

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

Announcements

Last week's collection amounted to £2850.00. Thank you.

Those who pay to the weekly collection or any special collections, including Priest's Collection, by cheque are asked that all should be made payable to *'Melmount Parish'*.

Parishioners can still leave their contributions in the Parish Office during this time of uncertainty. Contributions can be made by cheque made payable to Melmount Parish or cash. If the Office is closed please use the letterbox.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Monday 19 October from 10.30am until 4.30pm.

Parish Draw

Promoters should make their returns for October to the Parish Office **tomorrow Monday 19 October from 2.00pm - 4.30pm**. The draw for October will take place on Thursday 22 October at 10.30am in the Parish Office.

The Rosary: Archbishop Eamon Martin is asking families to pray the Rosary together for the month of October in what is called the Family Rosary Crusade.

We welcome into God's Family through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Odhran Bernard McCullagh

James Jerzy McGuigan

Ollie Daniel Gray Glenn

May they Rest in Peace

Deaths

Patsy Rouse Snr, 30 Ballycolman Avenue

Vincent Carlin, 11 Lisnafin Park

Anniversaries

Brendan O'Hare

John McPhilemy

Jenny Doherty

Martin McGowan

John Kirk

Hugh McCutcheon

Elaine McGrinder

Raymond Graham

Geraldine Doherty

Frank McGinley

Eamon Henderson

Mick Madden

Pat Curran

Maybid Doherty

Ryan McGonigle

Eamon McCrory

Baptisms: To arrange Baptisms please telephone the Parish Office on 028 71383777.

Bulletin Notices and Anniversaries: All anniversaries and notices for the bulletin should be left at the Parish Office by 10.00am on a Wednesday for inclusion in that weekend's bulletin. *For your safety the main sacristy will be closed before and after masses. If you wish to leave an anniversary during these times please leave the details on the table at the entrance to the altar servers sacristy.*

November Service for the Dead

The Service of Prayer for our deceased family members and parishioners is a very special occasion and each November it attracts a large number of people to our churches. The numbers who attend far exceed the capacity which is currently allowed by the Corona Virus restrictions. For this reason the churches in the Strabane - Sion Mills - Lifford area will hold the services this November without a congregation present. **The service for Melmount will be held on Sunday 15 November 2020 at 5.00pm and can be viewed through the parish webcam.** *If you have family members who have died since 1 November 2019 and would like them prayed for at this service, please leave their name at the Parish Office or phone 02871383777 or email melparish@aol.com by Thursday 12 November.* A candle will be lit in memory of your deceased loved one and they will be named and prayed for at the service.

The November Services will be held in this area as follows:

Monday	2 November	7.00pm	Clonleigh
Wednesday	4 November	7.00pm	Sion Mills
Thursday	5 November	7.30pm	Leckpatrick
Sunday	8 November	5.00pm	Camus
Sunday	15 November	5.00pm	Melmount

Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday is today Sunday 18 October. The Annual Mission Sunday Collection will be taken up at all Masses. There is an envelope marked 'Mission Sunday' in your box of envelopes for this collection. Please make cheques payable to 'Melmount Parish'. There are approximately 1,500 Irish born missionaries working in more than 80 countries. They continue to spread the Gospel through their work, their deep commitment to the people they serve and their Faith. On Mission Sunday please pray for them and give as generously as you can to the Mission Sunday collection.

Mission Today: A series of presentations on Mission Today will take place 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 a chance to ask questions. Guest speakers: Martina Purdy, Elaine Kelly, Noel Bradley, Oliver Barrett and Marriage Encounter Ireland. For more information visit derrydiocese.org.

Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, intends to host the following events in November. Offering a safe welcome back, numbers will be restricted, with social distancing and all Northern Health and Executive directives being adhered to:

'Broken Open': How difficult times can help us grow - a Workshop that will explore the potential for discovering courage, compassion and wisdom even in the most painful of life circumstances. Presented by Fr. Hugh Lagan, SMA on Monday 2 November from 9.30am - Tuesday 3 November at 5.00pm. Cost £115 or €125.

'Loss and Recovery': This seminar will explore loss in its many facets and how it is also an invitation to wholeness. 'While the heart grieves for what it has lost, the Spirit dances for that which it has found.' Presented by Fr. Jim Cogley on Saturday 14 November from 9.30am - 5.00pm. Cost £35.00. To book or for more information telephone 02830821964 or email sma.dromantine@sma.ie

'Hope in a Time of Pandemic': Lecture by Dr. Sr. Gemma Simmonds CJ, theologian and spiritual director. Hosted by Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, via Zoom, at 7.00pm on Thursday 22 October. This is the first Lecture in the Elizabeth Prout (Foundress of the Cross & Passion) Bicentenary Series. Suggested Donation: £10.00. For more information or booking telephone 02828276455/8272196 or email katrina@drumalis.co.uk

Church Opening Times

The Church will open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday at 9.30am and close at 5.00pm. On Tuesday and Saturday the church will open at 11.00am & close at 7.30pm. This is to facilitate cleaning and sanitizing.

Cleaning of the Church: For your safety the church is cleaned and sanitised everyday. There may be times when you will be in the church when the fogging machine is being used to disinfect the seats etc. The product used is called 'DEW' and is non-toxic, hypoallergenic, ph skin friendly and FREE from alcohol, aldehydes, parabens, dyes and scents. It will not harm you or your clothes. We appreciate your understanding in this matter and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Melmount Parish Webcam: The Webcam can be viewed by logging onto Melmount Parish Website and selecting view the webcam or by logging onto Churchmedia.tv and selecting Melmount Church from the list available.

Church contributions via a Donate button on the parish website.

The Donate facility on our Website allows you to pay your contribution to the Church by debit or credit card. If you have any difficulties in using this please contact the parish Office 71383777.