

Beragh Parish Bulletin



The Baptism of the Lord

9th January 2022

Parish Priest Mgr Colum Curry PP VG

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Cardinal MacRory Pastoral Area

Priests of the Pastoral Area:

Mgr Colum Curry PP VG 028 8075 8206

Fr P Hannigan 028 8776 1211

Fr C Devenney 028 8555 7212

Fr M O'Dwyer 028 8555 7212

St Vincent DePaul Helpline: 07738 837 875

Parish Office Opening Hours

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



Baptismal Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ
 hear our prayers, and
 with Your unfailing protection,
 watch over and cherish this child,
 whom You have blessed
 with the grace of baptism.
 When this child has grown,
 grant that one may confess
 Your name in willing faith, be
 fervent in charity, and persevere
 courageously in the hope of
 reaching Your kingdom, where You
 live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.



HC9-074E



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

There are few of us who can recall the day of our baptism. In the early Church, however, it was usually adults who were baptised. This followed a period of intense preparation which began during Lent and ended with the baptism of the new Christian at the great festival of Easter. When you attend the baptism of an infant today you will see how its symbols contain all of the most important elements that explain and express what being a follower of Christ means.

At the beginning of the ceremony, we have the anointing with the Oil of Catechumens on the child's breast. In the sports arenas of the ancient world, oil was used liberally by wrestlers and athletes to keep their bodies supple and to help them slip through the grasp of their

opponents. Using oil in baptism reminds us of God's power and strength which we share and the support of God's help to enable us to escape the clutches of whatever evil things might hurt or enslave us on our journey through life. The oil is a power-filled symbol of God's partnership with the new Christian: "I have taken you by the hand...." says the Lord.

The most readily understood symbol of baptism is water. We know that we could not survive without this precious gift which brings new life to the earth and freshens and cleanses us in so many ways. We are also aware of the destructive power of stormy waters and the devastation of heavy floods. The waters of baptism remind us not only of its fertile and cleansing powers, but of the mastery of God over life's turbulent and dangerous moments. We need only recall Jesus standing with outstretched hands over the angry waves saying, "Be still!" or reflect on the words of today's responsorial psalm: "The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of the waters... the voice of the Lord full of power... the Lord enthroned over the flood".

Towards the end of the ceremony, we use the Oil of Chrism, a reminder of the oil used to anoint prophets, priests and kings of old. It signified their authority and holiness. The newly baptised person is given grace to be a priest, a bringer of God to others; a prophet, one who speaks the Word of God especially in matters of justice; and finally a royal person, one who is very special, not because of royal blood, but because of what St Peter says to Cornelius in today's second reading: "The truth I have come to realise is that God does not have favourites". By virtue of our baptism, we are adopted as children

of God and we are called to carry on the work of his Son, the beloved.

May the Lord enable us to be faithful to our baptismal commitments and witness to Gospel values in everything we do and say.

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank everyone who donated to our special Christmas Collection. The total raised, including donations and fundraising, totalled £5,640. A total of 65 hampers were distributed to local families prior to Christmas, along with cash assistance and vouchers. Once again we were overwhelmed by the generosity of local people which enabled us to help so many families in our Parish. Thanks also to our local schools for their donations for our Christmas Hampers. Anyone requiring help, please contact our local helpline number 07738 837 875.

The Sacred Heart Messenger

The Sacred Heart Messenger is a long-established magazine that has made its way into countless homes down through the years. Today it continues to provide a wealth of information on important social and religious issues along with topical articles relating to everyday living. The annual subscription for twelve editions is £22. Elizabeth Montague is our Parish Promoter and does a marvellous job in distributing the magazine, with the kind assistance of Sean McCabe, Seskinore and Brian McCullagh, Drumduff. Those who already get it are asked to renew their subscription at this time and anyone who would like to receive the Sacred Heart Messenger or offer it as a gift to a friend, are invited to give their details. It is warmly recommended for families with children and young adults.

