

# Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 6 September 2020

### Our common home

Today we mark the first Sunday of the Season of Creation 2020, which runs from 1 September to 4 October. This special season in the church calendar celebrates the joy of creation, while encouraging awareness of initiatives to protect the natural environment.

We are reminded during this time of our duty to care for what Pope Francis calls ‘our common home’. When we hear the word ‘home’, we tend to think of the immediate place where we live and the people we share it with – our house or living space and our immediate family, neighbours and community. Each of us lives within a particular web of relationships that we call home. But we must be conscious too that we live in a wider relationship with the earth and with all of creation. We all live in a common home, and we all must care for it, and for each other.

Our gospel today sees Jesus offer some advice about living in community. He first acknowledges that communities are far from perfect. We all struggle with our relationships and duties. But he makes one thing clear: in a community, we all have a responsibility to each other and to work to build harmony.

This responsibility extends beyond our immediate environment to our world. In this Season of Creation, we remember in particular those across the world who are suffering as a result of environmental damage. The way we live on this earth has consequences for the world and its people, and indeed for future generations. Over the next few weeks, let us consider how we might make some changes that reflect our care for others and for our common home.

*‘We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family.’*  
(Pope Francis, Laudato Si’)

*Triona Doherty*

### Announcements

**Last week’s collection amounted** to £1115.00. Thank you.

*Many Thanks to all those who have made anonymous donations recently.*

***Parishioners may still leave their contributions at the Parochial House during this time of uncertainty. Please use the letterbox. Cheques should be made payable to Sion Mills Parish. We appreciate your understanding in this matter and your continued support.***

### Masses for the coming Week

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 10.00am. There will not be Mass on a Wednesday.  
Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm; Sunday: 9.00am & 11.00am

## **May they Rest in Peace**

### *Deaths*

Benigna (Ben) Friel, 34 Ballycolman Road  
Sonny Reid, Scotland formerly Victoria Bridge

Catherine Gibson, Melmount Manor  
Margaret Doherty, Derry

### *Anniversaries*

Jane Doherty  
Arthur O’Kane  
Seamus Gallagher  
Liam Corry

Paddi Ann Condron  
Tony Callaghan  
Gerard Maguire

Paddy Connolly  
Penny Galloway  
Charlie Logue

## **Church Opening Times**

The Church will open on Monday - Friday at 9.30am and close at 5.00pm. On Saturday the church will open at 11.00am and close at 6.30pm. On a Sunday the Church will open at 8.00am and close at 5.00pm. This is to facilitate cleaning and sanitising.

## **Baptisms**

To arrange Baptisms please telephone the Parochial House on 028 81658264.

## **Dates for First Holy Communion**

Children from our P.4 classes were due to make their First Holy Communion on 9 May 2020 but because of Covid-19 this had to be postponed. These children will now make their First Holy Communion in St. Theresa’s Church, Sion Mills on the following dates:

***St. Eugene’s Primary School*** – Saturday 26 September at 11.00am.

***St. Theresa’s Primary School*** – Saturday 3 October at 11.00am.

***Sion Primary School*** – Saturday 17 October at 11.00am.

**Anam Cara Donegal**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thursday 10 September at 7.20pm in the Radisson Blu, Letterkenny. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstance of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. For more information telephone 02895213120 or see [anamcara.ie](http://anamcara.ie).

**Sacred Heart Messenger:** The September digital version of the Messenger will be the last to be offered free of charge to non-subscribers. From October the digital version will only be available to subscribers. The cost is €15.00. We hope you will decide to subscribe if you are not currently a subscriber. The September version can be viewed on

[https://issuu.com/messengerpublications/docs/messenger\\_september](https://issuu.com/messengerpublications/docs/messenger_september).

**National Grandparents Pilgrimage** on Sunday 13 September broadcast live from Knock Basilica at 3.00pm. This year due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Grandparents Pilgrimage will take place online. We invite all children to send a prayer and a hug to their grandparents. We invite Grandparents and their families everywhere to join us in praying for, and with, each other. Please join us online at [www.knockshrine.ie/watch](http://www.knockshrine.ie/watch).