



Quarterly Newsletter

Parish Summer Youth Pilgrimage

Three groups of young people from across the Diocese of Dromore volunteered as Volunteers At Knock Shrine in late June and over the weekends of the National Novena (14-22 August). The VAKS initiative is offered by the Youth Hub for young people to immerse themselves in the daily life of the shrine.

The young people welcome pilgrims; participate in liturgies, such as assisting with the anointing of the sick, reading at

Mass and providing music. This year, as pilgrims were welcomed back post COVID, the shrine was extremely busy.

Highlights included: a 'Dromore VAKS' Mass celebrated at the Apparition Chapel on the 15th August; a musical 'Welcome' on Knock Main Street for the 'Mary's Meals' volunteers; leading workshops for the Hub's Summer Camp and Knock Shrine's Family Day and providing musical entertainment with an im-



promptu 'session' in the hotel at night.

One young person said 'Knock is amazing', I loved it: meeting the pilgrims, singing at Mass in the Basilica, having 'fun' with the children at the family day and meeting new friends from across the Diocese. I will definitely be back next year'.

Inside this issue:

Back to School	2
Help the preacher	2
Lectio Divina	2
Parish Centre Open	3
St Teresa of Calcutta	3
Crossword	3
Divine Renovation	4

"..I am so proud of my VAKS T-shirt .."

Pope Francis doubles down on Synodality

It bothers me that the adjective "synodal" is used as if it were the latest quick fix for the church. When one says "synodal church" the expression is redundant: the church is either synodal or it is not church. Certainly, we can say that the church in the West had lost its synodal tradition. The church of the East has preserved it. One can discuss the ways of living synodality,

certainly. Paul VI set up the Secre-



tariat of the Synod of Bishops; synod after synod has gone ahead, tentatively, improving, un-

derstanding better, maturing.

Francis added: "It seems fundamental to me to repeat, that the synod is not a political meeting nor a committee for parliamentary decisions. It is the expression of the church where the protagonist is the Holy Spirit. If there is no Holy Spirit, there is no synod. The best book of theology on the synod is the Acts of the Apostles.

"...I like the motto of the journey, which says it clearly:

Walking Together. Walk, but together."

Back to School—the Teacher’s View

After 35 years of the first day of school, I think I can appreciate the mixed emotions faced by many of the teachers and support staff at this time. There’s the worry that our students got into their chosen further or higher education course. For others it is the A Level choices and how we manage resources and expectations. However, looking at the ‘Big Picture’, going back to

school is like returning to our other family, the ones entrusted to our care, the ones that will confide in us and even occasionally call us ‘Mummy’.

There is always a certain trepidation of thinking of what might happen this year. In the space of an academic year, I have had the sadness of losing colleagues, parents and pupils but also experienced the joy of the pupils ex-

ceeding all expectations. Every year brings a measure of joy and despair. So, whatever lies ahead for you as staff this year, please remember that you are so much more than a cog in a wheel of a large machine. You are the significant other to pupils and colleagues, - the wonderful teacher, the social worker, the nurse, the counsellor. Bravely step forward and embrace the challenge.



“Every blessing for you and your students in the year ahead “

Help the Preacher

We are often dissatisfied with our homilies. Poor performance is attributed to; inadequate training, insufficient preparation time, being out of touch with the “real world” and unable to address women’s perspectives. These are problems that need to be addressed. But here are a few things the laity can do to help.

1. Look at the preacher. Preachers scan the faces of congregants.

2. Do not read during the homily. If you have an issue, better to go and explain your issue.

3. Sit still during the homily. Movement draws attention away from the sermon.

4. Comment on the homily. Whether what you say is positive or negative, you help the preacher to know what is being communicated.

5. Read the Scriptures before Mass. Search for

one sentence of the homily that is meaningful to you, and meditate on that sentence.

6. All homilists have prompts that derail their thoughts. If your homilist mentions a distraction, keep it in mind.

The homily is an active relationship between preacher and parish. Always try to improve the experience. Revelation is not revelation unless it is received.

“Catholic preachers are taught to begin with the Scriptures of the day or the meaning of the feast being celebrated. .”

Parish Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is a traditional monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God’s word. It does not treat scripture as texts to be studied, but as the living



word. It is recommended by the Church to the general public. Sessions are

run weekly, and last about 60 minutes. The group welcomes new members. The email invitation contains a link to the Zoom meeting, click on the link to connect. Drop an email to fred@newrycathedralparish.org to get started.

“Recommended by the Church to the general public and its importance was affirmed by Pope Benedict XVI .”

