

Beragh Parish Bulletin



5th Sunday of Lent (Year B)

21st March 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

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



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

As Holy week looms on the horizon, we enter with increasing intensity into the mystery of Jesus dying and rising. While he knows that his hour has come and the whole direction of his life has been leading up to this moment, his focus is now firmly fixed on his Passion.

Nevertheless, the cross is something that he does not relish. Facing the reality of his agony fills him with extreme horror. We see him acknowledging the dread of the hour in the anguished prayer: "Now, my soul is troubled". In the loneliness of his agony his disturbed heart finds it difficult to do his Father's will and even hovers on the brink of indecision as we listen to his cry: "Father, save me from this hour". However, Jesus knows that only by embracing the cross and losing his life can he open the way to eternal life.

One of the great lessons of the Passion, which is borne out in all our lives, is that love and suffering are intertwined. As we grow older and experience parents dying and friends slipping away, we become aware of how powerless we are in the midst of partings, suffering and death.

As the Covid pandemic continues to dominate our lives we are all too familiar with the loss of freedom, loss of friends and loss of control.

There will be no return to the way things were before the pandemic!

But, as Pope Francis reminds us in his most recent book, “Let us Dream”, there is a way out of this ‘labyrinth’. It is the way of the Cross. *‘We have to leave behind the “selfie” culture and look at the eyes, faces, hands and needs of those around us; and in this way find, too, our own faces, our own hands, full of possibilities’* (Let us Dream, Page 137).

Faced with our own hardships of sickness and pain, grief and loss, it is difficult to imagine what good can emerge from suffering. Sometimes the hurt can reduce us to silence, so that we become preoccupied with our own affliction. The early Christian community needed time to make sense of the death of Jesus; they needed help to see that their immense loss was more than a terrible accident. We too need time and help. Only then can we look back, like the Gospel does, and cherish what good has emerged from the experience.

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life; come Lord Jesus.

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Frank Poyntz; Ellen Jane Conroy; Barney McKillion, Annie Conway.

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 21st March	11.30 am	Mick Grimes; Peggy and John McNelis.
	7.00 pm	Lenten Devotions.
Monday 22nd March	7.00 am	Private Intention.
	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Tuesday 23rd March	7.00 am	Private Intention.
	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Wednesday 24th March	7.00 am	Private Intention.
	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Thursday 25th March	7.00 am	Private Intention.
	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Friday 26th March	7.00 am	Private Intention.
	9.00 am	Private Intention.
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross.
Saturday 27th March	10.00 am	Private Intention.
Sunday 28th March	11.30 am	Margaret and Joe Franey; Thomas and Kathleen Connolly and Mona Gallagher.
	7.00 pm	Lenten Devotions.

Oratory, Sixmilecross

The Stations of the Cross and the Rosary will be available on YouTube during Lent ... ALL DAY EVERY DAY ... (24/7).

Search YouTube OR your internet browser for sixmilecross oratory rosary stations.

Congratulations

We welcome into our Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism,
Éabha Rose Donnelly and Cara Mary Houston.

Parish Covid Team

There will be a short meeting of the Parish Covid 19 Team on Thursday evening (25th March) at 7.30 pm in Beragh Chapel to discuss the “Re-opening of Places of Worship”, as described by the Executive.

Parish Finances and Covid 19

It is over a year since we first heard of Coronavirus. I don't think anybody could have predicted, back then, the impact it would have on all aspects of our lives.

Apart from the devastating effect of Covid related deaths and sickness, many people have suffered economically while others have struggled with a whole range of financial challenges.

All the more reason why I want to thank sincerely those parishioners who continued to offer their financial support by returning their envelopes, and in many cases backdating their contributions. I also include the growing number of parishioners who have opted to pay by standing order or direct debit.

It is understandable that the parish income for the past twelve months has been severely affected, especially when people were advised to stay at home and, for long periods of time, could not attend Mass. Unfortunately, there was no reprieve for service utilities like water, oil and insurance, along with other sundry parish expenses.

