

NEWRY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018 Vol 1 No 1

Christ Has Risen

THE EASTER SEASON OR THE PENTECOST SEASON?

Did you know that the Church regards the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost as just one joyful feast day? We celebrate not just Easter Sunday but the Easter season. The Jewish Pentecost was a single feast day celebrating harvest and commemorating the covenant. For the early Christians, however, Pentecost was not merely the “fiftieth day,” but referred to the whole period of fifty days which began on Easter Sunday, and today’s Church is embracing this notion. So Eastertide is the “Season of Pentecost.” Pentecost Sunday concludes the Pentecost season rather than beginning it.

(The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one “great Sunday”. These above all others are the days for the singing of the Alleluia. General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, #22)

The Easter/Pentecost season celebrates the three dimensions of resurrection, ascension, and the sending of the Spirit. Ascension material is appropriately used as

Ascension Day approaches. Pentecost material is appropriate from Ascension Day to the Day of Pentecost. Easter threads run through the liturgy up to and including the Pentecost Sunday.

The Paschal Candle is lit at every service up to and including Pentecost Sunday and the Gloria is said. The Sundays should be called the Sundays of Easter not the Sundays after Easter. It has been suggested that the English expression “Whitsunday” derives from the French huit (eight), Pentecost being le huitième dimanche, the eighth Sunday of Easter.

There are many readings from the Gospel of John in the Liturgy at this time. In this gospel the risen Jesus gives the gift of the Spirit to his disciples on the evening of Easter Day (John 20:19-23). The Spirit is the gift of the risen Christ and that is what we celebrate. The farewell discourses of Jesus, with their promise of the coming Advocate, are words to us from the risen Christ. And on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the visible manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

“THE GIFT OF THE RISEN CHRIST”

POPE FRANCIS, THE TRINITY AND THE FAMILY

At this time of year we also celebrate the mystery of the Trinity which is fundamental to our Christian belief. Theologians are working all the time to try and increase our understanding of this mystery. Have you ever thought of reading something about it?

In this year of the World Meeting of Families and in which he will honour the Irish church with a visit, here is one of Pope Francis’s insight into the mystery.

The triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection. Saint John Paul II shed light on this when he said, “Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love. That love, in the divine family, is the Holy Spirit”. The family is thus not unrelated to God’s very being. This Trinitarian dimension finds expression in the theology of Saint Paul, who relates the couple to the “mystery” of the union of Christ and the Church (cf. Eph 5:21-33). Amoris Laetitia

WELCOME TO BISHOP PHILIP BOYCE

Dr Phillip Boyce has been appointed Apostolic Administrator of Dromore Diocese until a new bishop is chosen. It was with great joy and relief that he was welcomed to the Cathedral on Holy Thursday for the Chrism Mass, which had previously been cancelled in the absence of the Bishop. His gentle presence and reassuring manner was a comfort to the many people who turned up for the occasion despite the short notice of its reinstatement. We wish him every blessing as he undertakes the role of caretaker in our diocese and thank him for the spirit of generosity with which he accepted the role. He was just beginning to enjoy his retirement from the see of Raphoe!



NOTE FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The job of a parish pastoral council is to advise and assist the parish priest and his team in the work of propagating the faith within the parish. We meet formally once a month from September until June, and report in December. The next newsletter will contain a summary of our first year's activity.

Parish pastoral councils regenerate every three years, half the members leave and make room for newcomers. Six years is the maximum single term that a member of the laity can be in membership. Last June we had our new intake and as part of settling in, the council has reviewed its strategy and operational plan.

In the meantime, to whet your appetite, I'll mention three activities we have been promoting in the last months. We presented a series of evenings in the primary schools to brief parents of First Holy Communion and Confirmation children to help parents support their children. This year those same primary schools played a major role in St Patrick's novena. The World meeting of Families has been a constant effort which will culminate in the Pope's visit in August.

In the coming months our focus will be looking at the Alpha programme for Adult Faith Development and in September recruitment of helpers into the many programmes and organisation that run in the parish.