Sunday Missal

Because we are still 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 for the New Year, which would cover the 3-year cycle.

If anyone would like to place an order, please do so by e mail beraghparochial@btinternet.com or contact the Parish Office on 02880 758 206.

Important Dates for 2022

Providing there are no Covid restrictions, it is hoped to celebrate First Holy Communion on Saturday 14th May and Confirmation on Saturday 11th June.

Pathways - Adult Faith Development Programme

Two-year, part-time course, now enrolling for 2021-2023 intake. Have you ever thought about exploring your faith... or wished that you could broaden your understanding of your faith? Would you like to explore, discuss and reflect upon issues and questions of faith, the Church, and how to link faith to life? If the answer is “yes”, then Pathways may be for you. The course runs one Saturday per month (10.00 am - 4.30 pm) from October to June, either in-house at Drumalis, Larne or online via Zoom.

‘Across The Hedgerow’ Project (NI)

Rural Support in partnership with Young Farmer Clubs of Ulster, launched the ‘**Across the Hedgerow**’ programme last year. This service provides older, vulnerable, and isolated members of the farming community with listening support and companionship via telephone calls. The aim is to improve the emotional wellbeing of the client. The winter months can be a very lonely and isolating time for older people; therefore, this service would provide them with the listening ear and companionship they need. If you know of any older individual, from a farming/rural community, who will benefit from this service please inform them of ‘**Across the Hedgerow**’.

The Rural Support Helpline: [0800 138 1678](tel:08001381678).

Covid 19 Wakes and Funerals

When a person has died as a result of Covid 19, new regulations governing arrangements for wakes and funerals have come into effect from September 2021. Where there is a negligible risk of transmitting the Covid 19 infection, the remains of the deceased are allowed to be taken home and viewing is permitted. They can also be brought to the church for the funeral Mass. However, the regulations regarding numbers permitted to gather, social distancing, hand hygiene and face coverings must be observed. Anyone who has had a positive Covid 19 test result or anyone who is symptomatic should not attend.

Week-end Masses

I am aware that some people in the parish are quite annoyed there is no Mass in St Malachy's, Seskinore on Sunday and no Mass in St Patrick's, Drumduff on Saturday evening, as was the practice in recent years. I share their disappointment, but unfortunately the situation is outside my control. I would love to be able to reinstate the arrangements we had prior to Covid-19. However, the current regulations regarding places of worship are determined, not by numbers in attendance, but by capacity. It is the responsibility of the parish to ensure that the building can safely accommodate people by ensuring the stipulated social distancing, in addition to the other protocols regarding signage, ventilation, and sanitisation etc. Given the size of Seskinore and Drumduff churches, it is not possible to have public week-end Masses until the Health Authorities and the Executive relax the present guidelines.

Covid-19

While the Executive has decided to ease the restriction of face coverings in places of worship, Church leaders are encouraging people to continue to use them as a precautionary measure against the spread of infection.

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £ 440.00

Loose Collection: £ 26.51

Other Collections

Candles: £ 90.46

Messenger: £ 157.00

Mission Sunday: £ 5.00

Bishop's Collection: £ 9.00

Christmas Day: £ 135.00

Sick and Retired Priests: £ 222.00

Total: £1,084.97

Parish Envelopes

To make it easier for Parishioners, Counters and Admin - if you are returning envelopes for past weeks/months, please put your total contribution in one envelope. Envelopes are always counted and recorded against the date for which they are received.

Congratulations

We welcome into our Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism,
Eleanor Grace Conway.

Congratulations to *Paula Owens and Patrick Teague* and *Shaylynn McNally and Ciaran Porter* who were married recently.

