



Ar Aghaidh Le Chéile

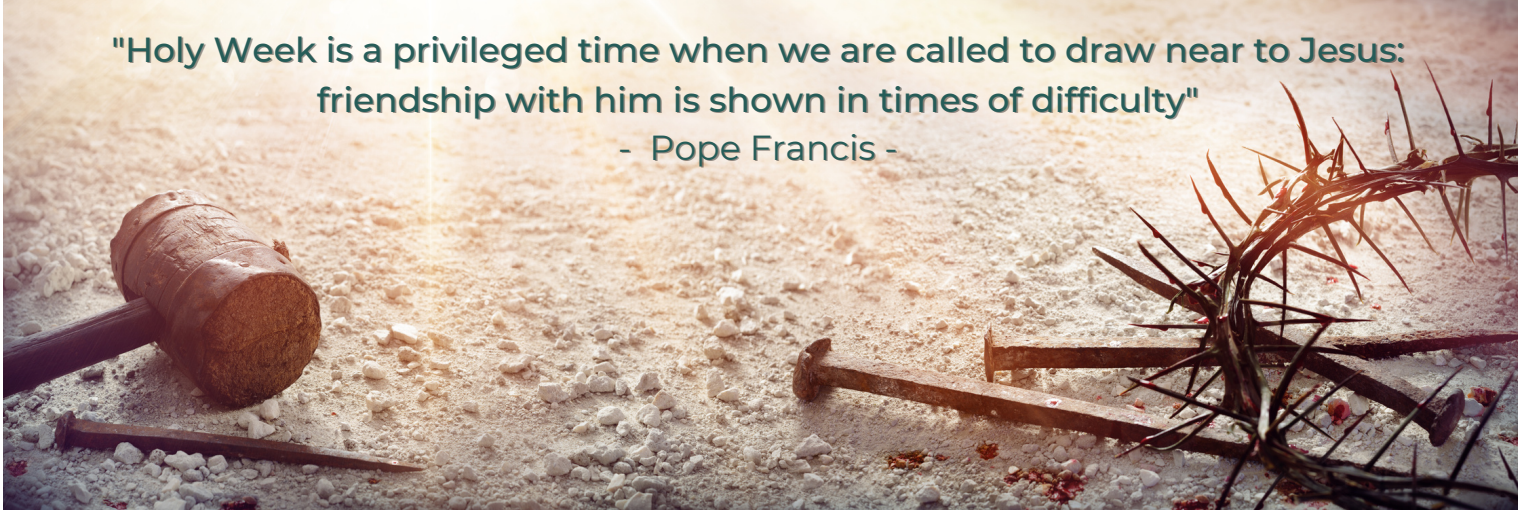
Raphoe Pastoral Newsletter No. 3



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"Holy Week is a privileged time when we are called to draw near to Jesus:
friendship with him is shown in times of difficulty"
- Pope Francis -



HOLY WEEK 2023

Fáilte go dtí eagrán mhí an Mhárta agus Seachtain na Páise de 'Ar Aghaidh Le Chéile'.
Gach mí foilseoidimid nuactlitir chun gach duine a chur ar an eolas faoina bhfuil ar siúl
timpeall Dheoise Ráth Bhoth.

Agus go leor oibre ar siúl taobh thiar de na cásanna faoi láthair, tá súil againn i bhfad
níos mó gníomhaíochtaí a chur cinn go luath.



TINE GHRÁ DÉ

BY FR. CONOR MCDONOUGH OP

In am Cásca, bíonn an Eaglais ar fud an domhain ag machnamh ar ár dtodhchaí, ár ndóchas: ár n-aiséirí féin i bParthas na nGrásta. Sa mBíobla, baintear úsáid as íomhá suimiúil chun an dóchas seo a léiriú: “bainis an Uain”. Smaoinigí ar Apacailipsis 19:7: “Déanaimis gairdeas agus lúcháir agus tugaimis glóir dó. Óir tá bainis an Uain tagtha, agus tá a nuachar arna hullmhú féin”.

