

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 September 2020

Good intentions

During the recent 'lockdown' due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people found themselves turning to nature. There was a surge of interest in gardening. We tended flower to beds, planted seeds, started herb gardens. Lots of people commented that they noticed the birds singing for the first time in years. In the midst of challenging times, we found ourselves tuning in to the wonder of God's creation all around us.

As life begins to return to 'normal', can we retain this sense of wonder and awe? In this Season of Creation, we are invited to discover the presence of God in creation, to give thanks for the gift of the earth, and to change our ways so that we may live in harmony with creation. This requires us to be constantly conscious of how we are living – to not just have good intentions but to follow through in our actions.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons who are asked to go and work in their father's vineyard. The first son initially refuses, but then thinks better of it and gets to work. While the second son has good intentions, he doesn't follow through. When it comes to caring for the earth, good intentions are not enough. Our actions matter. We may have been careless in the past but change of heart is happening, right across our society. It all starts with our actions, as individuals and communities. As we emerge from a challenging few months, let us use the Season of Creation to reflect on how we can do better – to reconnect with God's beautiful creation and do all we can to love and preserve it.

'Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.' (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*)

Triona Doherty

Announcements

Last week's collection amounted to £1015.00. 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.

May they Rest in Peace

Deaths

Alice O'Neill, 74 Laurel Drive

Jim Doherty, 72 Bridge Street

Melia McNally, Yorkshire

Eugene McGarrigle, 28A Meetinghouse Street

Billy Given, 7 Lismore Park

Margaret Chambers, Castlefin

Anniversaries

Bishop Seamus Hegarty

Billy McNally

May Arnold

Eugene Hegarty

Leo McLaughlin

Noel McBride

Helen McGonagle

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.

First Holy Communion

On Saturday 3 October at 11.00am the children from St. Theresa's Primary School, who were due to make their First Holy Communion on 9 May 2020, will receive Holy Communion for the first time in St. Theresa's Church, Sion Mills. The children from *Sion Primary School* will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17 October at 11.00am.

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.

Totus Tuus Magazine

Due to the Covid-19 Outbreak, Totus Tuus magazine is now being delivered straight to your door. If you would like to start receiving Totus Tuus to your home please telephone Fiona on 00353 86 8760058.

The Net

The September edition of 'The Net' is available online at www.derrydiocese.org. This month there is a feature 'Remembering Bishop Lagan' and a 'Remembering John Hume' article.

Foyle Hospice Charity Shops

Foyle Hospice is currently recruiting volunteers in our charity shops. In particular: StrabaneShop, Waterloo Place Shop and Limavady Shop. Do you have a few hours to spare a week? Would you like to join our fantastic team of volunteers? Meet new friends? Learn new skills? And most importantly have fun while helping and supporting your local hospice. If this is something that would interest you, please contact Rachael Osbourne, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Foyle Hospice, 61 Culmore Road. Telephone 71351010 or email rachael@foylehospice.com.