



Matthew is writing for a community of mainly Jewish Christians: he therefore presents Jesus and his teachings clearly against the background of their Jewish tradition.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear Jesus preparing his disciples for his leaving them to return to the Father. This will enable them to enter into permanent communion with God. However, two of the disciples, Thomas and Philip, misunderstand his teaching, and this allows the evangelist to make it clearer. The only way to the Father is through Jesus. Jesus and the Father are so closely identified that to have seen Jesus is to have experienced the Father: the signs that Jesus worked have revealed the Father's glory to those who have been open to understanding them.

Jesus answers Thomas' objection about not knowing Jesus' destination – or perhaps destiny – so how can they know the way: he tells him that he is the Way; this is because he is the truth and the life – he is himself the ultimate Word, the saving revelation of God through whom believers will come to the Father and be one with God. ■

REFLECT

We are nearing the end of the Easter season, and our Gospel reading today sounds a warning bell that Jesus' departure is not far off. In the Gospel of John, his being lifted up will take place on the cross, but in our liturgical calendar, we mark this by the feast of the Ascension. In this section, Jesus is concerned about strengthening the faith of his disciples.

We might consider today the person of Philip. We came across him earlier in John's account of the story of Jesus at the feeding of the five thousand, and the meaning of that sign is that Jesus can satisfy the deepest needs and longings of the human spirit. Philip remarked then that 200 denarii's worth of bread would not satisfy the needs of the crowd. When he says to Jesus, "let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied," he is not saying that their curiosity or scepticism will be answered, but is asking that their deepest needs as human beings be fulfilled.

The Gospel of John is at the same time inspiring and challenging. When we read the Synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, we can come to the conclusion that being a disciple of Jesus is a matter of putting his teachings into practice. The Fourth Gospel is, in a sense, much more demanding. The various characters we come across, such as in today's extract, Thomas and Philip, are rather types of person than historical individuals: they represent different kinds of people and varying points of view. There is one individual who remains, significantly, anonymous and who stands for every disciple: that one is identified as the disciple Jesus loved; we might note that he is not called the disciple who loved Jesus. That person stands for each one of us, and in our reading today, Jesus tells us that he is preparing a place for us, where we will be in complete communion with him. What is required of us is faith, trust and commitment: in other words, love. ■

LEARN

The Gospel of John presents a completely different picture of Jesus and his ministry from that of the accounts of Mark, Matthew and Luke.

The mother of Jesus and the 'Beloved Disciple' are never identified as 'Mary' and 'John'.

They are presented at the cross as representative figures, the mother standing for the community, the unnamed disciple for the individual follower of Jesus.

DO

As you walk along the street, think about Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life.



SAY

The word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted

(Psalm 32:4)

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

Broadcast Masses on Facebook

Starting on Sunday 10 May, mass will be broadcast live on our Facebook page at 9.45 (Ballela) and 11.00 (Dromore) – Join us!
(www.facebook.com/stcolmans)

Holy Water blessed at the Easter ceremonies is available in barrels at the doors of both churches for you to fill your own bottles

Anniversaries will continue to be offered at the Sunday and private weekday masses (Tues, Thurs and Fri).

Recently deceased

Sarah Tugwell (néé McCrory)

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 10– James, Rose & John Savage, Loughinisland

Sun 17– Myrtle McCusker

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 10 – Gerald & Sarah Mackin, Patsy & Kitty Mackin

Sun 17 – Richard & Nan Catney

First Communion and Confirmation

Archbishop Eamon has confirmed that First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation celebrations are postponed until a safe time in the future – now likely to be in the new academic year.

Virtual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

As we are unable to visit Lourdes in May this year, the diocesan Lourdes Committee has developed a virtual programme to help those who wish to join in prayer through the internet during the pilgrimage dates. We welcome all from the diocese of Dromore and further afield to join us in prayer, seeking God's merciful healing of body and soul through the intercession of Our Lady and St Bernadette. Please share this information assisted pilgrims and parishioners who may have planned to travel with us this year.

See next page for the details of the programme of events available **online from Lurgan parish**.

10th May 2020

Please note that the parish churches are closed in accordance with statutory regulations

The following actions will be taken in this parish:

- The churches are closed to the public (except for funerals).
- All celebrations (except funerals) are suspended.
- You can participate online in the celebration of Mass from several local churches via: www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/northern-ireland
- The parish office is closed but we will still respond to phone calls.

Trócaire Boxes- UPDATE

While we are facing challenging times, we remember those communities across the world that are supported by Trócaire. Trócaire needs our help more than ever. Trócaire advises that parishioners donate online at <https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation>

In this way vital donations will be received immediately and dispersed by Trócaire to where the money is most needed in the fight against Covid-19.

