

HEALTH CRISIS: Volunteers Needed: Following a public meeting in Aghalee Village Hall on Tuesday 17 March for representatives of voluntary organisations in our local area, a list of volunteers willing and able to assist the vulnerable in this area during this health crisis is to be compiled. If you wish to add your name go to:

survey123.arcgis.com .

PARISH ENVELOPES:

If you wish to make a one off payment for the year these are the Parish Bank details.:

Parish of Glenavy and Killead

Sort Code 98 04 60 Account 10654677

It has been suggested that parishioners may wish to put their offering aside for the next two months and then leave it in the parish office

GLENNAVY AND KILLEAD BETHANY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

A member of the Bethany Group may be contacted on the following phone number 07746032796

ST VINCENT DE PAUL Emergency Helpline Crumlin/Aldergrove 07754427088. Volunteers urgently required.

GH TYRES AND AUTO SERVICES: 40a Glenavy Road, Crumlin. Punctures repairs, Wheel Balancing, Wheel Alignment, Batteries, General Service and repairs Tel:94423113.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kathleen Marsden **MONTH'S MIND:** May Lenaghan

ANNIVERSARIES: Brigid McGarry (1st), Margaret McGarry, Christopher McCloskey, Isaac Mulholland, John Doone, Joseph Doone, John Heatley, Hugh McNally, Brian & Nancy Murphy,

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS: A Sanctuary Lamp burns for a week in each of our churches. If you would like to dedicate a lamp for a loved one or a special intention please contact the Parish Office. There is a suggested offering of £5. This Week's dedications:

Special Intentions,

RTE WILL BROADCAST MASS every weekday at 10.30 from St Eunan's and St Columba's Cathedral, Letterkenny, on RTE News Now. The broadcasts will continue at least until 29th March, when current public health measures will be reviewed by the Government.

Mass will be followed each day by a short religious message from representatives of Ireland's other faith communities and Christian traditions.

PARISH DRAW WEEK 47

Winner: £100: Kathleen Mulholland Glenavy

Winner: £50 Jackie Moore Glenavy

Congratulations to our winners



**PARISH BULLETIN ON THE
FIFTH WEEK OF LENT**

Very Rev Fr Colm McBride PP: St Joseph's Presbytery, 59 Chapel Road, Glenavy, BT29 4LY 94459560 (In emergencies Fr Declan Mulligan P.P. Aghagallon 92651214)

Parish Office at St Joseph's Glenavy:


Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm.

Office Closed 1.00 - 2.00pm

Secretary: Máire Rafferty Tel: 028 94422278

Email: glenavy@downandconnor.org

Parish Website: glenavyandkilleadparish.com

 www.facebook.com/glenavyandkilleadparish

A member of Lisburn Pastoral Community

COVID-19

REVISED DIRECTIVES FOR THE DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR

DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR

COVID-19: DIRECTIVES

Public Health Advice

The Government has issued new and strict directions restricting public movement. We call on every person in the Diocese to adhere strictly to these instructions.

Churches, Parish Offices and Parochial Properties

All Churches should now be closed The Parish Sunday Mass is streamed on the Parish Facebook page on alternate Sundays at 9.30 in St Joseph's and 10.45am in Mater Dei. Next Sunday 5th April, Mass will be stream live from at 9.30am from St Joseph's

Parish Offices and all Parochial Properties and Parish Centres are closed to public access and all non-essential staff will work from home. Parishes will continue to be contactable by telephone or email. Mass will continue to be celebrated (in private) and streamed where possible via webcam and social media.

Baptisms

No baptisms will take place

Weddings

No Weddings will take place

Funerals

Funeral services will be restricted to a service of committal at the graveside and limited to immediate family only.

These directives will be kept under regular review

WHILE SUFFERING REMAINS A MYSTERY, CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT IT CAN HAVE MEANING, WRITES FR EAMON CONWAY.

None of us welcomes suffering in our lives. Faced with it, we try to come to terms with it as best we can.

Sometimes suffering is interpreted as punishment or retribution, and indeed we often bring suffering upon ourselves by our sinful behaviour. But innocent people suffer too.

Suffering is sometimes considered as an unavoidable and necessary path to growth and conversation, and indeed eternal life.

Suffering and evil are closely related and neither is created by God. God does not need or want us to suffer; God wants us to have life and to live it to the full. The existence of suffering and evil remains ultimately a mystery, and accepting this is connected with accepting that God is a mystery. We like to have God 'in our pockets', to have God 'all worked out'. Suffering teaches us that this is not the case.