Is soiléir gur é Íosa an Uan atá i gceist anseo, ach céard faoin nuachar? Cé leis a bhfuil Íosa ag pósadh? Cé hí a bhean chéile?

D’fhéadfaimís a rá i dtosach gur sí an Eaglais a bhean chéile. Muide. Gach éinne a ghlacann leis an slánú a thugann sé dúinn, gach éinne atá ceangalta le Íosa i sacraimint an Bhaiste, agus i gComaoineach.

Ach cuimhnigí go ndúirt naomh Pól go raibh Íosa mar fear céile agus é ar an gCros. Cé a bhí áirithe ina ghrá agus é ag fágáil bháis? Grúpa beag? Daoine maithe amháin? Ní hea, ach gach aon fear, bean, agus páiste a raibh ariamh ar an saol, nó a bheidh riamh ar an saol, gan eisceacht. “Is é Íosa an íobairt sásaimh ar ár bpeacaí”, a deir naomh Eoin, “agus ní ar ár bpeacaíne amháin ach ar pheacaí an tsaoil uile” (1 Eoin 2:2)

Mar sin, níl teorann ar bith ar ghrá Íosa. Grá uilíoch atá ann, a chuimsíonn stair an chine daonna go hiomlán. Is fear céile é a thugann a chroí don chine daonna, do gach aon duine, do gach aon anam. Nuair a thuigimid é seo, athraíonn ár meon agus ár ndearcadh go hiomlán. Nuair atá aithne againn ar Íosa ní amháin mar mhúinteoir, ach mar fear céile an chinne dhaonna, tuigfimid gur scéal ghrá é scéal an domhain seo, tuigfimid go bhfuil amhrán ghrá á chloisteáil i gceol na cruinne.

Nuair atá aithne againn ar Íosa mar fhear céile na hEaglaise, tuigfimid é seo: go bhfuil áit ag gach éinne, gan eisceacht, ina chroí, go raibh aithne aige orainn uilig agus é ag fulaingt ar an gCros, go raibh grá aige do gach éinne dúinn ar an gCros. Mar gheall ar seo, tuigeann muid nach bhfuil muid riamh inár n-aonar, tréigthe, ach go bhfuil an searc diaga seo i gcónaí sa dtóir orainn.

Ní raibh Íosa pósta, mar sin, ach is scéal ghrá é a scéal, scéal ghrá atá níos paiseantaí agus níos drámatúla na scéal ghrá ar bith eile. Nach feicimid an grá paiseanta seo i dealbh an Chroí Ró-Naofa, mar shampla, croí atá trí thine, croí loiscneach, réidh lena theas a scaipeadh.

Feicimid an grá seo chomh maith i saol Íosa, nuair a léimid na Soiscéalta. Feicimid ansin Íosa i ngrá, sa dtóir ar an gcine daonna, baile i ndiaidh baile, duine i ndiaidh duine, fairisinigh agus striapacha, peacaigh agus iascairí, poibleacánaigh agus gadaíthe, duine i ndiaidh duine, go dtí go dtagann se chuig an Cros, áit ina dhoirt sé eallas agus fuil mar chomhartha a ghrá dúinn. Mar a dúirt Naomh Caitríona ó Siena, bhí Íosa “pazzo d’amore”, craiceáilte i ngrá.

Seo é bunús ár saol i gCríost, bunús ár bhféiniúlacht mar Chríostaithe – táimid i gcónaí ina ghrá, a ghrá buan, seasmhach, paiseanta. Mar Chríostaithe, bímid ag maireachtáil i dtine a ghrá, fiú nuair nach eol dúinn é.

Ach nuair is eol dúinn é, nuair a bhímid ag guí go laethúil, agus ag teacht go minic go dtí an Faoistin agus an Comaoineach, agus ag léamh ár mBíobla, tagann fás ar ár ngrá féin, bíonn muidne trí thine chomh maith, réidh leis an ngrá seo a scaipeadh.

