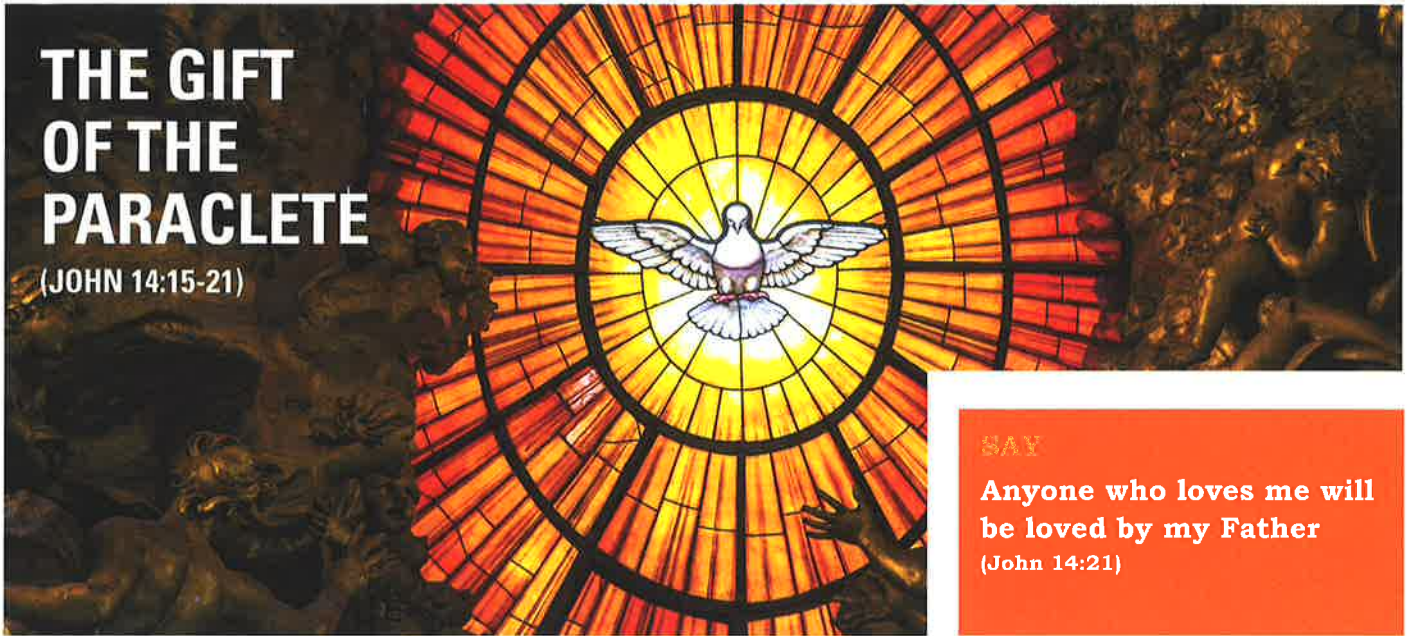


THE GIFT OF THE PARACLETE

(JOHN 14:15-21)



Detail from the Throne of St Peter in Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome

Our Gospel passage today focuses on Jesus' imminent departure. However, the end of his physical presence will not mean the conclusion of his being with his disciples.

What Jesus has done for his followers, praying for them and revealing the Father, will continue through the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, who will be given as part of Jesus' being glorified at his hour. The Spirit will communicate truth, and thus be the ongoing presence of God in the world. Jesus' leaving should therefore not be a source of sorrow or grief, but rather the beginning of a new age which will be marked by the gift of the Paraclete: by love, a theme which runs right through our Gospel extract; this will be shown in the keeping of Jesus' commandments and the promise of a future time when the Son and the Father will dwell with the disciples.

The followers of Jesus will experience this ongoing presence within the worshipping community, especially in the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. Those who believe, love and keep the commandments of Jesus will experience the ongoing presence of Jesus, who is absent, through the presence within and among them of the Paraclete. ■

REFLECT

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? All of us would, no doubt, answer such a question with a resounding Yes! We believe in the third person of the Blessed Trinity. Each time we recite the Creed, we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit". But if someone asks us if we believe in the Holy Spirit as something (or someone) real in our everyday lives, our reply might be rather less certain. And if the question were put in such a way that we had to consider the Spirit as the ongoing presence of Jesus in our lives as individual disciples and in the community

of the church, the people of God, then we might have to ask for a little time to consider an angle which we might well not have thought of properly.

The Gospel of John may well appear attractive and spiritual, but it is no less demanding on our beliefs. It challenges our religious outlook in a way that the Synoptic Gospels perhaps do not. It emphasises our personal relationship with Jesus and does not allow us the escape route of activism, where we could think that being a disciple is primarily a matter of doing, of performing good

SAY

Anyone who loves me will be loved by my Father
(John 14:21)

LEARN

The Paraclete/Advocate is John's name for the Holy Spirit.

The handing over of the Spirit is the final act in the hour of Jesus' glorification.

The Paraclete continues Jesus' revealing presence and work in the world.

DO

Think about the penance you decided to practise during Lent: did it bring you closer to Jesus? If it proved to be an endurance test, then consider what might be more beneficial to you spiritually.

works of one sort or another, or of observing certain moral norms. Jesus promises another Advocate, another Paraclete, who will perpetuate Jesus' presence in the world. The Paraclete will unfold to later generations the riches of Jesus' teaching. If we believe, love and keep Jesus' commandments, then we will experience the presence of the absent Jesus through the presence of the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit. Do you believe this? Does it seem too good to be true? Or are you perhaps afraid of the consequences for your daily life? Would that bring Jesus rather too close? ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Sixth 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

Patrick Kelly (Beechgrove, Dromore)

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 17– Myrtle McCusker

Jimmy Cosgrave

Sun 24 – Johnnie Doyle

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 17 – Richard & Nan Catney

James & Sally Cunningham

Month's mind for Alice Morgan, Betty McClure, Michael Duggan

Sun 24 – Jack & Jim Moreland

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

The diocesan virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage ends on Sunday with mass from St Peter's church, Lurgan. 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.

Sun 17th May @ 10am - Closing (Sunday) Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Martin.-

<https://www.lurganparish.com/stpeters-webcam/>

17th 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>

If you have not done so, please use this online facility to pass on the money collected in your Trocaire box.

If you are unable to donate online, please contact the parochial house for assistance in passing the money to Trocaire.

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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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/>



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

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin



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.

Laudato Si' Week

Next week, 16-24 May, is Laudato Si' Week, marking the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home. The theme of Laudato Si' Week 2020 is “everything is connected.” Pope Francis has invited Catholics around the world to join Laudato Si' Week, and reflect on our common home. Sunday, 24 May is a designated day of prayer for the environment worldwide. For more information on Laudato Si' Week 2020, visit laudatosiweek.org.



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First Prayer

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the Roman people”,
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

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.

