



Dare
TO LOVE
as
JESUS
loved.

**A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
IN THE DIOCESE OF DOWN & CONNOR**

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY to the
FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER**

vocations@downandconnor.org



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GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY to the FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

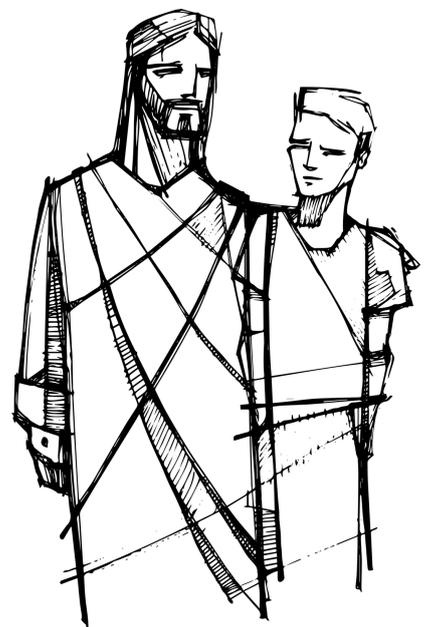
Good Shepherd Sunday is a day to celebrate the vocation of Priesthood. We invite everyone in the Diocese to pray this week for all vocations and, at this time, to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese of Down and Connor. Our week of prayer will close on the Feast of St Joseph the worker. In this Year of St Joseph, we ask especially for his intercession as we seek to hear God's dream for our lives and for the grace to dedicate ourselves, in service and fidelity, to Christ and His teachings.

A vocation is a wonderful call from God. It is something to be cherished and followed. A vocation is never to be feared. The first words that Saint Joseph heard in a dream were an invitation not to be afraid, because God remains ever faithful to his promises: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid". Do not be afraid - these words the Lord also addresses to each one of us. He repeats these words as we seek to follow His will every day. Do not be afraid - these words are a refrain accompanying all those who say "yes" to God with their lives, through their faithfulness each day.

This week we pray especially for those discerning a vocation and for families, schools and parish communities who are creating environments of joy, where vocations can flourish and be nurtured. We trust that our prayers will support the men of our Diocese who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. We pray that, with generosity, they can respond to the Lord's call to "Come follow me!"

Fr Kevin McGuckien
Vocations Director
Diocese of Down and Connor

If you are thinking about the Priesthood,
we encourage you to call Fr Kevin
or send an e-mail to him.
028 90614567
vocations@downandconnor.org



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



"Support your priests with your love and prayers, that they may always be shepherds after Christ's heart."

Pope Francis

As we begin this week of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood we pray for Bishop Treanor and the priests of our Diocese. May their service and witness guide all the faithful and inspire more men to respond to Jesus's invitation to "Come follow me!"

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

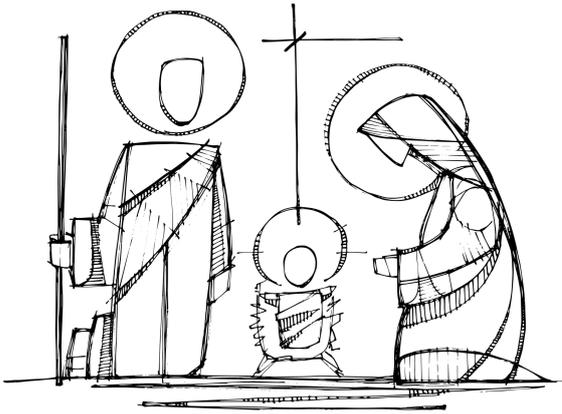
God, our Father, at the very beginning of your Church, your Son, Jesus, chose twelve apostles to continue the work he had begun. By the power of your Holy Spirit, they continued to bring the Good News of your love to our world.

Send that same Holy Spirit into the hearts of those you are calling to serve as priests for your people in our diocese. Fill them with your gifts of wisdom, understanding, piety and knowledge as they discern your will. Give them the gifts of right judgment and courage in following their call. Through the outpouring of your grace may many come to the joy of knowing and responding to the invitation of Jesus to 'Come, follow me!'

Amen.

Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.
St Joseph, pray for us!

MONDAY



Family homes, schools and parishes are the first places where our children and young people encounter the beauty and challenges of the Christian life.

We pray that all homes, schools and parishes in our Diocese be places where those who feel called to the priesthood may find the freedom to grow and flourish as they respond to God's call.

A VOCATIONS PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

O Holy Family of Nazareth, community of love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, model and ideal of every Christian family, to you we entrust our families.

Open the heart of every family to the faith, to welcoming the word of God, to Christian witness, so that it may become a source of new and holy vocations.