You can find us on the parish website www.newryparish.org

THANKS TO BISHOP JOHN MCAREAVEY

Bishop John has left the diocese in difficult circumstances but it would be remiss of us not to acknowledge the many good things he contributed to our parish, seen and unseen. Apart from all the administrative tasks he led us on all the important liturgical occasions. We saw him most mornings at the 8.30 Mass and at 10.00 Sunday Mass in the cathedral where his homilies, based on his wide knowledge of the Bible, were thought provoking and great at explaining the readings of the day. We wish him well in whatever the future holds for him.

LECTIO DIVINA

The Lectio Divina sessions in the parish centre continue every Tuesday and Thursday after the 10.30 Mass. Lectio is an opportunity to read and comment on the Gospel of the week in the company of a small group, usually no greater than ten or twelve. You don't have to speak but you will soon feel at home. The Word is read and quietly meditated on twice before an open discussion. It is amazing how a familiar reading presents varied such insights by each person and everyone is enriched by the contribution of the others. These sessions bring the Gospel alive in our time.

The new Lectio Centre at St Catherine's is getting well established. We congratulate the volunteers there on the recent visit of the Dominican Master General, Fr Bruno Caldoré OP, who was pleased with their work. Lectio groups in both centres are always pleased to welcome new members.



RELIC OF ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA

After its journey around Ireland the first class relic of St Teresa of Calcutta has found a home in Newry Cathedral. The beautiful shrine in which it is housed was designed by Oliver Matthews and made by his co-workers in the workshop in Felix O'Hare's. It fits perfectly into its niche in the Cathedral. We are grateful to the Knights of Columbanus for their sponsorship of this event and of the relic coming to Newry. May St Teresa bring a blessing on us.

BAPTISM MASS

Each year the Baptism Team, which does wonderful work in the parish preparing parents for the Baptism of their children and ensuring that the ceremonies go off successfully, organises a Mass in St Brigid's Church to bring all the newly baptised and their parents together with the priests of the parish. It is a joyful occasion.

The work of this team is very rewarding. Would you consider joining it?



ST PATRICK'S NOVENA

Although it was a couple of months ago, the St Patrick's Novena was such a special event that it deserves being remembered in the newsletter. The primary schools of the parish gave their hearts and souls to the project and the results were very inspiring. Each school took an aspect of St Patrick's life and put its own stamp on the presentation which took place at the Novena Mass each evening. The ingenuity and enthusiasm of the teachers and children was amazing and they brought St Patrick alive as they explored Patrick's life and work, and the impact that it still has throughout the world. We followed Patrick as a slave and prisoner, a leader, an example for us today. We learned how he shared his faith and made disciples and how he used the shamrock to teach us about the Trinity. The support that was given to each event by their parents and grandparents as well as other parishioners was heart-warming.





AMORIS LAETITIA

At the core of the WOMF activities is Pope Francis's book "The Joy of Love". A series of six discussions with video on themes from the book was held in the parish centre during Lent. This provided an opportunity for parishioners to take a serious look at the book and talk through what Pope Francis is telling us about living life as family in our modern world.

In this book Pope Francis summarises his learning from the two synods on family life held in Rome in the last couple of years. It is the basis of the congress of the World Meeting in Dublin, where the themes of each chapter will be explored by experts from around the world. Those of us with families, and it is hard to think of a person who hasn't got family ties, will find it an interesting read. It is a valuable update on our dimly remembered school learning, and it addresses many of the challenges of modern living across the world. The book is available in the Veritas bookshop for a few pounds or can be downloaded for free from the Vatican website or from the WOMF website. Our church, a family of families, is greatly enriched by the care and attention Pope Francis has given this subject matter.

PAPAL VISIT

The World Meeting of Families team has been active every month of the last year promoting the Congress, the book Amoris Laetitia, the visit of the icon, church and school events and now they can promote the Papal visit which is really going to happen after all the speculation. It is a great honour for the whole Irish church. The Papal visit has two public events; The Festival of Families and the Papal Mass.

The Festival of Families will take place in Croke Park on Saturday 25th August and is a ticket only event. The Pope will attend and hear testimonies of family life from around Ireland and the World. Each parish in Ireland has an opportunity to send a family to represent the parish at this gathering.

