

Beragh Parish Bulletin



28th Sunday Year A

11th October 2020

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Parish Office Opening Hours

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

Parable of the Wedding Feast

Matthew 22:1-14



“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come [...]”

“Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.”

The Endless Love Of GOD

Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

Some of us may remember a common question format that was once popular in examinations: “Compare and contrast”. We could well compare and contrast the texts of today’s readings; they both speak of food and guests:

Isaiah: a banquet of rich and juicy food, a banquet of fine strained wines;

Matthew: a banquet of oxen and fattened cattle just slaughtered.

(I’m sure vegetarians and teetotallers will be accommodated!)

Isaiah: a banquet for all peoples..... all nations everywhere on earth;

Matthew: a feast for those invited; a wedding hall filled with good and bad alike.

Today’s readings celebrate the Lord’s gracious invitation to come to his banquet. The quotations above remind us of the scope of God’s lavishness and the extent of his generosity, which is extended to everyone, everywhere. To help us understand the parable better, it might be useful to recall some Jewish customs of that time: when an invitation to a great feast was sent out, the time wasn’t stated. It was not until everything was ready and prepared that a second invitation and the final summons was issued - and in this instance insultingly refused. Today’s parable is linked to last week’s account of the wicked tenants and points once more to the contempt of God’s own people who failed to respond to his request.

Those in the highways and byways could represent the sinners and Gentiles who couldn't believe their good fortune, because they never expected such a gracious invitation. There is one verse in today's gospel that is strangely out of place, because some scholars would argue it wasn't part of the original parable as told by Jesus. The mention of "troops being dispatched and the burning of their town" may be Matthew's reference to the destruction of the Temple and the burning of Jerusalem in 70 AD that was taking place when he was writing his gospel.

Recently, I came across the following which express another aspect of today's theme of invitation and response:

You are writing a Gospel,
A chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do
And the words that you say.

People read what you write.
If it's false or it's true.
Now what is the Gospel
According to you?

Living the Gospel is always a challenge and we need the Lord's help if we are to succeed. However, as St Paul reminds us in today's second reading: "There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength."

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

Blessing of Graves

Footage from the blessing of graves for Beragh, Drumduff and Seskinore can now be watched on Facebook; by going to the Parish Website - www.beraghparish.com and following the respective links or searching You Tube directly.

World Mission Sunday

This year the coronavirus pandemic will have devastating implications for the Pope's annual appeal for spiritual and financial support towards the life-giving work of overseas missionaries. Although we are faced with difficult challenges in our own lives and our own land, we must not forget the need for solidarity with all our brothers and sisters who are suffering throughout the world. We are encouraged to give what we can to the Mission collection next Sunday.

Do not lose heart - Message from Archbishop Eamon Martin and the Bishops of Ireland

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the people of Ireland have endured testing times with courage, resilience, and compassion. Individuals and communities have made great sacrifices for the protection of life, health and the Common Good. Like many others, the Church has endeavoured to support the people of Ireland, north and south, in the face of considerable uncertainty and disruption. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our priests and to the many volunteers whose continued dedication has ensured that our churches have remained very safe places to gather for Mass and the Sacraments. We have also been blessed in the commitment of our school communities who have been supporting our young people in very demanding circumstances, including assisting with their preparation for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Now that more restrictive measures are being put in place, we encourage people to persevere and not to lose heart. Faith and prayer, in the home and in church, can be a huge support in difficult times. While we fully support the guidance of the public health authorities, we will continue to engage constructively in the coming days with the civil authorities to ensure that our people have continued access to the support of Mass and the Sacraments and essential spiritual nourishment for these challenging times. The communal celebration of Mass and the Sacraments - even with restricted numbers - is at the very heart of what it means for us to be a Christian community. These are not simply 'gatherings' of people, but profound expressions of who we are as a Church. For parishes, and individual Catholics, the loss of these spiritual supports can be a source of great anxiety, and fear, and can have a detrimental impact on their overall health and well-being.

This year, the month of November, in which we traditionally remember the dead and pray for the bereaved, will be particularly poignant. We sense a huge yearning for consolation and hope in the heart of our people. We are especially mindful in 2020 of those grieving families, who, because of restrictions, have been unable to experience the customary spiritual and community supports which are so much part of our Irish tradition. On 1 November at 3.00 pm the bishops and priests of Ireland will lead a short service of prayer to dedicate the

month of November to ‘Remembrance of the Dead and Prayer for the Bereaved’. We invite the whole country to unite in this moment which will be followed by parish liturgies throughout the month of November, reaching out as much as possible to those who cannot be physically present.