Accepting the mystery of suffering can be the occasion of us surrendering in loving trust, confidence and hope to the mystery of God whom we cannot control. Suffering can deepen our relationship with God by deepening our faith, hope and love.

ACCEPTING

Instead of trying to grasp God, in suffering we can allow God to grasp us, trusting that his mercy and love will get us through our pain.

While suffering remains a mystery, Christians believe that it can have meaning.

We know that we are to 'unite our sufferings to the sufferings of Jesus Christ'.

How are we to understand this? First of all, we should remind ourselves that God does not want us to suffer. We see that much of Jesus' time was taken up alleviating suffering, and he gave his life to overcome the most fundamental suffering caused by sin. Faced, however, with unavoidable suffering, what can we do?

Suffering is easier to deal with if our general attitude is one of accepting that we are beloved creatures in God's caring hands; that we are finite and dependent; that we are not ultimately in control of anything; that we are not going to live forever.

Suffering is easier if we realise that our lives belong to God who cares deeply about us and accompanies us on every step we take, much like in the marriage vows 'for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health'.

If surrender to God characterises our attitude to life then trusting God in times of suffering will be easier. Such an attitude characterised Jesus' life.

His daily prayer, which he taught us, was 'thy will be done', and this made it easier to pray in Gethsemane 'Yet not what I will, but what you will'. (Mk 14:33).

Every form of suffering is rooted in the fear of annihilation, of death as the end. If we truly believe that eternal life with God is God's gift to us already given it would put all our sufferings in perspective as temporary and transient.

Jesus saw suffering in this way. He saw that every aspect of his life, including pain, suffering and death, could glorify his Father, the giver of life, by being accepted and embraced.

By uniting our life to Christ, our suffering as well as our joys, our lives too can glorify God. As members of Christ's body, we witness with Him, by how we face our sufferings, to the fact that this life is not the 'be all and the end all'.

Eamon Conway, is a priest and theologian at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick

Scripture readings for the 5th Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Ezekiel 37 | :12-14

Through the prophet God promises to restore the people in exile to their homeland.

Psalms 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading St Paul's Letter to the Romans 8:8-11

The spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us.

Gospel. A reading from St John's Gospel 11: 1-145

Lazarus' restoration to life points to Jesus resurrection and of all who believe in him.

PARISH DRAW 2019/20: The Parish Draw for 2019/20 will be coming to an end soon with the final draw taking place on 13th April 2020.

The final draw will be for £1000, £500, £100 and £50 so good luck to all members.

Thank you to all parishioners and friends who supported the draw and congratulations to all the winners.

In light of all that is happening at the moment it has been decided to postpone the new draw until later in the year.

We will assess the situation in the summer and possibly start again in September.

In the meantime look after yourselves and your neighbours and with God's help we will get through this.

KILMORE AND KILLYLEAGH PARISH: Join us and follow in the footsteps of Padre Pio on this, our first Parish pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo Italy. Return flights from Dublin, 4-nights from 13th September, accompanied by a Spiritual Director and includes a fully escorted religious programme. Tour package £595 per person. £200 deposit to be paid by 7th February 2020 to secure places For additional details visit the website www.kilmoreandkillyleagh.com or contact Joe Walsh tours Tel: 00353 1241 0800.

OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED! Volunteer IT/HR Admins, Montessori/Primary/Secondary Teachers, Physios, Accountants, Social Workers...all required for funded placements on Missions in Africa, SE Asia and the Caribbean. No previous overseas exp required, no upper age limit! Contact Viatores Christi +353-1-8689986 or email apply@viatoreschristi.com for more info.

ADOPTION: Family Care Adoption Services is presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children. For free information pack please contact us at: **Telephone:** 028 71 368592 or 028 90 691133. Monday to Friday 9 – 5 p.m. **Email:** anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org **Website:** www.familycaresociety.co.uk Thank You

SPECIAL BELFAST CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND €1,899 and 20th July for 8 nights €1,725 Taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem Mount Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, River Jordan, Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee. Contact James Treacy 00353860572216 or 0035361921470 or office 0035318783111 ex Dublin

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA 2020: 12th / 19th Aug'.7 Nights Full Board, Hotel Avenida. Spiritual Director Fr. Martin Graham. Full Religious Program. with Optional Tours. £719 inclusive of Tax and Insurance. For Further details contact Joe Catney 90714001 or 07776425631