The Papal Mass will be in the Phoenix Park on Sunday August 26.

Tickets for the WOMOF congress will be held in the RDS They can be booked online now. A ticket for the congress carries with it a ticket for the two Papal events. Tickets can be booked through www.worldmeeting2018.ie where you can find out about the interesting program that has been arranged. The tickets for the papal mass are free and will be available soon. But it is essential to book. If you turn up without a



WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

ticket at any event, there are security reasons. The civil authorities insist on this. It has been more than the last Papal visit and the regulations have changed for various considerations as well as security. This means that organising large events is a much regulated affair. The RDS in Phoenix Park will cater for 600,000 people and we have to walk up to 3 km to the

their fitness to attend the event. All participants will have to be entered into a security system at the time of booking. There are separate disembarkation points for pilgrims escorted by a singing group. Remember Dublin is a relatively small city for such a big event, so registration is essential to avoid disappointment.



MEETING OF FAMILIES

There will be no entry for authorities in Dublin nearly 40 years since times, rules and changed. Security Health and Safety large crowds is now a mass in Phoenix people. Pilgrims will and from the arena, that is about an hour of a walk by a healthy person. Disabled people who are totally supported by their family group will travel with their family group. Disabled people supported by a single carer will need documentation of their disability and of event. These details into the ticketing booking. There will be n points, local dation for disabled e carer.

atively small city for ister early to avoid

THE PARISH PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

The first event arranged by the parish team involved in preparing for the WMOF was part of the Advent Sunday evening devotions which was followed by the Christmas distribution of cards and children’s materials. The team also arranged for copies of the WMOF prayer to be provided in the churches and for it to be said at all the Masses. Then the World Meeting of Families icon visited Dromore diocese for ten days. It was on public display in the cathedral for seven days before moving up to St Peter’s church in Lurgan. In that time hundreds of parishioners came to admire the art itself. The icon is a very beautiful piece of art, ‘written’ in prayer and contemplation. The reproductions do not do it justice. They came to pray for their families and present petitions. These petitions will prayed about by the enclosed religious orders of Ireland throughout the year and finally by the Pope at the Festival of Families celebration in Dublin in August. One special event held while the icon was in the Cathedral was a Mass attended by all the sporting groups in the parish. The icon is still travelling the dioceses of Ireland but has been to Rome where Pope Francis admired it in the presence of the artist.

Valentine’s Day was marked with cards and coupons, which couples of all ages could use to express their commitment to their partner. This is the second year that the WMOF have provided this material. Valentine’s day itself fell on Ash Wednesday but the sentiments are timeless and the coupons are token of affection that are valid on every day of the year. That week was very busy as it also embraced Ash Wednesday and St Valentine’s day, ashes, hearts and family prayer all in the same few days.

The Talk Family events provided an opportunity to examine the contents of the “Amoris Laetitia” book through video and conversation. Those who attended the six session in Lent found them an enriching experience.

The distribution of Easter Water to the families of parish is a tradition in Ireland. This year the bottles carried the World Meeting of Families logo and brought an added significance to this long standing tradition. It is a symbol of Resurrection, spring and new life brought into our homes.

LAUNCHING THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES CONGRESS IN NEWRY

Not everyone can attend the congress in Dublin, so on Tuesday 21st August every diocese around Ireland will hold an evening service to launch the congress and the Papal visit. This will be an opportunity for those of us not attending in Dublin to participate in the event. A special service has been devised so that we can all share in the same experience and pray for the success of the congress. So pencil the date in your diaries.

VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of volunteers are needed to assist in the running of the events in Dublin, especially the event in Phoenix Park which is a massive space to administer. Volunteers will receive training and can sign up on the WMOF website www.worldmeeting2018.ie Can you or someone in your family spare a day to help? This year 2018 like 1979 will be a big year for Catholics in Ireland.

JPII AWARDS 2018

The Pope John Paul II Award presentations took place on 21st March in St Teresa's Church Banbridge. Pictured above are young people from Newry Parish who completed their Award with their leader Noel Rowntree. Also include is Colin Bell from the Kevin Bell Foundation Trust who presented the Awards. We congratulate them all on their achievement.



