

Beragh Parish Bulletin



4th Sunday of Advent (Year C)

19th December 2021

Parish Priest Mgr Colum Curry PP VG

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Cardinal MacRory Pastoral Area

Priests of the Pastoral Area:

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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 this final week of Advent many people will be busy - scrambling to post cards, doing last minute shopping, and trying to get organised for Christmas. In these short December days, tempers can easily get frayed, patience can be tested, and the simple courtesies of civility and good manners can be neglected.

Today's Gospel suggests a kinder approach. It describes Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Mary had little time to recover from the extraordinary news that she was to be the mother of Jesus, and instead

of ruminating on her own situation or wallowing in personal anxiety, she sets out on a long and treacherous journey to visit her elderly relative, who is also expecting a baby. St Luke describes their meeting as a moment of blessing.

Perhaps today's Gospel of the Visitation reminds us that our presence to each other at this time of year is more important than any presents we might exchange. Living Christmas well is about being present to others in ways that leave them blessed and uplifted. Each of us can be a carrier of the Lord to others as Mary was a carrier of the Lord to Elizabeth.

We can do that by the quality of our listening, our affirmation, our respect and our attention for each other. Even the small things will be greatly appreciated: driving with courtesy, thanking the person at the checkout, observing the regulations around Covid 19; giving a helping hand to the overwrought mother or going the extra mile to see that others are cared for. In other words, to do as Mary would have done.

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

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.

Caught for A Last-Minute Gift?

No Christmas gift can change a life, like a Trocaire gift of love. These are not just gifts, they will make a real difference. You can choose from a wide range of gifts that will provide education, clean water, farming utensils and countless other practical helps for people who are struggling to live. Gifts range in price from £5 upwards. You will receive a Gift Card that you can personalise for your loved one. There are booklets at the back of the chapel with all the information and details on what to do.

Sick and Housebound

In the coming days 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

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 0719 861 518. 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.

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £ 415.40

Loose Collection: £ 46.15

Other Collections

Candles: £ 146.40

Bishop's Collection: £ 319.00

Building Fund: £ 25.00

Priest's Dues: £ 371.00

Total: £1,322.95

Amount received by Standing Order Payments during the month of November was **£2,507.67**.

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: Frank McCrystal; John McSorley (Funeral in Beragh on Friday).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 19th December **9.00 am** Mass for the People.
11.30 am Sheila Hannigan;
Brendan Prevett;
Pat and Nan Donnelly.

Tuesday 21st December **9.00 am** Private Intention.

Thursday 23rd December **9.00 am** Private Intention.

Friday 24th December **6.00 pm**

9.00 pm

Saturday 25th December **9.00 am**

11.30 am

Sunday 26th December **11.30 am** Anna Grimes.

Church of St Malachy, Seskinore

Monday 20th December **7.30 pm** Private Intention.

Church of St Patrick, Drumduff

Wednesday 22nd 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 2, 15, 18, 23 and 27. No jackpot winner this week but the £50 goes to Liz Breen and Bronagh Quinlivan. Next week's jackpot is £13,000 and tickets can be bought online on Klubfunder https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Beragh_Red_Knights_GAA or at local shops.

Today (Sunday) Santa is in Beragh. This evening between 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.

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