Luaigh mé cheana Naomh Caitríona Siena, agus chuir sí féin fíor-bhéim ar an bpointe seo. I litir a scríobh sí dá cara, Caitríona eile, dúirt sí lei: “Faightear grá i ngrá, sé sin. Nuair a thuigeann muid cé chomh mór is atá grá Dé dúinne, tagann borradh ar ár ngrá chomh maith”. D’iarr sí ar a cara am a chaitheamh gach aon lá ag machnamh ar Chros Chríost, ionas go

mbeadh croí mór flaithiúil aicise chomh maith.

I litir eile a scríobh sí, chuig bráthair Doiminiceánach darbh ainm Bartolomeo Dominici, luaigh sí véarsa ó chéad litir naomh Eoin, “Is é Dia an grá, is é Dia an grá”, agus mhínigh sí leis go raibh an frása sin ar nós farraige mhór domhain. Dúirt sí leis gur chóir dó a bheith ag snámh agus ag tumadh sa bhfarraige sin gach lá. “Is é Dia an grá”.

Sé seo croílár ár gcreidimh – sé Dia an grá a chruthaigh an cruinne, a chruthaigh an grian agus na réalta agus na sléibhte, agus tá d’ainmse ar eolas aige, tá grá as cuimse aige duitse, gaireann sé chuige thú, chuig tine a ghrá, agus seolann sé amach thú chun an tine seo a scaipeadh.





JOHN PAUL II AWARDS YOUTH PROJECT IN GLENTIES

A wonderful new initiative is taking place in the parish of Glenties by four young people who have taken part in the John Paul II Awards this past year. These youngsters are Orlaith Kennedy, Katelyn Gallagher, Cathal O'Donnell and Kelly Quinn.

Each Friday they visit the local hotel where Ukrainian refugees are located. They spend an hour with mostly the women where they sing and teach popular songs as well as some Irish songs. There could be anything from four to twelve ladies present and also

some of the children. The four local teenagers absolutely love going to see them and the Ukrainian ladies enjoy their visits also.

A new song is prepared each week with the words typed out and printed off. These songs are then added to a folder which has been prepared by the mother of one of the local teenagers. Dancing also takes place. The Ukrainians love it as do the local teenagers. It is a great success.



POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

JOHN PAUL II AWARDS CONFERENCE AT KNOCK BASILICA

On Tuesday 21st March 2023, a gathering of youth from all over Ireland took place at Knock Basilica. Each of these young people have been involved in the John Paul II Awards in their Diocese.

The day was led by Bishop Donal McKeown of the Diocese of Derry, where talks, prayer, processions, and Mass capped off a wonderful day. Representing the Diocese of Raphoe were four remarkable young people from the parish of Glenties. These are Orlaith Kennedy, Katelyn Gallagher, Cathal O'Donnell and Kelly Quinn. They were led by local Glenties music director, Anne McDwyer.



ST FAUSTINA RELICS - PARISH OF CONVOY

On Sunday 19th March last, Fr. Eamonn Kelly and the parish of Convooy welcomed the relics of St. Faustina to the parish.



As we approach the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday 16th April, you are most welcome to visit the parish of Convooy at any time and pray with the relic.



The day began with a procession from Broad path, outside the town, where many took part. While praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet, Fr. Eamonn led the procession through the town to St. Mary's Church, Convooy.

This was followed by a beautiful prayer service, which included a talk by Sr. Benedetta of the Sisters of the Merciful Jesus in Letterkenny.

Roisin O'Callaghan was on hand to record footage of the day, hold interviews etc. This was then edited into highlights and published on the Diocesan social media platforms.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

The Diocese of Raphoe will take a group of 24 young people to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal in August 2023.

There are still places available.

