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Details on the times of online Masses and Prayers for the Covid 19 Crisis: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>

Holy & Saints Days: 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October: Wednesday: *Ss. Paul of the Cross, John Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues and Companions* Thursday: *St. John Paul II* Friday: *St. John of Capistrano* Saturday: *St. Anthony Claret*

**We remember in our own prayers the anniversaries of our deceased parishioners, since no public masses can be said at this time.**

**Anniversary Mass:** Eugene McGeoghegan, Muff and Crackna, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Eddie Doherty and Robert McLaughlin, Ross Head, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Sincere Thanks** to those who have sent in their collection envelopes, cheques and donations for the Parish during the past week. Please make cheques payable to "Malin Parochial".

**Parish Prayer Day for Marriage and Family Life.** Theme: *Mercy and Forgiveness*. Next Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of October our parish prays for the 24 hours for Marriage & Family Life. This is part of a Movement of Continuous Prayer for Marriage & Family Life as other parishes and groups take on the prayer for the other days of the month. In our Prayers this month we may want to pray for those families where members do not speak to each other and where they are estranged from each other, that they may reach out, love and forgive each other. May all families within our community grow in love and respect for each other. The theme is certainly important for these times – to pray for those who are finding it difficult in their homes and relationships, to stay with it and build one another up in love. Our prayer becomes more and more important as the weeks and months go by.

**A Series of Presentations on Mission Today:** 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 further information, visit [www.derrydiocese.org](http://www.derrydiocese.org)

**"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 7pm on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October. This is the first Lecture in the Elizabeth Prout (Foundress of the Cross & Passion) Bicentenary Series. Suggested Donation: £10. For further details or to book a place, please contact Drumalis – 028 28276455 /8272196 (during office hours Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm) or email [katrina@drumalis.co.uk](mailto:katrina@drumalis.co.uk)

**The Net:** The October edition of The Net is now available online, on [www.derrydiocese.org](http://www.derrydiocese.org). As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

**Malin GAA: Lotto** there was no winner of last weeks lotto draw, the first ever under the new 8 number format. Sequence drawn was 4-7-6-8-3-1-5-2, winner of the €50 consolation prize was Monica Walsh, sellers prize going to Calvin White. Next weeks jackpot stands at €1050.

**Malin Parish CEP Ltd.** Vacancies 2020 – 2021. 2 General/Parish Workers and 1 Water Treatment Operator (Bunn Water). DSP conditina apply. Contact: John Mc Laughlin 93 70605, Danny Mc Gonagle 086 8124 568 or email [malincep07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:malincep07@yahoo.co.uk)

**Today is Mission Sunday: we pray for the continued spread of the gospel to all parts of the world and remember our own responsibility to be witnesses and messengers of the gospel in our own lives.**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 Providence appointed king Cyrus to liberate Israel from the exile in Babylon**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him, and the gates shall not be closed:

"For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other."

## **2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 Paul assures his readers that he prays for them and is glad for their zeal as converts**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

### **Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21 Jesus refused to be drawn into a sterile argument, about paying taxes to Caesar**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that belong to him, and to God what belongs to God."

### **Reflections on the Readings : Rendering to Caesar**

No sooner had the Berlin Wall fallen, marking the end of the Cold War, than another ominous divide in our world made its appearance. This new division is between the Muslim world and what was once the Christian West. The Muslim world has experienced an extraordinary growth in fundamentalism. Many countries there have imposed or are seeking to impose the law of the Koran as the law of the state. Algeria in North Africa, just off the southern tip of Europe, is presently the scene of a murderous East-West conflict. Some European countries feel threatened, particularly France, with its large Muslim population and close historical ties with Algeria. Muslims demands that their schoolgirls be allowed to wear the veil in French public schools. Strange how people so often adopt the attitudes and strategies of their adversaries. Muslim fundamentalism in Arab countries has been matched by a noticeable "move to the right" in western countries. Now even the more moderate mainstream parties are calling for tighter immigration laws. The signs for the future are ominous, to say the least.

The clash between religion and the secular state is not new. The story of the Christian West is largely a history of this conflict. For the first few centuries of its existence, Christianity was fiercely persecuted by the state, leaving in its wake, a bloody trail of martyrs. All that changed with the conversion of the emperor Constantine. Soon Christianity became the state religion. Now the boot was on the other foot. The high point of the power of religion came at Canossa in the high Middle Ages when an excommunicated emperor knelt in the snow and humbly submitted to a pope to regain his imperial crown. In the Caesar-God contest, that round went decidedly to God. All throughout the Middle Ages the church extended its sphere of influence into the secular domain. With the break-up of Christianity in the sixteenth century the process began to reverse. The French Revolution marked a decisive turning point in favour of the state. Napoleon made the point dramatically, when he took the imperial crown from the pope and placed it himself on his own head. Ever since the state has been clawing back the ground once claimed by the church. And the church has ceded its former influence reluctantly. The boot has changed feet once more.

Today's gospel, with its famous "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" has a particular topicality in our world. While the principle is clear and unambiguous, its application in particular circumstances is quite another matter. The Catholic Church Catechism points out three circumstances where citizens are obliged in conscience to refuse obedience to the civil authorities. They are when the laws are "contrary to the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons and to the teachings of the gospel." The principle is clear. However, its application may not be so simple when there is an apparent clash of rights. The complexity of these issues may render them unsuitable topics for the pulpit. What the preacher can and must do, is advise believers on the obligation of Christian behaviour in all circumstances. No matter how deeply they hold their convictions or how warmly they espouse their causes, they must never resort to violence. And that includes intimidation in all its forms. Muscular crusades, whether modern or medieval, cause irreparable harm. The end never justifies the means. We live, even in Ireland, in a world of pluralism. There are others whose principles and beliefs differ radically from ours. The state must also take cognisance of them. Our only resort is persuasion. Persuasion is always a gentle art. We best persuade by living our Christian lives to the full, remembering always that "the anger of man works not the justice of God."