

Granaghan Parish Newsletter

The Feast of All Saints Day

1st November 2020

Reflection on today's Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12

How happy are the poor in spirit

Today's Gospel is the profoundly beautiful expression of Jesus' core teaching. If we are true disciples of the Son of God and our lives flow from his central tenet of love, then no matter how much we suffer on earth, all peace, comfort, joy and consolation shall be ours when we are finally embraced by his Father. Our tears shall be wiped lovingly away; our wounds shall be healed; justice shall be ours; peace and joy shall be our rewards. What the Beatitudes reveal in today's Gospel is a world of extraordinary grace and generosity for those who, despite all provocation, walk only on the path of love.

The first Beatitude, 'How happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven,' refers to those who empty themselves in order to receive Christ's teaching; it refers to those who are totally open and receptive to the Holy Spirit of true enlightenment. The Christian mystic, Thomas Merton, writes, "At the centre of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God." It is through that God-owned spark at the centre of our being that we are able to transcend the limitations of our finite selves and enter the bigger picture. It is then that the rest of the Beatitudes offer themselves to us and wrap us warmly in their comforting embrace.

Thanks be to God.

MASSES

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER - ALL SAINTS DAY

3PM SERVICE TO DEDICATE NOVEMBER AS A MONTH OF PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE FOR THE DEAD AND THE BEREAVED.

MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER - ALL SOULS DAY

MASS AT 10AM & 7.30PM

BAPTISM

We welcome as a member of God's family: **SEAN JAMES MCKENNA**

DEATH

We offer our sincere sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of:

JOSIE MCFLYNN. May she rest in peace.

Feast of All Saints – Sunday, 1st November 2020

You are invited to join the Diocese online for a Service of Prayer

Today, **Sunday, 1st November at 3.00 pm** the bishops and priests of Ireland will lead a short service of prayer to dedicate the month of November to 'Remembrance of the Dead and Prayer for the Bereaved'. You are invited to join the whole country to unite in this moment which will be followed by parish liturgies throughout the month of November, reaching out as much as possible to those who cannot be physically present.

Date: Sunday, 1 November 2020 **Time:** 3.00 pm

Participate online: derrydiocese.org

Diocesan Mass for deceased children and young people: The Annual Mass for deceased children and young people will be celebrated here in St Eugene's Cathedral on Sunday, 8th November at 7.00 pm. You can join this Mass via webcam in St Eugene's Cathedral by watching our live streaming which can be viewed online at www.churchservices.tv, churchmedia.tv/camera/st-eugenescathedral or the parish website at www.steugenescathedral.com. If you would like to have a child or young person remembered at this Mass, please email the name to lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 7126 4087.

Financially supporting Granaghan Parish:

If any Granaghan parishioner would like to receive their new box of envelopes please telephone Fr. Keaney at the Parochial House on 028 7940 1236 and we will make arrangements for you to get them. Alternatively, why not set up a Standing Order - it's safe and easy.

Anyone who pays income tax, even those who are retired but who receive a taxable pension, and who would like to consider being part of the Gift Aid Scheme by using an envelope, which is of tremendous benefit to the parish, should contact Fr. Keaney for more information.

Standing Order Forms and Gift Aid Forms can be downloaded on the website.

Decree extends indulgence for the faithful departed throughout November

The Apostolic Penitentiary announces modifications to the Plenary Indulgence for the deceased during the month of November.

Many of the Church's pastors have requested an adaptation to the requirements to obtain the Plenary Indulgence for the deceased in the month of November. Thus, "by the special mandate of His Holiness Pope Francis", the Apostolic Penitentiary released on Friday some changes to the normal practice. The Decree containing these modifications was signed on 22nd October, the liturgical memorial of Pope St John Paul II.

Plenary Indulgence during month of November

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the need to avoid large groups from forming where prohibited, the Plenary Indulgence applicable to the deceased by those who visit a cemetery has been extended beyond the normal dates of 1st to 8th November. This year, the indulgence can be obtained by anyone who visits a cemetery, even if only mentally, on any day in November, and devoutly prays for the faithful departed.

Plenary Indulgence for Feast of All Souls' Day

Regarding the Plenary Indulgence attached to All Souls' Day, 2nd November, this year, it can be obtained not only on the preceding or succeeding Sunday, or on the actual Feast day, but on any other day of the month chosen by each member of the faithful. In this case, the indulgence is obtained by "devoutly visiting a church or an

oratory", along with the recitation of the Our Father and the Creed, and the other requirements associated with a Plenary Indulgence.

The homebound

For anyone who cannot leave their home for various reasons, including anti-Covid restrictions, they too can obtain the Plenary Indulgence by "uniting themselves spiritually to other members of the faithful". In this case, the condition of being "completely detached from sin" and the intention of completing the other requirements for obtaining a Plenary Indulgence remain. These conditions are Sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion and a prayer for the Holy Father's intentions.

The Decree suggests that such prayer take place before an "image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary". Among the various prayers that are recommended are "prayers for the deceased, Morning or Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, meditating on various Gospel passages proposed for the liturgy of the Dead, or completing a work of mercy by offering to God the suffering and discomforts of one's own life".

by Sr Bernadette Mary Reis, fsp

Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-10/decreed-plenary-indulgence-faithful-departed-november.html>

Course on 'Death and the Afterlife' on Wednesday evenings on 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November after Night Prayer facilitated by Fr Farren via the Cathedral Hall webcam at www.steugenescathedral.com

Prayer resources and activities for families for November: The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre has created a range of prayer resources for families to use at home during November in memory of loved ones who have died. These include practical ways to pray together at home, prayers you can use and tips on creating a sacred space for prayer. For the mid-term break there is a '*World Drawing God Day*', which is a great way to engage children for hours in creative drawing. Drawings can be shared online and you can take an online tour of the Drawing God Museum. To view all the available resources, visit www.catecheticalcentre.org.