



## Lent 2020

### *Gospel Reflection: The Samaritan Woman at the Well*

The story of the 'nameless' Samaritan Woman at the Well, recorded only in the Gospel of St John, is full of truths and powerful lessons. An outcast in her own community, the Samaritan woman even despised herself, but Jesus recognised her spiritual thirst and engaged with her. The grace of God is always there for everyone. Regardless of the entanglements of our lives, He values all of us enough to actively seek us, to draw us to His intimacy. There are many people who thirst for healing, but they do not know how to go about encountering Jesus – perhaps they are too afraid, unsure or embarrassed to talk to God; perhaps they feel excluded or intimidated by others whose main agenda is to recognise and highlight their faults.

#### **Bishop McKeown has provided the following reflection points for discussion and consideration:**

- a.** The first theme of our Diocesan Plan is to 'Build Welcome and Inclusive Communities'. Many people feel isolated in some way - be it in their community, their family, their workplace or in society. In the knowledge that Jesus loves us where we are, but loves us too much to leave us where we are, how might Jesus' encounter with the Woman at the Well teach or inspire your parish community to recognise and engage with those who feel isolated?
- b.** We often assume, perhaps from outward appearances, that we know what is going on in the lives of others. We often judge others from what we know of them. In what ways does today's Gospel teach us on the dangers of such assumptions and judgements?
- c.** Many people are searching for meaning in their lives; there are many for whom God may seem distant. The spiritual thirst of the Samaritan woman was recognised by Jesus. Through their encounter, she was enabled and inspired to undertake a very pivotal role in her community, drawing others to meet Jesus. In what might seem, for some, a male-dominated Church, the role of women in the Church – including women's role in the family, the local church, schools and parish community - has been pivotal in every generation. Discuss the leading and key roles of women in the Church, and in our parish, in drawing others to God and in handing on the faith. How can your parish recognise and offer continued support?

### Diocesan Lenten Prayer

Loving Father, To prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**Recent Baptisms:** *We welcome through Baptism:* Callathian Nelson Duffy and Olivia Sokol.

**Recent Deaths:** *We pray for the family of* Martin McDonagh, Gortrush Park. *May he rest in peace.*

**Recent Wedding:** *Congratulations to* Niamh Bradley & Eamonn Devine who were married in our parish recently.

**Thank You** for the anonymous donation of £100 towards parish funds.

**Irish Pilgrimage Trust (Group 190)** thank the parishioners of Cappagh for their generosity at the recent door collection. The total amounted to £1,387. Your support is much appreciated.

### **Mass Times for the Feast of St Patrick**



Vigil Mass: Christ the King Church at 7.30pm  
Tues 17th March: St Mary's Church, Killyclogher : 9am & 11am  
St Mary's Church, Knockmoyle: 10am  
Corpus Christi, Mountfield: 10am  
Christ the King Church: 12noon

Safeguarding Children Contact Details for Relevant Agencies and Services

PSNI 0845 600 8000 | Gateway Services 028 8283 5043

Alternatively, if you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of church personnel and wishes to report it to church authorities please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will, in turn, report this concern to the relevant statutory authorities.

Noel O'Donnell 075 9650 0793 | Celine McKenna 075 9666 7773

*Pope Francis Tweets*



The journey of Lent  
is one of charity  
towards the weakest.

## Pastoral Statement from Bishop Donal McKeown

Copies of the statement are available in the Church porches.

### **How will Bishop McKeown's Pastoral Statement affect our Parish:**

***"The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed until further notice. The normal routine of weekend Masses is suspended."***

The schedule of Mass times in our parish will change from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

We will be working in conjunction with Drumragh Parish to offer Mass online.

Please see separate sheet for details.

All our Churches remain open each day for reflection and prayer. The small chapel in Christ the King will be open Monday to Friday, 7.30-9.30pm as an oasis of peace, for personal prayer and reflection. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during these times and a priest will be available for confession or spiritual guidance.

***"Parishioners, clergy and pastoral staff should avoid being with others in public places if they show symptoms of illness, as identified by public health authorities."***

#### Baptism, Marriage and Funeral ceremonies will continue in our parish:

*Baptisms:* The times for Baptisms will remain the same as usual - please phone the parish office to book. Attendance at the Baptism ceremony is restricted to the parents and god-parents.

*Marriages:* Attendance should be fewer than 100.

*Funerals:* Funerals will take place at 11am. Only immediate family members should be present and not more than 100 people.

*Anniversary/Months Mind Masses:* Names will announced and prayed for at Sunday morning and Vigil Masses, streamed online from St Mary's Church, Killiclogher. A Mass will still be offered privately for each person during the week.

*The Parish Office* will remain open, however, we ask you to call into the office only if it is essential and you cannot make contact by phone or email. We are taking this decision to reduce the spread of COVID 19 by reducing social contacts.

*Envelope Collections:* Secure boxes will be available in the Churches which you can use to deposit your weekly offering/donation during the coming weeks.

### **A Coronavirus Prayer**

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for and prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ, heal us.

Contact the parish office to book Baptisms, Weddings, Mass Intentions, (*month's minds and 1<sup>st</sup> anniversaries take precedence - booking is subject to change*) Notices for CPN must be received by Wednesday at 12noon.

**Parish office opening times:** Mon-Thurs: 9am-3.45pm. | Fri: 9am-2.45pm | Lunch daily: 1-1.30pm

**Parish Website:** [www.cappaghparish.com](http://www.cappaghparish.com)

**Facebook.com:** [cappaghparish](https://www.facebook.com/cappaghparish)

**Watch Mass Live:** Visit parish website and select WEBCAM to view Mass in St Mary's Church, Killiclogher.

**Parish Office** 028 8224 3375  
**Fr Kevin McElhennon PP** 028 8225 8108  
**Fr Stephen Kearney** 028 8225 2643

**Emergency mobile** 07561838455  
**Fr Declan McGeehan CC** 028 8225 1055  
**SVP KC** 07738837992 | CTK 07738838066