This pilgrimage will be a life-changing experience. Fr. Liam Boyle will lead this trip. For further details, contact Fr. Liam at:

youthministry@raphoediocese.ie



ROISIN O'CALLAGHAN

The Diocese of Raphoe is delighted to welcome local Glenties woman, Róisín O'Callaghan to the team. Róisín is coming on board as part of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. She possesses great skill in the area of filming, photography and reaching young people through social media. And so she began her role on Monday 27th March 2023.

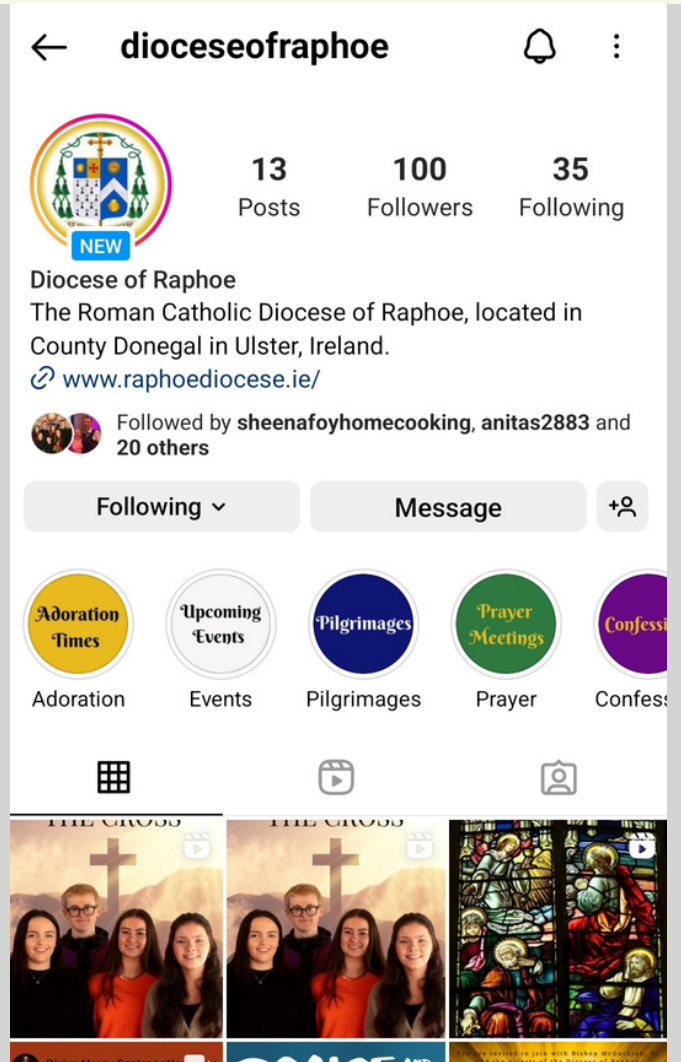
Róisín will work under the direction of Brian O'Driscoll, Director of Pastoral Renewal. Her role is part-time where she will work 20 hours a week for the Diocese.

The emphasis in her role will be in reaching out to the youth. There are some exciting projects in the works. We look forward to rolling these out very soon.