Newry Parish Centre—back in action after Covid

Thankfully restrictions have eased and the desire to meet face to face, to train to gather, to celebrate and support the wellbeing of our parish, community and businesses has been steadily growing. We are grateful to the clients that continue to support us. We welcome our new tenants Gray Design Ltd, a dynamic and well established architecture, interior design and project management team who have joined us on the Mall. The

VERITAS shop and Café Krem, a constant source of support for our community throughout these challenging times provide a place to meet up over a coffee or lunch, or to buy a gift, card or book. ACCORD Newry also based at the centre provide invaluable support to couples and families.



We invite the community, our schools and businesses to consider Newry Conference Centre for your next training event, school group, conference, meeting or celebration. It's a unique place where business and community come together in the heart of Newry City! Visit our website @ www.newryconferencecentre.com, call us on 028 30255790 or email bookings@newryconferencecentre.com



“The private meeting place for schools and businesses”

Saint Teresa of Calcutta



Born in Albania, she left home at the age of 18 to join the Sisters of Loreto, in Ireland. In December of 1929, she jour-

neyed to India, arriving in Calcutta. Sister Teresa was assigned to the Loreto Entally community in Calcutta and taught at St. Mary's School for girls, and became the school's Principal. On September 10 1946, she received her “inspiration, her call within a call” and after nearly 2 years of testing received permission to

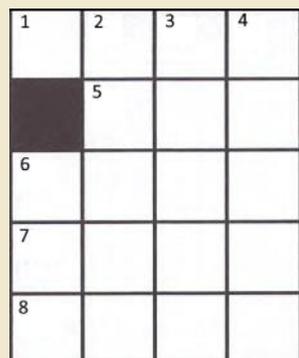
begin in October 1948. After some medical training she began her mission to the poor in the slums of Calcutta. The Missionaries of Charity was established on October 7th 1950. By 1997, Mother Teresa's Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members and were established in 610 foundations in 123 countries.

“Visit our shrine in Newry Cathedral to St. Teresa of Calcutta who was canonized by Pope Francis on September 4, 2016 “

Crossword

Across

1. “I harrow” in Latin
5. Central part of a wheel.
6. “Bull” in Spanish
7. Five virgins of Matthew.
8. Minerals



Down

2. Church Singers
3. Job's wife told him to “_____” God and die. (Job 2:9)
4. Musical Instruments
6. Number of each animal Noah took in the ark.



NEWRY CATHEDRAL PARISH

Parochial House
3840 Hill Street
Newry
BT34 1AT

Open: 9am–4pm Monday–Friday

Phone: 028 302 62586

Email:

office@newrycathedralparish.org

*“Nourished by Word and
Sacrament, we seek to become
Christ for one another.”*

Find us on



www.newrycathedralparish.org

Fr. Robert Markuszewski has returned to his diocese in Poland after spending three years in Newry parish. He has been appointed Parish Priest in his home city of Bialystok, Poland. We wish him every success and happiness in his new appointment.

Fr. Wojciech Stachyra, Society of Christ, who is currently working in the Archdiocese of Westminster has been appointed as a Curate to Newry and Saval parishes, with an outreach to the Polish community in the region. We wish him every success and happiness with us in Newry and Saval parishes.

Rev. Carlos Esteban Rojo, on loan from the Archdiocese of Armagh will continue his ministry as a transitional Deacon in the parishes of Newry and Saval.

We extend our sincere thanks to Fr. Joseph Okere for the two months he spent with us in Newry. He returns to Nigeria to continue his work in the Seminary of the Missionary Order of St. Paul. He lectures the students in philosophy.

What is Divine Renovation?

Divine Renovation is based on the experiences of St Benedict Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia and their priest, Fr James Mallon, and described in his book (see below). Its purpose is, in keeping with the urgings of a succession of Popes, and our own Bishop Eamon, to help parishes to focus outwardly and develop their evangelizing and missionary vocation. The central features of the Divine Renovation process included 3 key principles ((1) the absolute primacy of evangelization (2) best leadership principles (3) experience of the Holy Spirit); and the Game Plan strategy used by St Benedict Parish “to form disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ” (creating a culture of an “invitational church” which invites

people to events or activities they will enjoy and which will nourish them spiritually, including Alpha, the Alpha Team, Connect Groups, Discipleship Groups, Ministry and Worship). This is not a template to be imposed identically on parishes, but a set of principles which can guide the development of individual parishes according to their unique situations. In our Parish this would mean Canon Francis and the Pastoral Council working on a Vision of what we want Newry Parish to be like in 10 years’



time, and developing a “road map” and strategy for achieving this. Do read the book by Fr James Mallon Divine Renovation – From a Maintenance to a Mission Parish.

