

Granaghan Parish Newsletter

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Sunday, 22nd November 2020

A Different Sort of King

Today's gospel leaves us in no doubt as to what Jesus expects of his followers. It is a gospel of contrasts. It begins with a scene of judgement, with Jesus in the role of king, sitting on the throne of glory. It would have been a familiar image to the people of the time, who were expecting a great Messianic king. In the time of Jesus, kings were powerful rulers, and sometimes were tyrants. We know from earlier in Matthew's Gospel that kings like Herod were capable of brutal acts. It is an image that remains familiar to us today, thanks to popular fairy tales, movies and TV shows - the all-powerful ruler sitting on their throne, passing judgement on their subjects.

But the king that Jesus talks about here turns these images upside down. He is not focused on riches or power, or inciting terror or fear. Instead, he is a fair judge, a shepherd who knows his flock. He invites all those who have acted with justice and generosity to take their place in his kingdom. He is in solidarity with the 'least' of his people - a king whose main concern is those who are hungry, displaced, sick or imprisoned. He refers to them as 'brothers'.

Jesus' kingdom is centred around charity, compassion and forgiveness. He expects us to treat everyone we encounter with welcome. There are simple acts of kindness we can carry out each day. Such love for others is love for God: 'In so far as you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

'In the evening of life, we shall be judged on love.' **ST JOHN OF THE CROSS**

Jane Mellett

CHRISTENING

We welcome as a member of God's family: Cathaoir Patrick Mullan

DEATH

We offer our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Gunning**. May she rest in peace.

Priory Retreat: Reflecting on the Gospels of Advent

We are taking registrations now for our Advent Retreat. It's a series of filmed reflections on the Sunday gospel readings of Advent. The cost of the retreat is €40 and registration closes on Friday week, November 27. Maybe it's a sign of the times but it seems people are interested in looking at the 'big' questions especially coming up to this very unusual Christmas.

<https://prioryinstitute.com/events/2020-advent-retreat>

MINI ADVENT RETREAT ON ZOOM:

You are invited to take part in a 3-session mini-retreat during Advent that will explore the themes of Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be led by Fr Billy Swan, St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy and will take place from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd December, beginning at 8pm. To take part, all you need to do is send an email to thehookoffaith@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Come and join us to prepare for Christmas.

STEPPING STONES PRESCHOOL

(130 Tirkane Road, Maghera)

We are holding Our OPEN EVENING on Wednesday 25th November 7pm – 9pm also an OPEN MORNING on Saturday 28th November 10am – 1pm.

TO COMPLY WITH COVID-19, those families wishing to view the Preschool are asked to contact Ciara on Tel: 02879549482 (Mon-Fri 8.30am – 1.30pm) for an appointment slot.

FULL-TIME FUNDED Places for September 2021 available and we are currently accepting Pre-Preschool children who are 2years and 10mths.

GRANAGHAN DISTRICT AND WOMEN'S GROUP

Just a wee update. Since May we have been running all our usual activities online, mostly via Facebook Live.

To join us, go on to Facebook and search for Granaghan & District Women's Group and you will find our Facebook page: gdwg Swatragh and all our 'Live' Facebook pages-:

- Vitrual Nutrition LIVE
- Vitrual Hand Reflexology
- Cooking demo
- Yoga, Pilates and Calorie Burn-Off,
- Vitural Midfulness;
- And more!

All activities currently offered are FREE as a Thank You to our loyal supporters in these challenging times.