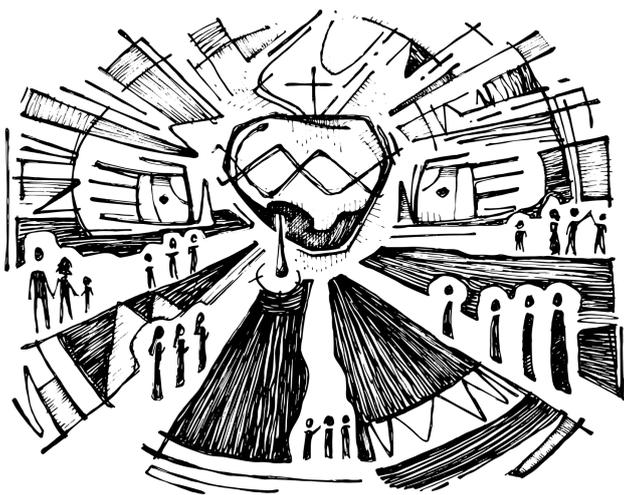
Touch the hearts of parents, so that, with prompt charity, wise care, and loving devotion they may be for their sons and daughters sure guides towards spiritual and eternal values.

Stir up in the hearts of young people a right conscience so that growing in "wisdom, age, and grace," they will respond generously to God's invitation.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that all of us, might set about fulfilling the will of God and accompanying those among us who are called to follow more closely the Lord Jesus, who "has given himself for us" (cf. Gal 2:20).

St Joseph, Spouse and Father, pray for Us!

TUESDAY



Our Baptism calls each one of us to a life dedicated to Christ and service to him. The Church is most vibrant when we all live out our Baptismal calling.

We pray that we grow as a discerning Church, bringing renewal of faith and allowing young men and women to hear Christ's call.

A PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT AND SERVICE IN OUR DIOCESE

Heavenly Father,
in Baptism you called us by name
and made us members of your family, the Church.

Help all your people to know their vocation in life,
and to respond by living a life of holiness.

Help our pastoral communities to grow as discerning communities, rich in love and in dedicated service of your people. Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape their future. May you inspire the witness of all the lay faithful, clergy and religious of our pastoral communities.

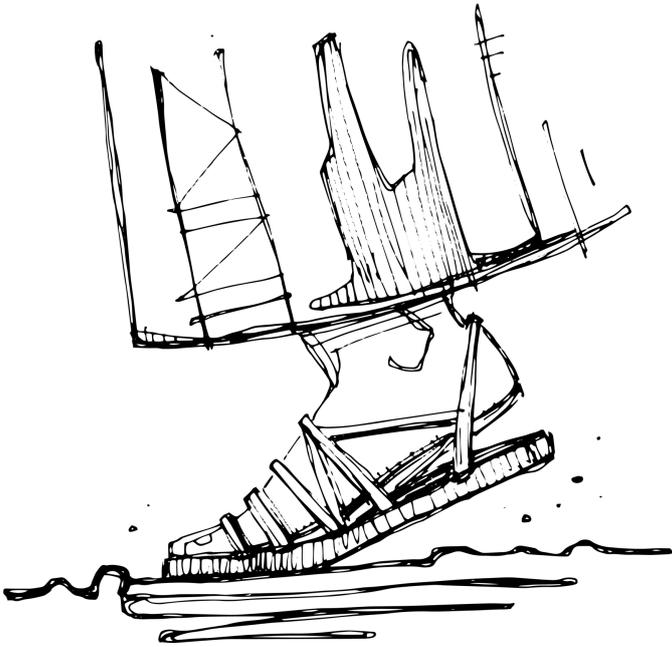
For your greater glory and for the service of your people, raise up dedicated and generous men who will serve as priests in the parishes, pastoral communities, universities, hospitals and prisons in our Diocese. Send your Spirit to guide our seminarians and all who are discerning their vocation. Amen.

St Malachy, pray for us!

St MacNissi, pray for us!

St Joseph, pray for us!

WEDNESDAY - ST PETER CHANEL



Men and women have for centuries dedicated their lives to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. They have been witnesses of love, even laying down their lives so that God's kingdom could be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

We give thanks for the missionaries who have gone before us and to those who continue to dedicate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.

"COME AND SEE"

He said to them "Come and See."
They came and saw where he was staying (John 1:39).

God of all nations, we are most grateful
for the faith that St Patrick shared with the people of Ireland.
We give thanks for the many Irish missionaries who left Ireland for countries
around the world where they brought with them countless skills, talents and
traditions, and their greatest treasure - faith.