Advent and Christmas are likely to be very different this year. Advent, as a time of patient, hopeful waiting and longing, will have a particular resonance in these times, while the much-needed joy of Christmas may well be tempered by the impact of restrictions. We encourage parish communities to explore creatively ways in which the hope of Advent and the joy of Christmas can be realised and safely celebrated.

We are conscious that the pandemic has seriously impacted the livelihoods of many Irish families. The plight of poor and homeless people, and the needs of our elderly and vulnerable, have been thrown into stark relief. The pandemic has also heightened our consciousness of suffering further afield. The pandemic is a global phenomenon. It has impacted most severely on people around the world who are already seriously disadvantaged in terms of poverty and lack of access to healthcare. Although we are faced with many difficult challenges in our own country, let us not forget the need for solidarity with all our brothers and sisters who are suffering throughout the world. The courage, compassion and generosity of Irish people during the pandemic - especially that of our health workers, carers, priests and others working in essential services - has been uplifting and inspiring.

In this mission month of October, we appeal for your support for Trócaire, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, our missionaries and other charities who are reaching out to the poorest and most in need - both at home and in the furthest corners of the world. In light of the Good Samaritan parable, let us not ‘pass by on the other side’, but, in the example of Christ, open our hearts and reach out our hands in response to their great need.

With kindest regards, + Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh.

Family Rosary Crusade

Archbishop Eamonn Martin is asking families to pray the Rosary together for the month of October in what is called the **Family Rosary Crusade**.

On Saturday October 10th the **Hail Holy Queen Conference** will be Live & Exclusive on Radio Maria Ireland, beginning with the Rosary from 12.30 pm. Guest speakers include Dana, Marino Restrepo, Fr Damian Polly, Fr Ruairí O'Domhnaill, Fr Marius O'Reilly and more.

On Sunday October 11th the **Rosary on the Coast for Life & Faith in Ireland** will take place. This year we will again join in with many other countries from around the world. We will gather on our coasts, at our grottos, our churches, our river banks, our homes, or wherever we can..... to pray the Rosary safely together at 2.30 pm. Please do remember to observe Covid-19 guidelines. See www.coastalrosaryireland.ie to see locations near you or to register a location.

Face Coverings in Churches

Thank you for continuing to ensure that our celebration of Mass and other Liturgies remain safe places for all who join us. It has been acknowledged that the wearing of face masks, in conjunction with hand washing and social distancing etc are likely to reduce the spread of Coronavirus, thus helping to protect others and ourselves. While the government has not formally made it mandatory, all Church leaders strongly recommend that people attending church should wear face coverings, with the exception of those people considered exempt and children under the age of 13.

Congratulations

We welcome into our Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism,
Alanna Rose McKernan.

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £ 365

Other Collections

Candles: £ 66

Peter's Pence: £ 9

Building Fund: £ 110

Priest's Dues: £1,295

Total: £1,845

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All Names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Kathleen Gavin; Mary B McNelis;
Kathleen Colton (Derry - burial in Beragh on Friday).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 11th October **11.30 am** Frank Mulholland;

Denis Hannigan (MM).

Tuesday 13th October **9.00 am** Private Intention.

Thursday 15th October **9.00 am** Private Intention.

Friday 16th October **7.30 pm** Private Intention.

Saturday 17th October **10.00 am** Private Intention.

Sunday 18th October **11.30 am** Mick Grimes;

Vincent McCullagh.

St Malachy's Church, Seskinore

Monday 12th October **7.30 pm** Michael Donnelly.

Church of St Patrick, Drumduff

Wednesday 14th October **7.30 pm** Kitty Farley and Sister Teresa Farley.

Oratory, Sixmilecross

The Rosary is available during October from Sixmilecross Oratory.
All Day. Every Day. Search You Tube for Sixmilecross Rosary.

Totus Tuus Magazine

Due to the Covid 19 Outbreak, the Totus Tuus magazine is now being delivered straight to your door. If you would like to start receiving Totus Tuus to your home, then please phone Fiona at 0868 760 058.

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.