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GOOD FRIDAY:

On this day, when "Christ our paschal lamb was sacrificed" what had long been promised in signs and figures was at last revealed and brought to fulfillment. The true lamb replaced the symbolic lamb, and the many offerings of the past gave way to the single sacrifice of Christ. The wonderful works of God among the people of the Old Testament were a prelude to the work of Christ the Lord. He achieved his task of redeeming humanity and giving perfect glory to God, principally by the paschal mystery at his blessed passion, resurrection from the dead, and glorious ascension, whereby dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life (Preface of Easter). For it was from the side of Christ as he slept the sleep of death upon the cross that there came forth the sublime sacrament of the whole Church. In contemplating the cross of its Lord and Bridegroom, the Church commemorates its own origin and its mission to extend to all peoples the blessed effects of Christ's passion that it celebrates on this day in a spirit of thanksgiving for his marvelous gift.

HOLY SATURDAY:

On Holy Saturday the Church is as it were in the lord's tomb, meditating on his passion and death, and on his descent into hell and awaiting his resurrection with prayer and fasting. The image of Christ Crucified or lying in the tomb, or the descent into hell, which mystery Holy Saturday recalls. This is the night when the Church keeps vigil, waiting for the resurrection of the Lord. The Passover Vigil, in which the Hebrews kept watch for the lord's Passover which was to free them from slavery to Pharaoh, prefigured the true Pasch of Christ that was to come. For the resurrection of Christ in which he 'broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave', is the foundation of our faith and hope, and through Baptism and Confirmation we are inserted into the paschal mystery of Christ, dying, buried, and raised with him, and with him we shall also reign. The full meaning of this Vigil is a waiting for the coming of the Lord.

Please Note - The Easter Vigil is 'The Mother of all Vigils' (St. Augustine) and is the most important Solemn Liturgy of the year, therefore it will last a little longer than the usual Vigil Mass!

TRÓCAIRE COLLECTION - Please bring the contents of your family fast box to the church on Holy Thursday.

MONTH'S MIND MASS – For Rose McNicholl on Sunday 27th March at 10.15 am. in St. Matthew's Church, Drumsurn.

BAPTISMS - Will take place in St. Patrick's Church on the following dates: **April – Sun. 3rd, Sat. 9th, 16th & 30th**. (Sun. at 12.15 pm. and 4.30 pm. on a Sat.) Drumsurn and Gortnaghey: by arrangement.



We welcome into our Christian Community – Mollie Catherine Harkin, Gortnaghey Road; Emmett Sean O'Rourke, O'Cathain's Place; Gráinne Rose Ellen Deighan, Corick Road & Patrick Francesco Kealey, Kevin Lynch Park.

† **DEATHS** – We extend our sympathy to the Tobin/Heaney family circle on the death of Kathleen Tobin, (formerly Owenbeg), and to the Moore family circle on the death of Liam Moore, Mitchel Park. May they rest in peace.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: £2,770 - Dungiven: £2,086. Drumsurn: £446. Gortnaghey: £238.

TERMONBACCA - MASS FOR THE SICK will take place on Tues. 22nd March, beginning at 8.00 pm.
EASTER EVENING VIGIL - will take place on Wed. 23rd March, beginning at 7.30 pm. (Confessions, Adoration & Mass).

GRAVEYARD LIGHT & SOUND - Works are to be carried out at the graveyard to the rear of St. Patrick's Church to provide fencing, lighting and sundry improvement ground works in the vicinity of the boundaries. Tenders will be invited for these works.

General contractors who wish to be considered for inclusion in the tender list should submit their details to F.M. Corr & Associates, Chartered Architects, 1 Bayview Terrace, Derry, BT48 7EE in writing or by email to info.fmcorr@gmail.com, to be received not later than 12.00 noon on Friday 25th March 2016. Details to include name, address and vat registration detail and details of relevant experience for works previously carried out with values in the order of £75k.

ACCORD - Accord, Maghera are looking to recruit a volunteer to work as a Facilitator on their Marriage Preparation Courses. If you relate easily to people, are sensitive, warm, caring and accepting and have been married for at least 5 years why not contact Accord Tel: 7964 2983 for further details about selection, training and time commitment.

SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN

If you have concerns about the welfare and safety of children participating in any parish activities, please contact one of our Parish Representatives: Mrs Jacqueline Brady, 777 68566, Mrs Dana Farren, 777 40441 or Mrs Mary O'Kane, 777 42116.

HANDS THAT TALK - CLOTHING APPEAL: Please support the Deaf Community by donating good clean clothing, paired shoes, blankets, bed-linen, curtains, belts, handbags and small bric-a-brac items. Bags can be dropped into HTT during office hours: Monday - Thursday 9.00 am. – 5.00 pm. Tel: 777 42776 / text 079 1221 0803.

BENEDY COMMUNITY CENTRE - Yoga Class every Tues. @ 7.00 pm. Food Hygiene Class (Level 2) on Wed. 6th & Wed. 13th April @ 7.00 pm. Need names for this class, Tel: 777 42423. Email: benedy.farm@btconnect.com Zumba Class for 6 weeks starting on Tues. 22nd March, from 8.00 - 9.00 pm. Cost £20, payable on first night.

GLENSHANE HOUSE - Kids Craft Morning in Glenshane House on Friday 25th March from 10.30 am. – 12.30 pm. Cost £3 per child (Includes Lunch). Tel. 079 2789 4827.

GORTNAGHEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - Vintage Tea Party on Easter Tues. 29th March 11.00 am. – 2.00 pm. in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity, if unable to attend donations can be made through our just giving page: www.justgiving.com/SupportBabyThomas.

KEVIN LYNCH HURLING CLUB - Lotto No's: 2, 10, 20 & 27. Lucky Dip Winner: Deirdre McCloskey, Glenroe Park. Jackpot £2,350.

ST. CANICE'S G.A.C. - Lotto No's: 7, 9, 22 & 25. No £20 Winners. Jackpot £5,600.

DRUMSURN G.A.C. – Presents 'Lip Sync Battle' on Easter Sunday night. For ticket info. Contact Joe McHugh Tel: 079 731 410 73 or Caroline Doran Tel: 777 63222.

WHIST DRIVE - In St. Peter's Hall, (today) Sunday 20th March, at 8.00 pm.

DERRY YOUTH COMMUNITY - Are you a young person aged between 18 and 25? Are you interested in a Gap Year experience with a difference? The DYC is a group of committed young people who live in community, based in Derry City, who serve the Diocese of Derry. You will live in a structured, secure environment, from where you will be given the opportunity to reach out to other young people in schools and parishes to facilitate faith-based activities and youth ministry. You will also live in mutual co-operation with others; explore and deepen your faith; participate and share in leisure activities such as music, art, sport and drama. If you feel you are equal to the very real challenges of the initiative, more information available on www.derryyouthcommunity.com Closing date for applications 27th May 2016.

I AM ALIVE - Christian ROCKS concert on Easter Sunday 27th March, St. Columb's Hall, Derry, 8.00 – 10.00 pm. Join us in a musical celebration of our love for Jesus and his love for us. A 14-piece band will deliver music in a fresh new way that will lift your soul and inspire your faith. Tickets: Adult £10, Students £7 and are available @ Veritas.

PRAY WITH YOUR SMART PHONE

Download the app Sacred Space or on your computer at www.sacredspace.ie

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - HELPLINE: 079 279 299 23.

Fr. Séamus and Fr. Gerard wish all a very Happy and Blessed Easter.