

Rejuvenate our Parish

Look around the pews at the bowed grey heads at Sunday mass. Where are our children and grandchildren? The final words of Mass are “Go spread the Gospel of the Lord”. It all starts with us who attend, the parish could

do better and more with more volunteers.

Easter is a new beginning, pick one area and volunteer. If it doesn’t suit you pick another until you find your niche. As at Cana, Christ can turn the water of our ef-

forts into the wine of the Kingdom of God.

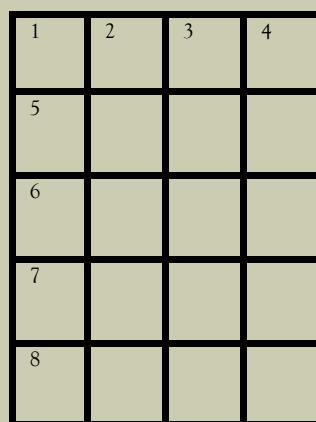
One third of our congregation is now online. The parish runs several groups online and they need support. Check on the parish website.

www.newrycathedralparish.org

Crossword

Across

1. Jesuits motto (abbr.)
5. Polish site
6. Pleasing
7. Incessant
8. Energy saving light source



Down

1. Declare a marriage invalid
2. Diocese of Portland (US) is here
3. Did a kitchen job
4. Small secluded valley



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"Nourished by Word and Sacrament, we seek to become Christ for one another."



www.newrycathedralparish.org

Newry Parish is currently being served by four priests and one student who is preparing for ordination. Two priests and a student have joined us since Covid started just over two years ago.

Fr. Alphonsus Chukwuneny is a native of Nigeria. He is a member of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, an order established in Nigeria as a missionary order. These men work as missionaries in various countries throughout the world. Fr. Alphonsus joined the order as a young man. After ordination he worked for one year in his native diocese, then worked for several years in the Cameroons. He was appointed as a curate in Newry parish in September 2020.

Fr. Callum Young is a native of London. He joined the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Dundalk in 2012. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Armagh on the 29th June 2021. As part of his missionary formation, he spent some time in the Middle east, in the Holy Land and Bahrain. Archbishop Eamon Martin appointed him as Vice-Rector of the seminary in Dundalk and to work in Newry parish as a curate four days each week.

Carlos Esteban Rojo is a native of Madrid. He joined the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in 2012. The Archbishop appointed him to Newry parish for one year as part of his pastoral formation. He has already spent one year in South Africa and two years in Italy as part of his formation. He will be ordained as a transitional deacon on the 8th May in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh. One year later he will be ordained a priest.



St Joseph's Conference SVP

Covid-19 presented several new challenges for the Conference which is based in Ozanam House, Mill St. Newry.

The first consequence was that the Drop-In Centre at Ozanam House had to close for public health reasons. This was a big miss for the many patrons who were accustomed to a safe and welcoming place where they could get food and have company, but we had to comply with Covid-19 regulations. Another challenge was that the Conference could not meet in Ozanam House as normal, again due to



SVP shop and kitchen in Mill St. Newry

the new regulations. The Conference met outdoors socially distanced and used WhatsApp to share information. Posters and social media were used to let parishioners

know that SVP was still able to assist with financial difficulties. Messages from the Conference Helpline received prompt and appropriate attention. The usual level of personal contact could not be maintained but urgent needs were met.

Emerging from the pandemic will present challenges; the Conference plans to refurbish the Drop-In Centre, funds permitting, and welcome back our visitors.