

Beragh Parish Bulletin



2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

6th December 2020

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Cardinal MacRory Pastoral Area

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St Vincent DePaul Helpline: 07738 837 875

Parish Office Opening Hours

Tuesdays: 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm; Fridays: 9.00 am - 1.30 pm.



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

You may have heard the story about the woman whose car stalled in heavy Friday evening traffic just as the lights turned green. All her efforts to start the engine failed miserably. Before long, a chorus of honking horns arose from the queue of vehicles behind her. Feeling just as frustrated as those other drivers eager to get home or to their various destinations, she finally got out of her car and walked back to the first driver and said very politely, “I’m terribly sorry, but I’m having trouble starting my car. If you’ll go up there and give it a try, I’ll stay here and blow that horn for you”.

Our Celtic ancestors, accustomed to a slower pace of life, would be appalled at today’s lack of patience and they would be totally amazed at the volume of traffic hurtling along broad paved roads at unimaginable speeds. Their idea of a road was a “bo-thar”, a wide enough track where one cow could literally pass by another. But while we may be going faster and by more sophisticated means, we have to ask ourselves: Where are we heading? What’s it all about?

On this second Sunday of Advent we meet John the Baptist, the only religious leader that Jesus ever sought out and spoke about with deep affection and admiration. He is described as a voice crying in the wilderness, a large presence that dominates the barren landscape.

As patron of the Advent season, John reminds us that if God is to come into our lives, we have to prepare for his coming by mending our ways. In today's gospel we hear him calling us to conversion - inviting us to take a journey inwards, to the spiritual self which is always thirsting and hungering for God.

Unfortunately, the nature of today's lifestyle puts us under such stress that we are inclined to live on the surface of things with precious little time to reflect on what is important in life.

The images described by Isaiah and quoted in today's gospel are very powerful. "Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley". In other words, there is a belief that God can restore the landscape of our lives, transform the most difficult terrain and change the most challenging situations to our benefit.

And Isaiah concludes that piece with a truly beautiful image: "God is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes".

May the Lord bless your Advent journey. Monsignor Colum.

Arrangements for Christmas Masses in Beragh Parish

As mentioned last week, there will be 3 Masses on Christmas Eve: at 6.00 pm, 9.00 pm and 12 midnight.

There will be 2 Masses on Christmas Day: at 9.00 am and 11.30 am.

All Masses will be in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh.

Thanks to all who have been in contact with the Parish Office to reserve places.

Tickets will be distributed in due course.

At the moment - the Mass at 6.00 pm is practically booked out!

People who haven't already done so, are asked to give their name and contact details, along with the number of places required, as soon as possible. It would also be helpful to indicate your second preference.

Sunday Missal

Because we are not allowed to distribute parish bulletins in paper form, some people regret not being able to follow the readings and prayers during Sunday Mass. It might be opportune, therefore, to consider purchasing a Roman Missal which would cover the 3-year cycle.

A plain white edge Missal in hardback would cost £7

A gold gilt edge Missal in hardback would cost £8.70

Both represent good value and would make a nice Christmas gift; they are available in black, red or blue. If anyone would like to place an order, please do so by e mail beraghparochial@btinternet.com or contact the parish office.

St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul welcomes your continued and ongoing support. We are facing a very different kind of Christmas this year. If you would like to contribute to our special Christmas collection - envelopes will be distributed after Masses on Sunday 13th December and collected the following Sunday.

Last year we spent £27,409.00. All money donated will go directly to helping families in our Parish.

Thank you for your generosity.

Beragh Parish Covid 19 Team

There will be a short meeting for the COVID team and any others who might be interested, on Wednesday 9th December at 7.00 pm.

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All Names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Sean Molloy; Neil McGarvey;
Liam Crawford; Fr Frank McElhatton;
Margaret Corrigan; Johnny Clarke (Drumnakilly -
Funeral last Monday in Drumduff).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 6th December	9.00 am Private Intention. 11.30 am Sarah Logue; Johnny and Mary Broderick.
Monday 7th December	9.00 am Private Intention.
Tuesday 8th December	9.00 am Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
Wednesday 9th December	9.00 am Private Intention.
Thursday 10th December	9.00 am Private Intention.
Friday 11th December	9.00 am Private Intention.
Saturday 12th December	9.00 am Private Intention.
Sunday 13th December	9.00 am Jimmy, Teasie and Aggie Donnelly. 11.30 am Mary Ann Owens (MM); Barney Colton; Marion Kerr.

Oratory, Sixmilecross

The Rosary and Masses from the Oratory are available on You Tube. Search for “sixmilecross oratory youtube”.

Blood Donation Sessions

There will be blood donation sessions in the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December (1.00 pm - 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm - 7.30 pm). Please call 08085 534 653 to book an appointment.

Dún Uladh

Dún Uladh are set to host their second online concert on Saturday 19th December at 8.30 pm with the legendary Four Men and a Dog. Earlybird tickets are available now for the special rate of £12 (standard £15) at www.dunuladh.ie and the concert will be streamed via online link. For further information please contact the centre on 02882 242 777 or e-mail info@dunuladh.ie.

ASPIRE

ASPIRE, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's employability service, is currently active with new ways of working. ASPIRE staff are ready to help people apply for and secure jobs; support from the initial search through to the application and with interview preparation. ASPIRE also provide training courses and arrange work experience placements.

Contact ASPIRE on Omagh 02882 246 535, Enniskillen 02866 326 478, mobile 07799 471 448 or email aspire@fermanaghomagh.com

Music and Singing at Mass

Beragh Parish is blessed with a number of people throughout the parish who have been blessed with beautiful singing voices in addition to others who are able to play musical instruments. We are extremely grateful to those individuals and groups who use their God given talents to enhance our liturgical celebrations. With the current Covid-19 restrictions, regular large choirs are discouraged, but that should not prevent us from having some music and singing at Sunday Mass.

I am extending an invitation to people throughout the parish who would be interested to kindly make contact with Mrs Clare McAleer - (Telephone: 07984 653 698 email: cmcaleer85@gmail.com). The intention is to draw up a rota for 9.00 am and 11.30 am Masses in Beragh.

Important Information about the Parish Webcam

The web camera in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh has been upgraded. Anyone wishing to watch Mass etc. being streamed from Beragh Parish should go to the parish website www.beraghparish.com for the new link or go to www.churchmedia.tv Anyone with a set top box should search for Church Media to add that channel. Any problems with the set top box, please call 07879 606 583. You will also notice on the bottom left hand corner an additional camera choice: "Baptismal" which focuses on the baptismal font for the celebration of baptisms.