

Beragh Parish Bulletin



4th Sunday Year B

31st January 2021

Parish Priest Mgr Colum Curry PP VG

Telephone: 028 8075 8206

Email: beraghparochial@btinternet.com

Website: www.beraghparish.com

Facebook: Parish of Beragh - Co. Tyrone

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

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



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

The promise made by Moses in today's first reading that God would raise up a prophet who would speak God's word, finds fulfilment in the gospel account of Jesus teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. As the people listen, they are deeply impressed because, unlike the scribes, this man speaks with authority.

The powerful words of Jesus bring about change and when he is interrupted by the shouts of a man who is possessed, he confronts the powers of darkness and sets the man free.

We might be inclined to think of authority as dominance. Jesus, however, did not come to rule people or control them; he came to serve them. Above all, he came to liberate people, to en-able them, to em-power them and to help them be more effective and grow as human beings. As we hear at every Mass, 'he shared in our humanity, so that we might share in his divinity'.

In the context of today's readings, I am thinking of the authority of two young women, who have in recent times, made a deep impression on the world - by their passionate words and their personal convictions.

Greta Thunberg, the Swedish activist for climate change, has since the age of fifteen been challenging politicians and world leaders about the urgency of the climate crisis. Her authority for speaking with boldness is not derived from any office she holds, but from the sincerity of her convictions and the deep cries of her heart. This diminutive young woman has bravely confronted policymakers with startling truths about the necessity for radical changes to the way we treat 'our common home', as Pope Francis calls it.

In this time of uncertainty, as new variants of Covid-19 continue to hold our trembling world in lock-down, we are called to be beacons of hope. That call was movingly expressed by the American Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, in the poem she 'performed' at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. Describing herself as "a skinny little black girl" any words taken from her poem would afford us the courage and inspiration we need at this time eg.

"As we lift our gazes, not to what stands between us but what stands before us... We will raise this wounded world, into a wondrous one.... For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it". (Amanda Gorman).

Considering today's readings, let us remember that words have energy and power with the ability to heal or hurt, to bring consolation or devastation. We can choose to use words that are life-giving or words that crush the human spirit. May we use our words carefully.

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

Foetal Pain Motion

A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on foetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on foetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below:

www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

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.

A video will be released on Thursday evening (January 28th) on Facebook and www.armaghprays.com to outline the resources the team will make available to parishes and parishioners in the months ahead. These resources will include a Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes for the sick, for healthcare workers, and for an end to the pandemic, six sessions of prayer and reflection during Lent on our experience of Church, reflections on the role of St. Joseph to coincide with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker in May, four sessions in June from the ‘Let’s Talk Family’ programme to mark the Year of the Family and several resources to support faith formation in schools and homes.

Thursday’s video will also include two questions for reflection. Parishioners are encouraged to send their responses to yprarmagh@gmail.com.

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

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All Names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Madge Gavin; Fr Michael Seery; Ben McQuaid; Tilly O’Dea; Sean McGeown; Paddy Keenan; Fr Joe McKeever; Fr Tommy McGeough (Funeral in Ardee on Wednesday).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 31st January	11.30 am	Ellen McKeron.
Monday 1st February	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Tuesday 2nd February	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Wednesday 3rd February	9.00 am	Kieran Maguire.
Thursday 4th February	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Friday 5th February	7.30 pm	Maureen McCartan.
Saturday 6th February	10.00 am	Private Intention.
Sunday 7th February	11.30 am	Matthew and Mary Rodgers; Eamon and Packie McIvor; Ellen Doonan (nee McCann) and William James Doonan.

Oratory, Sixmilecross

The Rosary and Masses from the Oratory are available on You Tube. Search for “sixmilecross oratory youtube”.

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.