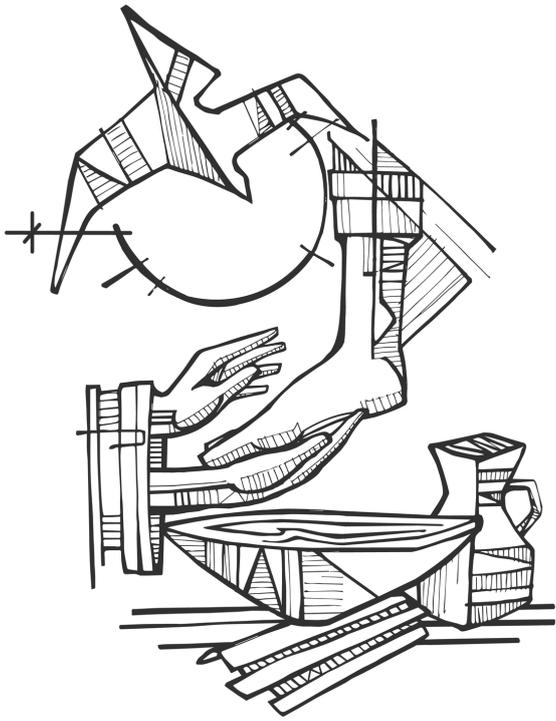
May the Good News of Jesus Christ, which moulded and shaped their lives,
continue to mould and shape our lives today.

Bless our diocese with men and women
who will follow in their footsteps to serve the Church
as religious brothers, sisters, priests, and deacons.

Lord Jesus Christ, help everyone to hear your call to "Come and See."

St Patrick, Pray for us!
St Peter Chanel, Pray for us!
St Joseph, Pray for Us!

THURSDAY- ST CATHERINE OF SIENA



"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

These are the words of St Catherine of Siena, Doctor of our Church.

We ask that, in living our vocations, we will be agents for change in the World around us. May our service bring Christ's healing love to all our brothers and sisters, especially those in need.

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS FROM OUR PARISHES

Gracious and loving God, help the men and women of our parish to hear Your call to serve in the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Our needs are great and we thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will devote themselves to your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving in our parishes now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

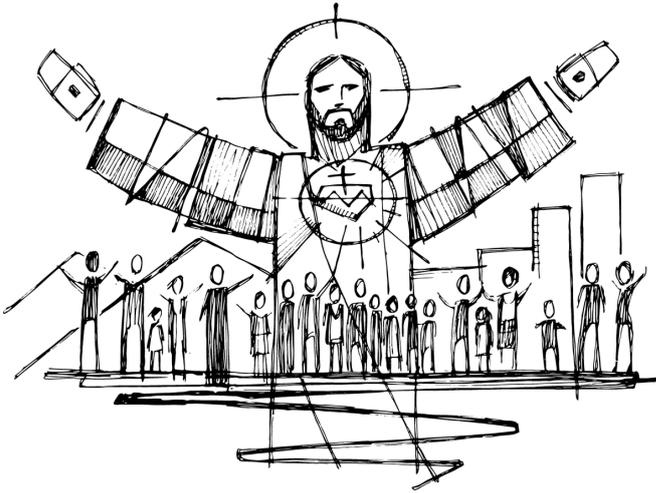
May our Parishes grow in faith and may vocations from our parishes flourish. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St Catherine of Siena, pray for us!

St Joseph, pray for Us!

FRIDAY - ST PIUS V



Saint Pius V led the Church following the Council of Trent. With zeal and patience, Pope Pius pursued the changes urged by the Council Fathers. We pray for Pope Francis and all our priests as they continue to respond to the needs of the Church and World at this time.

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim Your word and to act in Your name. For so great a gift to Your Church, we give thanks and praise.

We ask you to fill them with the fire of Your love, so that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church.

In their afflictions, let them never be crushed; in their doubts never despair; in temptation, let them never be destroyed; in persecution, let them never be abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of Your dying and rising.

Through the Holy Spirit put Your words on their lips and Your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken-hearted.

And may the gift of Mary your mother, to the disciple John, be your gift to every priest. May they, by her intercession, be formed in Your Divine Image by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

St Pius, pray for Us!
St Joseph, pray for Us!

SATURDAY - ST JOSEPH THE WORKER



In his message for Good Shepherd Sunday 2021, Pope Francis said St. Joseph's life and living legacy of witness offer three keys to discernment and fruitful living of every vocation: dream, service, and fidelity.

"May St. Joseph help everyone, especially young people who are discerning, to make God's dreams for them come true. May he inspire in them the courage to say 'yes' to the Lord who always surprises and never disappoints. "

VOCATIONS PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

O Great Saint Joseph, you were attentive to the work of the Holy Spirit and responded to God's dream for your life. May we, like you, have the grace to recognise God's call and the generosity and courage to respond readily.

Your life was one of service and devotion to Mary and to Jesus. May we, like you, seek to be close to Mary and to Jesus.

Faithful Spouse, Courageous Father, Model Worker, Pillar of Families and Protector of the Church we ask for your intercession.

May the Lord continue to provide men to serve as Priests working alongside the Bishop, deacons, religious and lay faithful to build the Kingdom of God.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.