ACCORD DERRY – Marriage and Relationship Counselling. If you can’t talk to each other try talking to us.
Further information contact Accord 71362475 Mon-Thurs 9.30 am to 1.30pm E: derry@accordni.com
www.accordni.com

ACCORD DERRY are currently looking for married people who would like to get more involved in their community and assist young people planning for their future married life? If you would like further information and an application form please contact: Rosemary Accord 71362475
www.accord-ni.co.uk
derry@accordni.com

The Foyle Yarnspinners invite you to an evening of stories and song with guest Paddy Montague from Co Tyrone on Monday, 10th March at 8.00pm in the Verbal Arts Centre, Stable Lane & Mall Wall, Bishop Street. Adm free. All welcome.

THE LITTLE THEATRE GROUP has a number of productions planned this year and will have parts for young performers ages 12-18. The Group meets in Pennyburn Youth Club on Sat 1-3pm. Tel 07543050891 for information

THORNHILL MINISTRIES is organising a trip to the Holy Land from 14 to 23 September 2014. For further details, please contact us at 71351233.

INTO THE DESERT
[A desert for most of us is an inhospitable wilderness, a sea of useless sand, an economic wasteland. Well, so people thought until one day around a hundred years ago they were drilling for water and hit the liquid black gold of oil which has been spewing forth non-stop since and has brought such changes to our world- some would say good, perhaps more would say not so good.]

A friend who worked in a demanding job once told me he loved the Sahara desert because it has no distractions - just you and your thoughts. Personally I think I would go mad there but he described the bleakness and solitude as a spiritual experience. He said it enriched his soul and freed him from the concerns of the world.

Lent is based on the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert as he began his public ministry. While the world indulges itself we are called to self-discipline. While people may be selfish, we are called to be generous. While many forget God we are called to pray.
This is a time of change of heart and mind, of conversion, temperance, purification and renewal; time to ‘re-boot’ the system. If not, then we may continue to live in the moral wasteland of our spiritual desert.

A final quote from Old Nick himself ‘That day in the desert I thought I had him. I offered him food, after forty days with nothing to eat – No good! Then I tried the ‘power plan’ – He wasn’t interested. Then his ‘ego,’ but defeat again. I had to go away with my tail between my legs, three times a loser. But I’ll be back. Our paths will cross again, I’ll nail him yet. Ah – ‘cross,’ ‘nail’ – now there’s an idea. Watch this space’
**BAPTISMS** Our parish family welcomes:
Sean Joseph McFadden
7 Sherriff’s Glen

During Lent there will be an **extra Mass** Monday—Friday at 5.00pm beginning on Ash Wednesday

**Stations of the Cross** after evening Mass on Mondays and Fridays

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**
11.00am Eoghan Williams
12.30pm Tirna Duncan

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION**
6.00pm Caroline O’Neill & family
12.30pm Beth McCorkell & family

**Anniversaries** We pray for:
Brian and John Mallett, James Hampson
Peter McGowan, Bernard Little
Annie and Anna Maguire
Catherine Callan, Sheila Quigley, Margaret McKinney, Vincent Feeney

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** 2nd March amounted to £2073.25 and €157.10 Thank you.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the boys and girls who made their Confirmation this weekend. Thanks to the teachers, parents and staff here who made the day so special. Please remember this marks the beginning of their journey in faith as young adults and to encourage them especially by the example of your own faith practice.

**ST JOSEPH’S YOUNG PRIESTS** society will meet on Thursday 13th March at 7.45pm.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** takes place on Tuesdays from 10.30am-7.15pm in the Upper Room from 11am.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL BARNARDOS UK CHOIR OF THE YEAR** The School and Parish community were delighted to hear of the success of the School Choir at the UK Choir of the Year competition held in the Barbican Theatre London last weekend. It was an outstanding performance and the choir received much praise from fellow competitors and audience. They now will perform in the Royal Albert Hall in July. Congratulations to the Children and Miss Doherty the choir mistress on their achievement.

**Vatican II - Where are we now?:** Brian McKee (Belfast) leads this timely and stimulating set of seminars. For those interested in the development of the Church and where, with Pope Francis, we may be going. It begins 20 March for four Thursdays. Time: 7.15 to 9.00pm. In Thornhill College, Culmore Road. Suggested Donation: £30 for course. Tel Thornhill 71351233 to book your place.

**ST EUGENE’S CATHEDRAL** will remain open each Monday during Lent from 8.00 pm until 10.00 pm. During this time you are welcome to celebrate the sacrament of Confession and to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Two courses offered during Lent in St Eugene’s Cathedral.** For five Tuesdays from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm, beginning on Tuesday, 11th March, there will be a course exploring the Sacrament of Confession. The second course for five Thursdays from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm, beginning Thursday, 13th March, will be examining the teaching of Pope Francis.

**DO YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND YOUR FAITH MORE DEEPLY?** Could you commit to doing a little reading each day and meeting once a week for 12 weeks to explore what the Catechism has to say? The study notes have been prepared by Maryvale Institute. **Spiritual Director:** Fr Roland Colhoun. **Information meeting:** Tuesday 11th March 7.15pm, in Parish Hall at St Columb’s Church, Waterside. **Cost of course:** £35. For further information phone Parish Office, 7134 2303 or email roland@derrydiocese.org.

**ST MARY’S FESTIVAL OF SONG** 
Dancing Days: Wednesday 26 March 7.00pm
**ST MARY’S FESTIVAL OF SONG** 
Sunday 30 March 12.30pm

**McMILLAN COFFEE MORNING** Every Friday at 10am-12.30pm in Ballymagroarty Community Centre Shaw Court.

**HOLY FAMILY PILGRIMAGES**

**MEDJUGORJE:** 7-14th May.
£519 Deposit £150.
Last 3 places left.

**LOURDES:** 16-21ST JULY.
£625. Deposit £200.
Savings and Deposits Parochial House Thursdays 8-9pm
Tel 07732468511

**LENTEN JOURNEY:** Thornhill Ministries hosts a series of reflection mornings on the Tuesdays of Lent to Begin: 11 March. in Steelstown Parish Centre. from 10.30am- 12.45 pm. A donation of £5 per morning is suggested. Please ring 71351233

**FIRST COMMUNION**
If you have a child for First Communion and need help with Communion dresses and outfits Tel Ellen at 07742217887 clothes a re available free of charge

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** **1st July – 6th July 2014**
The new Bishop of Derry, Bishop Donal McKeown, is delighted to be able to lead the Pilgrimage this year

**FREE HEARING AID CLINICS**
Healthy Living Centre Creggan: Wed 12th March from 11am – 12 noon
Old Bridge House Waterside: Wed 12th March 3.30pm-4.30pm
Resource Centre Carnhill: Thursday 20th March from 11am – 1pm