THE JOHN PAUL II PAPAL AWARD 2018



Grainne Kearney received the Papal Award at this year's Award Ceremony - Since completing the John Paul II Award, Grainne has embraced the Spirit of the Award through her continued commitment to Parish and Diocesan Ministries.

In the Cathedral Parish she is a minister of the Eucharist and this past year she helped mentor the new participants of the Pope John Paul II Award.

She is currently working with the Diocesan Youth Committee as a volunteer, facilitating Summer Camps as a Leader. In October Grainne travelled to Rome as part of a Diocesan and National Pilgrimage to represent the Award. Following their Pilgrimage the group were honoured with the opportunity to sing for the RTE Mass. Grainne and Ciara Kelly led the congregation in the Psalm. This was a great privilege for all. Grainne in receiving her Award was a very worth recipient.

ASSOCIATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBANUS

The Associate Knights of Columbanus are an active group among the young people of the parish. They continue their project 'Rekindling the Faith', providing Kindle computers to people who are not able because of age or disability to attend services and who are thus enabled to partake in them through the webcam. To raise much needed funds for this endeavour they recently held a coffee morning in the Parish Centre. It would be good if parishioners supported them in this good work.

MORNING COFFEE

Their other important project was the organisation of a special Mass to pray for students who are undertaking important examinations at this time of year. Fr Gerard Magee, chaplain of Queens University was the celebrant at the Mass and in his homily he had many useful things to say both to the students and their families. At the Mass the Student Candle, which will burn in the Cathedral for the duration of the exam season was inaugurated. It is a reminder to parishioners to pray for these students.



NIGHT FEVER HITS THE PARISH



During the visit of the Icon of the World Meeting of Families the youth of the parish organised Night Fever in the Cathedral. It was well supported. Night Fever is our version of street-evangelism, which was introduced by the Emmanuel Team when they visited the parish two years ago.

The JP2 youth and their leaders congregate on the steps and street outside the cathedral on an afternoon or evening and invite passers-by to take a candle and go inside and say a prayer. As you can see from the picture many people visited the Cathedral and lit candles. Hundreds of candles were used and there was a steady flow of activity all afternoon.

CONTACT US TODAY



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@NEWRYCATHEDRAL



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
/NEWRYCATHEDRAL

YOUTH EVENTS OVER THE SUMMER

Sunday 10 June - Coffee morning and Cake Sale - 9 am until 1 pm.

Tuesday 19 - 20 June - We welcome young people (16 years plus - up to 20 ish!) to climb Croagh Patrick and visit Knock.

Monday 23 July to Friday 27 July - Parish Summer Scheme for Children to be held in the Parish Centre.

July - Summer Camp each week for teenagers - based at YMCA Newcastle Using the experience of out-door recreational activities, art, music and much more, young people make new friends, grow in faith and have fun.

August 25 and 26 - World Meeting of Families. Plans are under way through the Diocesan office to bring past and present JP11 participants to help with events. Any enquiries contact Frances on 028 30833898

EASTER IN THE PARISH

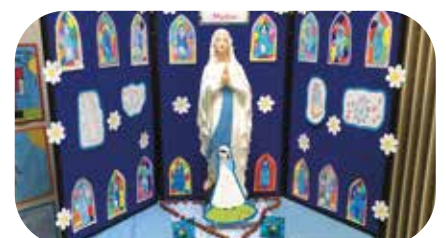
The celebration of the Paschal mystery began with the Chrism Mass which was Bishop Boyce's first engagement with the diocese. It is an important event in the church year when the Bishop and the priests of his diocese renew their commitment to their ordination vows and the oils which will be used in the administration of the sacraments are blessed. At the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, local families (parents and children) took part in the washing of the feet in recognition of the World Meeting of Families. There were many people at the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday – two sessions in the Cathedral and one in the Dominican Church. Bishop Phillip presided at the Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and the veneration of the cross.

At the Easter vigil two people received the sacrament of confirmation as part of the celebration. Adult conversion is an important facet of the Church's mission and is rightly celebrated in the Easter ceremonies.



MAY ALTARS

As part of the preparation for the World Meeting of Families, each of the Primary schools has prepared a May Altar. Each school family will be praying for all families and for the success of the World Meeting.



