You are warmly invited to

## LOUGH DERG DAY OF FRIENDSHIP AND PRAYER

Guest Speaker: Fr Peter McVerry

## 'The Social Gospel - Meeting Christ on the Margins'

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 10:30am - 3:00pm

Please consider inviting a friend from another church to come along to celebrate this day.

For our **Day of Friendship and Prayer** this year, today's growing challenges around homelessness, migration and social exclusion have led us to invite *Fr Peter McVerry* as our speaker who will address the topic: *'The Social Gospel – Meeting Christ on the Margins'* 

Lough Derg's geographical location in a marginal landscape is part of what enabled it to become the place that it has been for centuries: a place of retreat and reflection, a place to review our journey in life and to find new and gospel perspective in personal terms and in our engagement with society around us.

Followers of Jesus, who could say of himself that **'the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head**,' are welcome to come, along with their friends from across the denominational divides, to share what promises to be an engaging and challenging Day of Friendship and Prayer.

Fr La Flynn, Prior



Jesuit Fr Peter McVerry grew up in Newry, Co. Down. Working in the Inner City in Dublin in the 1970s Peter came into contact with many young people who were sleeping on the streets because of their home situation. In 1979 he opened a hostel for homeless boys, aged 12-16, and this would lead him towards his life-time work. When the boys reached 16 they had few options

open to them and most ended up back living on the streets. This realisation led him first to set about providing services and accommodation for these youths and then, in Ballymun in 1983, to found what is now The Peter McVerry Trust, with eleven homeless hostels, over 100 apartments, a residential drug detox centre and two drug stabilisation services. In 2017 alone the charity worked with over 4,900 vulnerable youths. The charity seeks to support all those living on the margins and to uphold their rights to full inclusion in society.