

RENEW OUR HEARTS



Diocese of Down and Connor Novena to The Sacred Heart

LORD, GIVE US A NEW HEART.

Around the time I heard that I was to be the bishop of Down and Connor I was revisiting the life of Blessed John Sullivan SJ. One thing I read spoke to me about the renewal that God wants for our diocese. It was the testimony of a nun in the Dominican convent in Wicklow. She recalled how in 1919 Father Sullivan recommended that she pray the following aspirations:

- ‘Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in Thee.’
- ‘Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in your love for me.’
- ‘Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe you love me now.’
- ‘I believe in God. I hope in God. I love God.’
- ‘I am sorry for having offended God.’

Fr Sullivan said to her; ‘Say these frequently and you’ll become very holy’. Although the aspirations suggested were nearly all well-known ones, the nun was so struck by Father Sullivan’s tone in recommending them that she never forgot his words, and never allowed a day to pass without saying them.

Every day during the Novena leading up to the Feast of the Sacred Heart I invite you to join me in saying these prayers and meditating on the scripture for each day.

The Heart of Jesus wants to renew the heart of each one of us and prepare us to walk our pathway to the future. Together we turn to him in trust that he will bring the healing and renewal that each one of us needs.

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+Alan M. Guckian SJ.

+Alan McGuckian SJ

Down and Connor Diocesan Novena to The Sacred Heart

Thursday, 30th May – Friday, 7th June

An invitation to all parishioners “LORD, GIVE US A NEW HEART”

As Bishop Alan McGuckian takes up his ministry as our Bishop, he calls on all of us to join him in nine days of prayer. Many people among us are confused and weary, wounded, and hurting in one way or another. The Bishop asks that we make this novena of prayer for each other, aware that we are one with one another in our faith in Christ. Let us pray: “**Lord Jesus, renew our faith in you; renew our hearts; walk with us!**”

You can join in the novena each evening in St Brigid’s Church from Thursday, 30th May – Friday, 7th June. You can also join on webcam, or pray the novena individually, or with smaller groups. A novena booklet is available in the Church Entrance, or on-line.

Let us hear our new Bishop’s invitation, and take it to heart.

Thursday, 30th May: “What do you want me to do for you?” - 7.00pm.
Friday, 31st May: “Mary set out with haste” - 7.00pm, with Mass.
Saturday, 1st June: “Longing for God” at 6.00pm, with Mass.
Sunday, 2nd June: “Preparing our hearts for Christ” -7.00pm.
Monday, 3rd June: “Trust in the Sacred Heart?” - 7.00pm.
Tuesday, 4th June: “The call to holiness” - 7.00pm.
Wednesday, 5th June: “Rekindle the gifts of God” - 7.00pm
Thursday, 6th June: “To love with all our hearts” - 7.00pm.
Friday, 7th June: “The One they have pierced” - 7.00pm.

Please note that that the novena is each evening at 7.00pm, except on Saturday, 1st June, when it is joins with the 6.00pm Vigil Mass.

Laudato Si’ week – ‘Responding to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor’

The week beginning Sunday 19 May 2024 has been set aside by Pope Francis to reflect on ‘Care for Creation’ with the theme ‘Seeds of Hope’. It is an opportune time to remind ourselves of the messages contained within the encyclical Laudato Si’ – here is one A/B/C selection ..

A	St Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life...(L.Si’ para 1)
B	... other living Beings have a value of their own in God’s eyes: ‘by their mere existence they Bless him and give him glory. (L.Si’ para 69)
C	Society as a whole and the state in particular are obliged to defend and promote the Common good. (L.Si’ para 157)

For more quotations please visit our Parish Groups section on our website or refer to the posters on the notice board.

Did you know ?? A group of parishioners have come together to set up a St Brigid’s Parish Laudato Si’ group. If you are interested, please join us in the Parish Centre on Wednesday 22 May at 7.30pm.

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Rome - July 2025

The parish is considering a pilgrimage to Rome during the Holy Year leaving Tuesday 1st July 2025, returning Sunday 6th July 2025. The pilgrimage will be 5-nights / 6-days half-board in a modest Religious House accommodation close to the Vatican. The package will include flights, accommodation , breakfast & most evening meals, visits to the Seven Churches of Rome & a full religious itinerary. Presently, the package price is unavailable but we expect more details in August.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: Places are limited! To register your interest, please contact the parish office with your name, contact details, number of participants and room preference. When details are released, the parish will contact all registered parishioners.