



#### **Week 4.**

**5th to 11th November**

**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Matthew 23: 1-12

“ Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE:** We are all challenged by Pope Francis, clergy and lay alike, to set out as missionary disciples with ‘Hearts on fire, feet on the move’ (Lk 24:13-35). Bishop Donal McKeown, Apostolic Administrator, has chosen today to write to all the faithful of the Diocese with a further missionary challenge for each one of us to step up to – to actively participate in the renewal of the Church in Down and Connor. He calls on us to be “voices of hope” for the Church and for the generations of faithful to come.

On Friday we celebrated the Feast of St Malachy with a Day of Prayer for the Mission of the Church in Down and Connor, and began a time of prayer, sharing, listening, and discernment. We ask you to respond to Bishop McKeown’s call and get involved in the conversations about the future of your parish that will take place in the weeks ahead. We want you to share your hopes, your aspirations, and your concerns. We want you to think about what the suggested Families of Parishes that have been shared with you today means for your parish and what it means for you personally. What role could and will you play as part of your Family of Parishes?

A meeting on Pathways to the Future will be held in The Carriage Rooms, Montalto Estate, Ballynahinch on November 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 9pm To register, please contact your parish office on 02844612084 or email [downpatrick@downandconnor.org](mailto:downpatrick@downandconnor.org). This is your opportunity to join the conversation about the future of our Church in Down and Connor and to be a voice of hope for the future.

*“... as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God’s message, you accepted it for what it really is, God’s message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.”*

1 Thessalonians 2:13

To find out more go to [www.pathwaystothefuture.org](http://www.pathwaystothefuture.org)

## **Pathways to the Future Prayer**

God of Love, You are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety,

we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name. **Amen.**