NEW DIOCESAN INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

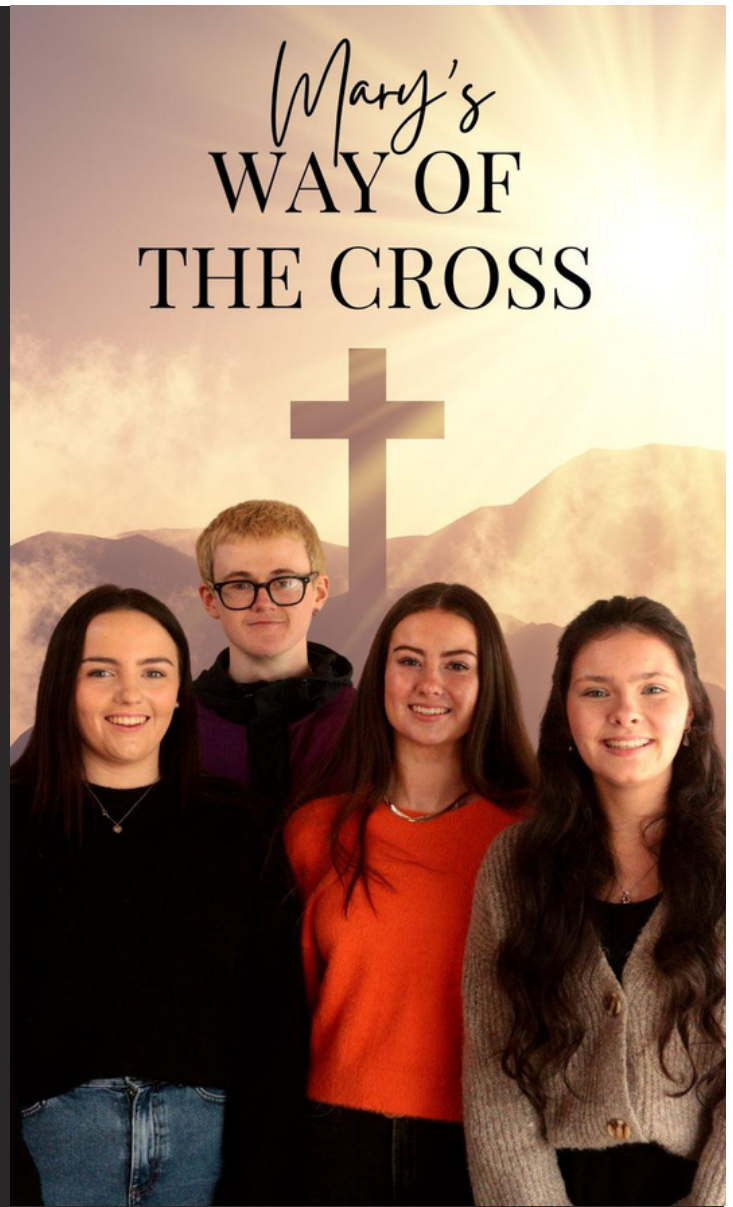
A new Instagram account has been launched for the Diocese of Raphoe. This can be found at <https://www.instagram.com/dioceseofraphoe/>. There will be numerous posts of news and events on a weekly basis. We encourage anyone who used Instagram to follow the Diocese of Raphoe on the platform.





Earlier this week, Róisín O'Callaghan met with four students who currently participating in the Pope John Paul II Awards from Glenties. They recorded Stations of the Cross for Good Friday. These young people are Katelyn Gallagher, Kelly Quinn, Orlaith Kennedy and Cathal O'Donnell. They kindly volunteered their time to meet for a couple of hours to present & record the footage needed. Well done to all involved.

The recordings have been published on the Diocesan Facebook and Instagram accounts on Good Friday.



PRAISE & PINTS

A 'Praise and Pints' night will be held in the Pastoral Centre in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on April 22nd at 7pm. There will be prayer and worship followed by a social afterwards. This event is for 18 to 35 year olds.

For further information call (074) 9190606



DIOCESAN VOCATIONS WEEKEND

The Diocese of Raphoe, Clogher, Derry, Kilmore, Down & Connor and Archdiocese of Armagh are teaming up to hold a Diocesan vocations weekend from 21st to 23rd April 2023 at Drumalis Retreat House

in Larne. The weekend will be directed by Fr. Stephen Langridge. Anyone discerning a vocation to priesthood is most welcome.

**“Follow Christ
loving as he
loved you,
giving himself
up in our place
as a fragrant
offering.”**

- Eph 5:2

DIOCESAN VOCATION RETREAT

Sometimes, to hear
Christ's fragrant
offering, it takes all of
your senses.

Come join us as we'll
help you discern and
cultivate the seed of
God's love in you.

21-23 April 2023 @ Drumalis Retreat House, Larne

Diocese of Armagh, Clogher, Derry, Dromore, Down & Connor, Kilmore and
Raphoe

Directed by Fr Stephen Langridge