New envelopes will be distributed shortly throughout the parish. Therefore, I am gently reminding parishioners, if you can, to complete outstanding envelopes from the current box and return them to Beragh chapel in the coming weeks. I would encourage parishioners to consider the advantages of online giving and I would remind everyone of the enormous benefit to the parish of signing up for GIFT aid. The relevant forms are available from the parish office.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who contributes in any way to the upkeep of the parish, especially in these challenging times. It is my prayer that ‘the Lord who sees all that is done in secret’ will reward you abundantly.

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £1,468

Other Collections

Candles: £ 273

Special Collections: £ 117

Donations: £1,010

Building Fund: £ 280

Priest's Dues: £ 595

Total: £3,743

Mass for the Lough Derg Pilgrim Family on RTE

LOUGH DERG - Sunday 21st March RTE Studio Broadcast Mass at 11.00 am will be celebrated by Monsignor La Flynn, Prior of Lough Derg along with the Lough Derg Pastoral and Music teams. The Mass will be offered for the Lough Derg pilgrim family near and far. Tune into RTE 1 Television or RTE Radio 1.

A Mini-Lenten Retreat on Zoom for Holy Week & Easter

In preparation for the Easter Triduum, 'The Hook of Faith' is happy to offer a 'Mini-Lenten Retreat in Preparation for Holy Week' on Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March. The retreat will be held on Zoom and will be led by Fr Billy Swan. Each conference begins at 8.00 pm. The three conferences will anticipate the Triduum and will therefore focus on the Eucharist (Tuesday 23rd); the Cross and the Mystery of Suffering (Wednesday 24th); the Resurrection, Joy and Hope (Thursday 25th). To take part, all you need to do is send an email to: thehookoffaith@gmail.com. All 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

Lenten Devotions

People are invited to take part in Lenten Devotions on Sunday evening at 7.00 pm and Stations of the Cross on Friday evening at 7.30 pm by logging into the webcam page and selecting Mobile Camera at the bottom left.

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.

The 2021 Census

The 2021 Census takes place on 21st March 2021 and is co-ordinated by the NI Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA). The census happens only once every ten years and provides a picture of all the people and households in Northern Ireland. Next week all households in Northern Ireland will receive a census pack with details on how to complete.

The pack will contain an access code for completing online or details on how to request a paper form. Your answers are important and completely confidential. Your personal data will never be shared. As soon as you receive your pack you can complete your census.

If you don't receive a pack, have lost your access code or have any questions call the contact centre for free on **0800 3282 021** or visit the website at www.census.gov.uk/ni. Here you can find out about the support available to help you complete - including guidance in Braille, Easy Read, British and Irish Sign Language and large print questionnaires.

Trocaire 2021 “Until love conquers fear”

This year the focus is on the suffering people of South Sudan, depicted by the two mothers Ajak and her friend Awut, who feature on the Trocaire box. Widowed by war and trapped in poverty, they are now fearful of the Covid pandemic. They have no hope without help.

This is what Fr James in Sudan writes, “We are going through deep pain. This is my cry to you: please do not leave us alone. Please give your support this Lent to my people in South Sudan. In their poverty, in their fears of war, in their traumatised spirit they are trying their best to come out of it. The child who is crying may be the future leader of this country who will transform this whole situation. We shall not give up and we shall always pray for you. Hold our hands. Walk with us. We need your prayers. We need your support. With your help a good day can come for South Sudan.”

Trócaire Lenten Talks

Trócaire is hosting a number of Lent webinars/workshops. To sign up click the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsitZjQ6LENkWcgfhJng9VHUF FtxTTSq4jelHAZRpCgzqLWQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Divine Mercy Novena

Divine Mercy Novena commences on Good Friday, 2nd April, and concludes on Mercy Sunday, 11th April.

Holy Mass at 3.00 pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh. Celebrant is Fr McCallion. Chaplet recited before Mass.

Novena leaflets can be picked up at the back of all the clustering chapels.

If government restrictions are not lifted, it will be live streamed.

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.

Year of Reflection and Prayer

The 'Year of Reflection and Prayer', which was launched last January to begin the process of pastoral planning in the diocese, was due to conclude at the end of this month. Due, however, to the Covid-19 pandemic and to the ongoing restrictions on movement and gathering, the Pastoral Team has decided to extend this period of reflection until the end of June.

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