SERVICE OF LIGHT 2021

AGHALURCHER PARISH

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

7.00pm

Holy Cross Church Lisnaskea

**OPENING HYMN:**

**INTRODUCTORY RITE:** Canon Jimmy

We begin our service with four representatives offering us 3 lights of encouragement.

**Parent Representative:** On behalf of all our parents, I offer you our young people, the light of love. Carry this light of love into the world. When you find the light of love is flickering, or threatened by the troubles of life, remember that there will always be a light burning for you in a place called home.

**Teacher Representative:** On behalf of our three schools, I offer you our young people the light of wisdom. Carry this light of wisdom out into the world. When faced with choices and decisions that you never before dreamed of, may you be inspired by wisdom to find the good and the true.

**Pupil Representative:** On behalf of my fellow pupils, I offer this light of memory. May we carry with us the light of our school days out into our world. May all those who remain in our schools, carry on that story of our schools.

**Priest: Opening Prayer:** Each of us have been called by Jesus to work for his Kingdom, to work for a better world, where God is known and loved, and where people live in justice, in peace, love and truth. The children here this evening who will soon receive the Sacrament of Confirmation have witnessed the Christian life in the lives of you their parents and other adults. They have seen how the community of Christ’s followers work together in our Parish, and now, they are being called to be a light in our world. May they be the best of witnesses to Christ. Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD** (Teacher)

A Reading from the Book of Micah

Listen to what the Lord says: “Stand up, plead your case before the mountains, let the hills hear what you have to say. I brought you out of Egypt, and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. This is what the Lord asks of you, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God. The Word of the Lord.

**Mary Mc Daid:** Talk

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** As lights of the world, we now turn to the Lord, praying that we will always find the courage to live in such a way, that we will always shine brightly.

**Teacher:** We the teachers have been privileged to have helped these boys and girls to a deeper understanding of God’s great love for them, and his abiding presence with them. Our wish and our prayer for them, is that they will always have great faith in the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and that by word and deed, they will always spread God’s Kingdom. Lord Hear Us.

**Pupil:** We thank God for our teachers, and we ask God to continue to bless them. They have given us wisdom and understanding and learning. May God continue to inspire them in their vocation, and help them continue to keep the light of faith burning within their lives. Lord Hear Us.

**Pupil:** Guímís ar son ár bparóiste agus na daoine uilig atá ina gcónaí ann. Cuidigh linn uilig máireachtáil mar a d’iarr Íosa aorinne agus fás I do chuid cairdis agu gra. A Thiarna Éis linn.

**Parent:** These are our sons and daughters, gifted us by God to be loved and cherished, healed and helped, scolded and forgiven, advised and warded, to be led by us into the fullness of manhood and womanhood. God our Father, we thank you for them. We thank you in a special way tonight, that you know each one by name, that you are now calling them into a more deeper relationship with you, and to strengthening them with the gift of the Holy Spirit. May we as their parents, continue to be faithful to that desire to hand on to them, that most cherished gift, the light of faith. Lord Hear Us.

**Priest:** These prayers we make as always through Christ our Lord. Amen

**HANDING ON THE LIGHTED CANDLE**

**Priest:** Dear parents, we thank you this night for all that you have done for these children in their lives. We thank you for the love that you have shown them and the sacrifices that you have made for them. We thank you especially for sharing your faith with your child, for telling them the great stories about God our Father, Jesus, Mary and the Saints, for praying with them and celebrating at mass with them.

At your child’s Baptism, you lighted their Baptismal Candle from the Paschal Candle as a sign of the faith you were handing on to them, as a sign of the help and support you were going to give your child, as they grew in faith.

Once again I now invite to hand on your lighted candle and say to your child, ***“I will be with you to help and support you as you live out your Confirmation, so that your light may continue to shine in the world”.***

**Concluding Prayer:** God our Father, bless all these boys and girls. Continue to be with them all of their lives. Bless too their families, their sponsors and their friends. May they use the gifts of the Holy Spirit with love in their lives and communities. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Let us now bow our heads and ask God’s blessing.**

Lord, we thank you this night for being there for us, through the seasons of our lives. For the Winter when we felt safe in your arms through the darkness of the day. For the hope of Spring, as you fil us with new promise and new life. For the Summer time, full of warmth and colour. And for the Autumn days, as the leaves fall to seed new growth. You are always with us Lord.

And so we now pray your blessing………in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Ceremony of Light is now ended, let us go in the peace of Christ. Amen. **Final Hymn:**