

Beragh Parish Bulletin



3rd Sunday of Advent

12th December 2021

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.



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

In today's gospel different groups of people approach John the Baptist and they each ask a similar question: "What must we do?" The common thread in answer to all his questioners was to encourage them to be other-centred rather than self-centred.

John is uncompromising and his reply to each group relates very directly to their way of life and is very specific in terms of how they should behave. Some were told to be generous, to clothe those in need and to provide food for the hungry; the tax collectors were told that they should not extort more money than was due; to abandon the way of deceit and fraud; the soldiers were told that they should not accuse people in the wrong.

If you could imagine yourself going up to John and asking that question "What must I do?" what do you think his answer might be? Or supposing you were to take five minutes today to sit quietly with that question.... to ponder the question in peace and silence. It might be interesting to reflect on what comes to mind. In doing an exercise like this it can be helpful, beforehand, to whisper a prayer to the Holy Spirit for enlightenment and guidance. "What must I do?"

In trying to answer the question for myself I will probably find much more than all the things I've forgotten to do for Christmas. "What must I do?" is intended to be a reflective question that relates to my responsibilities as a follower of Jesus Christ.

"God our Father, help us prepare the manger of our hearts for the coming of Christ. As we listen to John the Baptist calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and to make straight his path, we ask for clarity and insight. Reveal to us our real sins: the flaws, the hurts and the resentments that we harbour in our hearts. Make us aware of all negligence and indifference that stunts our commitment as followers of Christ. Help us to realise the impact our selfish behaviour can have on other people. Give us the courage to entrust our past to your mercy and to commend our future to your providence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen".

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

Sick and Housebound

In the coming weeks I hope to attend sick and housebound people in their homes. These visits will be sufficiently spaced in compliance with Covid restrictions. If there is anyone who has not been able to come to Mass for some time and would like to receive Holy Communion, I would ask them to pass on their details and I will include them.

Mass arrangements for Christmas and Feast of Holy Family

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to have Mass in St Malachy's, Seskinore or St Patrick's, Drumduff.

Masses in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh as follows:

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Mass at 6.00 pm by ticket only

Mass at 9.00 pm

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Mass at 9.00 am

Mass at 11.30 am

Sunday 26th December (Holy Family)

Mass at 11.30 am

Parishioners are asked to book tickets for the Christmas Eve Mass at 6.00 pm before 12 noon Friday 17th December. Priority will be given to people belonging to Beragh parish and will be allocated on a “first come” basis.

Requests for tickets can be made by e mail

beraghparochial@btinternet.com

Telephoning Parish Office (028) 80 758 206 on:

Monday 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Friday 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Dropping a note or letter to the Parochial House.

Please state your name, contact details and the number of people who will be part of your “family bubble”.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions will be available in the Crying Chapel on:

Friday 17th December 6.00 pm;

Saturday 18th December at 10.30 am; 12 noon and 6.00 pm

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.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul Society appreciates your continued and ongoing support. If you would like to contribute to our special Christmas collection - envelopes will be distributed after masses on Sunday 12th December and collected the following Sunday. All money donated will go directly to helping families in need in our Parish.

Thank you for your generosity.

Any family in need of help, please contact our helpline number on 07738 837 875.

Digital Advent Calendar

A popular resource for prayer and reflection during Advent is the interactive digital calendar which is now available on www.catholicbishops.ie. This year's calendar theme focuses on the theme of 'Hope'. Each day during Advent a virtual door can be opened on the calendar containing faith content, including an audio/video reflection. Now in its eighth year, this digital calendar is a well-received resource for families, schools and parishes as it offers suggestions for prayer, charity and penance during this special liturgical season.

Lough Derg Online Shop

Lough Derg online shop offers unique Christmas Cards, featuring scenes of the Island from across the centuries and bespoke Gifts including a limited edition Lough Derg Christmas Candle. Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are also available - Fr La, Prior, will offer a triduum of Masses beginning on Christmas Eve for all those who are enrolled. Visit www.loughderg.live/shop Telephone 071 9861 518. Delivery nationwide and Click & Collect Service available.

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.

Support the Benedictine Community

Buy your Christmas gifts at the shop of Holy Cross Abbey, 119 Kilbroney Road, Rostrevor, Co. Down BT34 3BN.

Candles and Soaps made by the monks, Books and a range of different gifts. Shop opens 9.00 am - 11.00 am and 2.30 pm - 5.00 pm.

www.benedictinemonks.co.uk

'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.

Congratulations

We welcome into our Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism,
Néasa Jane McGlone.

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £ 271.80

Loose Collection: £ 43.00

Other Collections

Candles: £ 152.00

Bishop's Collection: £ 25.00

Building Fund: £ 57.00

Priest's Dues: £1,037.20

Total: £1,586.00

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.

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Anne Dixon; Frank McSorley (Errigal Ciaran Parish).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 12th December **9.00 am** Mass for the People.

 11.30 am Barney Colton;

 Mary McSorley and Brigid and
 Mick Keenan;

 Gusty McMackin.

Monday 13th December **9.00 am** Private Intention.

Tuesday 14th December **9.00 am** Private Intention.

Friday 17th December **7.30 pm** Betty Neville.

Saturday 18th December **10.00 am** Private Intention.

Sunday 19th December **9.00 am** Mass for the People.

 11.30 am Sheila Hannigan;

 Brendan Prevett.

Church of St Malachy, Seskinore

Thursday 16th December **7.30 pm** Private Intention.

Church of St Patrick, Drumduff

Wednesday 15th December **9.00 am** 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.

Beragh Red Knights GAA

Last week's lotto numbers were 8, 11, 13, 18 & 29. No jackpot winner this week but the £50 goes to Brendan Gallagher, Lisa McCann and Aidan Grimes. Next week's jackpot is £12,950 and tickets can be bought online on Klubfunder https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Beragh_Red_Knights_GAA or at local shops.

We are in the final week of our indoor underage winter programme. Even at this late stage, if not already, we encourage all youth to attend.

The programme is as follows:

- U9.5 Boys on Tuesday 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm
- U13.5 Boys on Wednesday 7.45 pm - 8.45 pm
- U14 Girls on Thursday 6.15 pm - 7.15 pm
- U11.5 Boys on Thursday 7.20 pm - 8.30 pm
- U15 Boys on Saturday 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm

Santa is in Beragh on Sunday 19th December from 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm.

Beragh Red Knights and Breacach Handball welcome all to come along and get their photo with the big man himself at St Mary's Park.

After successfully confirming their status for intermediate football next season, the Senior men will finish their campaign with a visit to Naomh Eoghan. Throw in today (12th December) - Newtownstewart at 2.00 pm.

Baxter School of Irish Dancing

Class continues for beginners and current pupils on Fridays (6.00 pm - 7.15 pm) in St Oliver Plunkett PS, Beragh. All new beginners are welcome.

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