STATEMENT FROM CANON FRANCIS BROWN

I have been informed by Bishop Philip Boyce, the Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese, that an allegation of an historic nature has been made against me. The details of the allegation have not so far been made known to either myself or the Diocese
The complaint has been made recently and I understand that some time is required to have it investigated.
Naturally, I have agreed therefore to step aside from my role as Administrator of the Parish for the time being to allow the investigation to be completed.
In accordance with the agreed protocol I shall not be involved in ministry during that period of time.
I wish to reassure all of my parishioners, my fellow priests, deacon and religious that I look forward to a thorough and expeditious examination of this matter and I expect to return to my work in the parish in the near future.
I hope that you will remember me in your thoughts and prayers in the weeks ahead and I look forward to returning soon to again serve you in the Parish of Newry.

WE ASSURE CANON FRANCIS OF OUR PRAYERS AND GOOD WISHES AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME

In this newsletter you read about some of the more noteworthy events that have happened in our parish over the past few months. They are highlights, but it is important to remember that there are people working away voluntarily in many aspects of parish life to make things better for us all and to assist the priests of the parish. We need many more people doing this. Have you ever thought of what you might contribute to making the parish a more vibrant and welcoming community?

The World Meeting of Families, and the visit of Pope Francis, is coming up in August. This is a wonderful honour for the Irish church in which we hope that many members of our parish will participate. The organisers have just announced that they have enlisted volunteer number 2500 but they still need many more people to help to make the event a resounding success. Could you be a volunteer?

Nearer home we have things coming up which we hope you will support: the Corpus Christi procession and the annual Mass at the Mass Rock. Details of these events are on this page of the newsletter.

Many of our fellow parishioners are in the throes of the examination season at the minute. Remember them and your families in their prayers.
As the school year winds down and people are looking forward to holidays, we wish you every blessing over the summer – if it ever comes!

HYMN SHEETS

Congregational singing is an important part of the liturgy. St Augustine has said that those who sing pray twice. In order to help people along hymn sheets are now provided at the church doors. Please remember to take one when you come to Mass and do join in – heartily! A good start has been made but it takes time to get everyone enthused.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

The Corpus Christi procession this year will be on 3 June. It will start at St Catherine's Church, go along Patrick Street into Monaghan Street, then across the bridge into Hill Street and on to the Cathedral. We hope that it will be well supported especially by the families of children who have made their First Communion or been confirmed this year.

MASS ROCK SUNDAY

The annual celebration at the Mass Rock in Ballyholland will take place on 24 June. We are fortunate in Newry to have such an easily accessible reminder of the sacrifices our ancestors made to hold on to their Catholic Faith and to hand it on to us. Please support this event. There is a very interesting website <https://ahrc.ukri.org/research/readwatchlisten/features/mass-rocks/> about research that is going on to catalogue all the Mass Rocks in Ireland. Most people associate them with the Penal Laws. Some don't notice them at all. But, as an AHRC-funded project has shown, Catholic Mass Rocks are an important and emotive emblem of Irish Catholic history.

TOURS OF THE CATHEDRAL

Following the interest shown in the guided tours of the Cathedral over the past five years there will be a further series of guided tours of the Cathedral on the following dates:

Wednesday 30th May 2018 – 7.00pm
Wednesday 27th June 2018 – 2.00pm:

Tuesday 10th July 2018 – 2.00pm
Wednesday 25th July 2018 – 7pm
Wednesday – 29th August 2018 – 7.00pm

Each tour will take approximately 90 minutes. Please meet at the main door of the Cathedral. You will hear the story of the building of the Cathedral, 1825-1829, and of the later extensions. The history of its stained glass, marble altars, sculptures and magnificent mosaics will also be explained. There is no charge for these tours.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW TOUR

Wednesday 8th August 2018 – 7.00pm: Explore the magnificent treasure-trove of stained glass windows in Newry Cathedral. View windows made by master craftsmen, Mayer of Munich and Hardman of Manchester, that are more than one hundred years old. Learn about the scenes depicted in each window. There is no charge for these tours.