If you have not done so, please use this online facility to pass on the money collected in your Trocaire box. We are looking at ways to assist those unable to donate online to pass on the donations by Pentecost.

Donating to the parish

The current health crisis is having a serious impact on donations to many charities. The Diocese has set up an online donation facility on the home page of the diocesan website (www.dromorediocese.com) where you can donate to this parish or to clergy support, once or on a monthly basis.

In line with the government's 'Stay at Home' and social distancing policies, parish envelopes will not be collected at this time. Parishioners who choose to use their weekly envelopes as normal, should retain their envelopes and, once Government policy allows, the parish will arrange to safely collect them.

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Dromore Diocesan Lourdes Virtual Ceremonies: 12th – 17th May 2020

Tue 12th May @ 7pm - Opening Mass of Our Lady & rosary. Remembrance of deceased workers and pilgrims. - <https://www.lurganparish.com/stpeters-webcam/>

Wed 13th May @ 7pm - Healing service (inc. penitential theme and prayer for sick). - <https://www.lurganparish.com/stpauls-webcam/>

Thu 14th May @ 7pm - Holy Hour with Adoration, rosary, meditation on the Lourdes theme 'I Am the Immaculate Conception'. - <https://www.lurganparish.com/stpauls-webcam/>

Fri 15th May @ 7pm - Mass of the Sick (inc. blessing for children) & Stations of the Resurrection. - <https://www.lurganparish.com/stpeters-webcam/>

Sat 16th May @ 7pm - Sunday Vigil Mass & candlelight rosary. - <https://www.lurganparish.com/stpauls-webcam/>

Sun 17th May @ 10am - Closing (Sunday) Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Martin. - <https://www.lurganparish.com/stpeters-webcam/>

Other Lourdes activities via the Lourdes website: -

Daily at 2pm the Rosary is said at the grotto in English - <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/tv-lourdes/>

Light a candle in Lourdes - <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/cierge-en-ligne/>

Send a petition to Lourdes - <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/intention-priere/>



**COVID-19
COUPLES & RELATIONSHIPS
SUPPORT LINE**



**IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO AN
EXPERIENCED COUPLES &
RELATIONSHIPS COUNSELLOR
DURING THIS TIME OF
UNPRECEDENTED STRESS AND
PRESSURE ON FAMILY LIFE...**

Contact:

028 9568 0151 003531 531 3331

9.00 am - 8.00 pm, Monday to Friday

All calls charged at local rate.

Community response to Coronavirus

Via Wings is offering its services to coordinate the provision of food bags to those who may become isolated and vulnerable during this Emergency. We are asked to help resource Via Wings by making donations of food either at its premises in Princes St, Dromore or in collection points in local shops (Vivo Essential, Eurospar, Tesco, Supervalu, Lidl). Please consider a donation when you are shopping. Please provide us with details of anyone whom you consider needs support by phoning the parish office with details.

St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh to present Celebration of Gratitude and Hope

In response to the Covid – 19 Pandemic, Archbishop Eamon Martin will lead a special Celebration of Gratitude and Hope in St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Armagh, on Sunday 10th May at 7.30pm. He will be joined on the evening by well known and talented singers Karl McGuckin and Malachi Cush. It promises to be a very special celebration which will be streamed live on St Patrick's Cathedral Webcam which can be accessed at www.armaghparish.net and also on the Archdiocese of Armagh Facebook Page.

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Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020

The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the *Rosary* at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow. I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the *Rosary*, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you.

FRANCIS

Second Prayer

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the

families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.

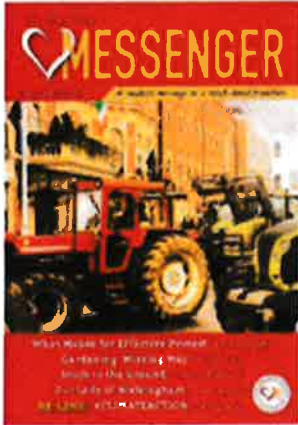
Amen.

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A combination of 'cocooning' and the travel restrictions currently in place all around the country mean that many readers of The Sacred Heart Messenger cannot access their monthly 'little red book'.

Therefore, during this coronavirus crisis we are delighted to make the digital edition of The Messenger available **FREE OF CHARGE** until we return to normal delivery

Please send your email request to:

c.henry@messenger.ie

and we will send you a link to view The Messenger on your laptop, tablet or mobile phone.

Do you need financial or practical assistance or even a friendly chat?

The St. Vincent De Paul Society is here to help. You can contact us through our helpline number: 07738838187

ARCHBISHOP EAMON MARTIN
WITH KARL MCGUCKIN & MALACHI CUSH
PRESENT AN EVENING OF

GRATITUDE
&
HOPE

St. Patrick's Cathedral,
Armagh. Sunday 10th May,
7.30 pm

