

Granaghan Parish Newsletter

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18 October 2020 - Mission Sunday

Emperor's or Christ's vision?

Continuing our reading of Matthew 22 today, the Pharisees are not impressed with Jesus' teachings and decide to 'entrap' him, quizzing him about paying taxes. It is a dangerous question they ask because a simple yes or no response from Jesus could mean he is reported to the authorities. Jesus has no time for this and is quite direct with them asking: *'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?'*

The response is brilliant: *'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.'* This text has sometimes been used to argue that religion should stay out of politics, economics or culture. However, the world we live in is one that falls short of the vision and values which Jesus preached: a dream of a world of love, peace, justice and compassion. Being a follower of Jesus means that one is actively involved in striving for this vision and this includes whatever political, economic or cultural issues we are confronted with. The focus in this passage is getting our priorities straight. Yes, give the emperor his taxes but do not forget what belongs to God i.e. God's vision for this world.

The 'empirical' view and the 'Christ view' of issues like direct provision, homelessness, evictions, the Black Lives Matter movement, climate action... are usually very different. The pharisees, we are told, *'were amazed, left him and went away'*.

Jane Mellett

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to **Laura Shiels and Gary Crawford** who celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony recently.

WORLD MISSIONS SUNDAY What does World Mission Sunday actually support?

- 1 Provides basic infrastructure by helping communities build schools, clinic, parish halls and churches
- 2 Prepares the future leaders and carers of the Church by supporting the training of Sisters, priests, religious brothers and catechists
- 3 Supports missionary programmes that protect and care for children's spiritual and physical wellbeing by offering safe shelter, healthcare, education and hope for the future.
- 4 World Missions Ireland has a responsibility to ensure that all donations are distributed transparently.

Special collection today for Mission Sunday. Envelopes may be left with Sunday envelopes in the churches or also may be left in Pastoral Centre during the week.

SERIES OF PRESENTATIONS on Missions.

Throughout October, Month of Mission, the Derry Diocesan Mission Team is offering a series of presentations on what mission means in today's society. Each presentation is free and will be available online through Zoom. They will consist of a short film, discussion on the topic and chance to ask questions. *Guest speakers:*

Martina Purdy, Elaine Kelly, Noel Bradley, Oliver Barrett and Marriage Encounter Ireland. For further information, visit derrydiocese.org

HOPE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC :

Thursday, 22nd October at 7:00pm via Zoom. Lecture by Dr Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ, theologian and spiritual director. Hosted by Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne. This is the first Lecture in the Elizabeth Prout (Foundress of the Cross & Passion) Bicentenary Series. Suggested Donation: £10. For further details or to book a place, please contact Drumalis – 028 28276455 /8272196 (during office hours Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm) or email katrina@drumalis.co.uk

DROMANTINE RETREAT CENTRE:

Monday 2nd 9.30am – Tuesday 3rd November, 5.00pm 'Broken Open': How difficult times can help us grow - Presented by Fr Hugh Lagan SMA. Cost £115

Saturday 14 November, 9.30am – 5.00pm. 'Loss and Recovery': This seminar explores how loss is an invitation to wholeness. Fr Jim Cogley: Full cost £35.

Enquiries, Tel 028 3082 1964 or email sma.dromantine@sma.ie

THE NET:

The October edition of our Diocesan newspaper 'The Net' is now available online, on www.derrydiocese.org. It features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.