

# Beragh Parish Bulletin



**Christmas Day/Feast of the Holy Family**

**25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

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## **Parish Office Opening Hours**

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

Christmas Day/Feast of the Holy Family 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

May your hearts be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy he brings to our lives. It is my prayer that his love surrounds you and your families at this special time.

By way of light diversion, you might like to check out

Frank Kelly's comical rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas which is truly hilarious; like all things nowadays it can be Googled or found on YouTube!!

In relation to that song The Twelve Days of Christmas, it's important to recall that from 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly.

During this era someone wrote that particular carol as a 'catechism song' for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol had a code word for a religious theme that children could remember:

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ;
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments;
- Three French hens stood for the three virtues Faith, Hope and Charity;
- The four calling birds were the four gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John;
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament;
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation;
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the seven sacraments;
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes;
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit;
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments;
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful apostles;
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

May the Lord bless your homes and your families and grant you every blessing for good health and peace.      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.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)**

Mass at 6.00 pm by ticket only

Mass at 9.00 pm

#### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)**

Mass at 9.00 am

Mass at 11.30 am

#### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> May and Confirmation on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

## **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](http://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.

## **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.

### **Congratulations**

We welcome into our Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism,  
*Jack Barney Stantini.*

## Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £1,323.00

### **Other Collections**

Candles: £ 107.27

Bishop's Collection: £ 270.80

Building Fund: £ 369.00

Priest's Dues: £ 376.20

**Total: £2,446.27**

### 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.

### Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 6.00 pm**

**9.00 pm**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December 9.00 am**

**11.30 am**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December**      **11.30 am** Anna Grimes;  
John Donnelly.

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December** **10.00 am** Bernie Donnelly.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December**      **9.00 am** Private Intention.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December**      **12.30 pm** Wedding (Restricted Numbers).

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January**      **12 noon** Anton Duffy.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**      **9.00 am** Mass for the People.

**11.30 am** Margaret McDonald.

#### **Church of St Patrick, Drumduff**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December**      **6.30 pm** Eugene McCrystal.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December**      **11.30 am** Wedding (Restricted Numbers).

#### **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, 11, 12, 14 and 21. No jackpot winner this week but the £50 goes to Carmel Mullin, Pol Clarke and Roisin McCrystal. Next week's jackpot is £13,050 and tickets can be bought online on Klubfunder [https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Beragh\\_Red\\_Knights\\_GAA](https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Beragh_Red_Knights_GAA) or at local shops.

Our drive through Santa was a great success with over 140 visitors. Massive well done and thanks to all our volunteers, without them, such events could not happen. Special mentions to Donaghy's Spar, Oliver Quinn, Michelle Warren, Rachel and Davy Irwin, Peter Kelly, Mary Darcy, Paddy Mullan and Gala Marquees for their individual roles, and of course, Santa and his elves.

Our indoor winter programme also came to a close last week, after a very successful 6 weeks. Well done to all players and coaches for their efforts, particularly Adrian Harley, Gerard Loughran, Eilish O'Neill, Enda Donnelly and Paddy Kelly.

We as a Club would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We also wish to remind everyone to stay safe in these difficult times.

## **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](http://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](http://www.beraghparish.com) for the new link or go to [www.churchmedia.tv](http://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](http://www.beraghparish.com)