

# Granaghan Parish Newsletter

Sunday, 17th January 2021 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **GRANAGHAN & DISTRICT WOMEN'S GROUP, SWATRAGH:**

We are currently taking names for our FACEBOOK LIVE Pilates and Yoga classes which re-start the week beginning Monday February 1st for 8 consecutive weeks. We can offer these at a subsidised price of only £20, for all eight sessions.

1. Morning Yoga with Kate on Tuesdays @ 9.30 am
2. Evening Pilates with Briege on Tuesdays @ 7pm
3. Wednesday Morning Pilates with Elaine @ 9.30
4. Thursday Evening Yoga with Elaine @ 7.30

We would request that fees be paid upfront by either- cash, cheque, bank transfer or Paypal.

If you experience any difficulties joining the classes, please phone our secretary Ann. 79401396 or contact any committee member.

**ACCORD NI:** "If you can't talk to each other, talk to Accord" Accord free and confidential Relationships Support Phone Line for marriages, families and relationships, offer support to those experiencing extra pressure due to social restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The support line is staffed by counsellors from Monday to Friday, 9am-8pm (calls are charged at a local rate). Telephone: 028 9568 0151 or 00353 1 531 3331.

**Preparing for Marriage?** Catholic Engaged Encounter: A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 27-28 March 2021. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. Information/Booking: [marriageencounter.ie](http://marriageencounter.ie) or 028276 38512

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "***Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit***", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses the Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Yet the Sisters of Grandchamp have offered us something uniquely precious: an opportunity to engage with a form of prayer that is both very ancient and yet at the same time so apposite for our times. The ancient rhythm of prayer found in many religious orders and their traditions teach us that when we pray, we pray not just on our own or with those who share the same physical space, but with the whole Church, the Body of Christ, of Christians in other places and in different times. This tradition of prayer and spirituality, despite the things that hurt and separate us, invites us into shared prayer and silence together. Surely a most precious gift in troubled times. Come with us this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and enter into a place of community and blessing. Simply "be" in this place and be carried by the prayer and the reality that it is God, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, who carries us and accompanies us. Always.

## **Bob Fyffe, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**

Obviously, the Covid-19 pandemic has limited our options for marking this week in 2021 but we are encouraged to pray together in our homes and, if possible, via online means. For prayer and other resources visit [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 - Irish Council of Churches and Irish Inter Church Meeting \(irishchurches.org\)](https://www.irishchurches.org/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021).

## **CELEBRATING Catholic Schools Week - 24 to 31 January 2021**

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is

*Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience.*

As we live through an unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty, our faith and our resilience can be tested. We can ask questions like 'Will things ever be the same again?', 'When can we get back to normality?', 'Where is God in all of this?' In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience. In Catholic schools, we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give love and receive love. This love is bound in faith and is more resilient than any virus. While each Catholic school is such a community, every Catholic school fosters the holistic development of its students, promotes their wellbeing and offers them cultivation of a deeper, loving relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. This week, we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in following Jesus' teaching. This year we celebrate how we are called to be communities of faith and resilience, through our thoughts, words and actions. To launch Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Derry, Bishop Donal Mc Keown will celebrate Mass on Thursday 21st January at 10 am in St Eugene's Cathedral, via the webcam. <http://steugenescathedral.com/webcam.html> The Mass can also be viewed on Saint Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page.

No one could have foreseen during Catholic Schools Week 2020 how different life would be just twelve months later. Life for all of us has changed so much that it is not recognisable, comfortable or easy. Our focus on faith and resilience is to remind us of the powerful role our Catholic schools have in the lives of so many young people. It is a source of comfort, care, belonging and strength. It was so important for our students to return to school, not simply to get back into the academic life, but, more importantly, to reconnect with their friends and teachers – to experience community. We have focused the week around the three virtues – faith, hope and love – while acknowledging the challenges that we are all facing at this present time and the need to feel a sense of belonging in our community again. Our prayer for each and every person in our school communities is:

***When evil darkens our world, give us light. When despair numbs our souls, give us hope. When we stumble and fall, lift us up. When doubts assail us, give us faith. When nothing seems sure, give us trust. When ideals fade, give us vision. When we lose our way, be our guide! That we may find serenity in your presence, and purpose in doing your will.***

John D. Rayner

**ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

*In times of calamity and disaster such as the outbreak of a plague which in these days is called Covid-19 or Corona virus – we take the advice and example of the Saints and Consecrate our parish and our family and friends to the safety and Protection of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** - My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. AMEN