

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 September 2020

Infinitely loved

The parable of the unforgiving servant highlights the generous love of God and sets a blueprint for our treatment of others. The master who cancels the servant's large debt does so out of compassion, and the servant is grateful – but not so grateful that he is willing to take pity on a fellow servant who owes him just a small amount. It seems he has learnt nothing; he has neither appreciated the gift he has been given, nor is he willing to pass it on to others.

We are each loved infinitely by God. He has provided us with every good thing, and we are expected to live accordingly. Because we have been loved, we must love. In this Season of Creation we focus in particular on our relationship with creation. We have been gifted with this wonderful world, with all its beauty and natural resources. Yet in so many ways, we have failed to appreciate this gift. We depend entirely on the earth's resources, yet instead of respecting them we have plundered them, causing great harm to the earth and its inhabitants. We have built comfortable and cheap lifestyles at the expense of the world's poorest people. If we carry on this way, there will be no gift to pass to future generations. We are like the servant in the gospel – taking, but giving nothing in return.

Today, we are called to act as people who are loved infinitely by God. All of creation speaks of God's love for us. We are deeply connected with the earth and all of its people. We must live a life which is not centred exclusively on ourselves, but on the needs of others.

*'Creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion.
(Pope Francis, Laudato Si')*
Triona Doherty

Announcements

Last week's collection amounted to £1405.00. Thank you.

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

We welcome into God's Family through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Oscar John McCauley

Molly Erin Millar

May they Rest in Peace

Deaths

James Foley, 4 Cluney Gardens

Mena Brown, St. Johnston

Anniversaries

Willie Doyle

Paddy Conway

Mary Conway

Joe McFadden

Margaret McFadden

Lisa McSorley

Elizabeth Molloy

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

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.

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.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage today 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.

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.

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living: Drumalis, Larne – commencing Monday 14 September (online by Zoom). Due to the success of last year's course, applications are now being accepted for the new intake of this one-year programme for those who want a closer relationship with God. The Growth in '*Prayer and Reflective Living*' course aims to give you the tools and space to become attuned to God's voice in the midst of the clamour. Taking place over Monday evenings from 7.00pm – 9.30pm by Zoom. When circumstances permit, the option to take part in the Drumalis Centre will also be available. For more information telephone 02828276455/02828272196 (Monday

– Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm) or email maura@drumalis.co.uk. Details are also available on www.drumalis.co.uk.