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: John McSorley; John Sweeney;
Bernie Coyle; Annie Mulholland;
Hughie McMahon (Funeral in Carrickmore last
Monday); Peter McAleer; Petey McNamee;
Peter Finnegan; Nathan Corrigan; Bernadette Grimes
(Garvaghey); Margaret Denise Smyth (Funeral in
Beragh on Saturday); Sean Kelly (late of Sixmilecross -
Funeral in New York on Thursday).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

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| Sunday 9th January | 9.00 am | Mass for the People. |
| | 11.30 am | Laurence Connolly; Mamie Daly; Mary and Jimmy Donnelly (Simon) and all deceased family members; Brendan McNamee; Teresa and Tommy Fitzmaurice. |
| Monday 10th January | 9.00 am | Private Intention. |
| Thursday 13th January | 9.00 am | Brendan Noble. |

Friday 14th January **7.30 pm** Private Intention.

Saturday 15th January **10.00 am** Vincent McDaid.

Sunday 16th January **9.00 am** Mass for the People.

11.30 am Elizabeth McGarrity, her son
 Maurice McGarrity, Alice McGarrity
 and Mary Ellen Shields;

 Fr James Grimes and his parents
 Margaret and Patrick;

 Dermot, Peter and Catherine Meenagh;

 Patricia Kelly.

Church of St Patrick, Drumduff

Wednesday 12th January **9.00 am** Private Intention.

Church of St Malachy, Seskinore

Tuesday 11th January **7.30 pm** Private Intention.

Oratory, Sixmilecross

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

Defibrillator

The Defibrillator has now been installed at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh.

St Oliver Plunkett Nursery and Primary School
Admissions for September 2022

Are you interested in joining our StOP family for Primary 1 or Nursery in September 2022?

Applications open on the EA website on Monday 10th January 2022.

Beragh Red Knights GAA

Monday 27th December postponed lotto numbers were 2, 16, 18, 22 and 28. No jackpot winner this week but the £50 goes to Kathleen McNelis, Mark McCartan and Mary's Meals. Last week's numbers were 3, 7, 21, 25 and 28. No jackpot winner this week but the £50 goes to Paul McNelis, Ursula Kerr and Dervla Devlin. Next week's jackpot is £13,150 and tickets can be bought online on Klubfunder https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Beragh_Red_Knights_GAA or at local shops.

For the past two weeks, our lotto gave away a Christmas lucky dip, worth £1,000. The 10 lucky winners were Stephen Franey, Celine Curran, Phyllis Alcorn, Rosemary Mullan, Christine Conroy, Noel Franey, Hugh McNamee, Rachel Cummins, Emer Logue and Brendan Rocks. Enjoy the winnings.

In light of recent tragedies, the Club would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy 2022. While the end of the 2021 year devastated the whole community, it is important to remember some of the great work that has been done to help develop our Club. Thanks to each member for playing their part.

Radio Maria

Thank God and sincere thanks also to our many listeners and supporters as RADIO MARIA IRELAND continues to grow. As an Irish run Catholic Talk Radio Station we enjoy commercial free broadcasting. We offer Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies. So do join our growing faith family. Here is how you can listen:

- 1 Via Digital TV - Saorview 210.
- 2 Download our **free** App "Radio Maria Ireland".
- 3 Streaming on our website - www.maria.ie
- 4 Via our "Listen Live Radio" link on our Facebook page.
- 5 Via phone - get live radio feed by calling 353 (0) 14373277 (no extra charges apply).

Why not drop a line to our Priest Director, Fr Eamonn McCarthy, at Maria Ireland, St Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22.

Prayer by Telephone

The Sisters of Mercy at "Bethany" House of Prayer, 34 Point Road, Dundalk, welcome any person who may wish to request prayer, especially during these difficult times. Telephone 00353 (42) 9331602, from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm daily. One of the Sisters will be happy to listen and pray with you. All requests are confidential.

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 and "Mobile" which is available for Devotions and is only available when streaming is active.

Mass Arrangements for Beragh Parish

All Masses from Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh are streamed via webcam.

To log on please go to: www.beraghparish.com