

Beragh Parish Bulletin



3rd Sunday of Easter Year C

1st May 2022

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Parish Office Opening Hours

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



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

Today's Gospel seems to suggest that the apostles had left Jerusalem and gone back to their native Galilee to resume their former occupations as fishermen.

It is early morning. They have been fishing all night and have caught nothing. Tired and disappointed, there is a sense of emptiness and a feeling of hopelessness.

There are times when we might be able to relate to the apostles' predicament. Most people have great expectations from life; we want our health; we want to be happy and above all we want to feel fulfilled. And even though we are, for the most part, better off materially than our parents and grandparents, we seem to suffer much more than they did from a feeling of restlessness, boredom, anxiety and discontent. For some there seems to be a dis-ease and an emptiness. For others, their lives are filled with activity and noise - people in a hurry going nowhere! Like the disciples, there can be a sense of failure, as if we were living in a darkness that never has a dawn.

And in all of this the Lord is always near, though sometimes we fail to recognise him. There are people who see God as a burden to be discarded. There are people who feel they have to push God aside before they can enjoy life. There are people who feel that God, like the black and white television, is out of date and does not belong in our modern sophisticated world. And so, we dismiss God and try to live lives independently without him and without others. We think we are self-sufficient and able to handle whatever comes. But the truth is we are not. Sooner or later, we are stopped in our tracks; sooner or later we are brought to our knees; sooner or later our nets will be empty despite our best efforts. And then out of desperation, we turn to the God we thought we did not need. It was only when the apostles listened to the Stranger on the shore and took his advice that they hauled in a great catch. It was then that John recognised Jesus: "It is the Lord".

If we recognise and accept Jesus as Lord, just as the apostles did, then we too will have a sense of purpose and direction and our labours will not be in vain.

May the Risen Lord make himself known to us and may we recognise our dependence on him.

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

Rosary

The Rosary will be recited every evening in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh (Monday - Saturday) during the month of May at 7.15 pm and on Sundays before 11.30 am Mass.

“Make Your Voices Heard”

Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland

A pastoral reflection by the Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland on the NI Assembly Elections on 5 May, addressing: Importance of voting; Poverty in society; Rights and dignity of unborn children; Effectively responding to refugees fleeing war in Ukraine; Committing to safeguarding creation and sustaining our environment; Respect for religious freedom and faith in the public square including for Catholic and other faith-based schools; and, Political stability serving the common good.

Make Your Voices Heard

Politics, lived with integrity, and in a true spirit of service to the common good, is a noble vocation. The freedom to vote is a hard won and precious freedom. For Christians it is also part of our call to shape society in accordance with God’s plan for human dignity, freedom and happiness.

Make your voices heard

In this short statement, we offer some reflections on the importance of voting in the forthcoming Assembly election in Northern Ireland. We encourage all citizens to make their voices heard. We do so, not as politicians or political commentators, but as pastors, inspired and motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which have the well-being and dignity of every person at their core.

The responsibility of politics is to develop laws and policies that serve, protect and promote human dignity and the common good, in the particular circumstances of the society in which we live. We do not seek to endorse any political party or candidate. The hard work of weighing up who to vote for lies with each individual before God and in the privacy and primacy of their own conscience. We urge people to come out and vote, even though some are expressing a lack of confidence in the ability of politics to deliver meaningful change.

Poverty: an affront to our human dignity

For many people here the hope of a new era of equality and prosperity promised by the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement has failed to materialise. Our society continues to face some of the highest levels of social inequality on these islands, including some of the highest levels of child poverty, fuel poverty and dramatically increasing numbers of ‘working poor’.

Poverty - the inability to meet our basic needs, especially those of our children, the elderly and those with disabilities, and to enjoy a reasonable standard of life - is an affront to human dignity. The consistent failure of our local Assembly and successive Westminster Governments to radically and fundamentally change the dynamics of poverty and social inequality in our society is a huge indictment on the priorities chosen by those elected to serve the common good.

Notwithstanding welcome improvements in levels of employment in recent years, wage levels here still rank among the lowest on these islands and the gap between the richest and the poorest continues to increase. The constitutional issue, while important, has dominated our local politics to a degree that routinely undermines political stability and prevents the full economic, social and human development of our society.

The urgent need to address our unacceptable levels of poverty, social inequality and the deepening crisis over the cost of living ought to be a fundamental issue for a follower of Jesus in the forthcoming election. While the constitutional issue, including resolving problems of implementing the NI Protocol, and preparing for a possible future border poll, have important implications for economics and identity, this cannot continue to supersede the urgent need to address the ever deepening crises of poverty, inadequate access to health services, housing insecurity and the need for a reasonable standard of living in our society. People's lives and well-being are at risk. This should be a key priority and an urgent concern for all our politicians.

Life is precious: equal dignity for all, including the unborn

We say to all voters: make your voices heard. Make your vote count. Speak up clearly and unequivocally for the rights and urgent needs of the most vulnerable in our society. This includes the rights and dignity of unborn children who are being increasingly relegated - culturally, politically and legally - to the realm of the worthless and sub-human.

We are very fortunate to live in an age when awareness of the preciousness of all forms of life and of every species on our planet is growing. We are more aware than ever that the intricate and interdependent systems of life on the earth, even in their most microscopic forms, need our constant care, respect and protection. All, that is, except unborn children in the womb! In an inexplicable medical, scientific and cultural contradiction, so many of our local politicians seem willing to disregard the rights of our children in the earliest stages of their development before birth, while at the same time properly and stridently defending the rights of animals, plants, trees and rivers. In a similarly bizarre twist of logic, many who stridently proclaim their commitment to equality for all are, at the same time, quite content to support legislation that would discriminate against children in the womb, even directly targeting those with disabilities, and denying them the very right to be born.

We ask all voters to consider seriously the choice before them in this election - of supporting a loving, positive culture of life and care, or of further facilitating a culture that denies the very humanity and right to life of our unborn children, even directly targeting those with disabilities. We believe it is possible to create a respectful and life-supporting environment for every person, at every stage and in every state of our lives. A culture of love and care that embraces all - especially the most vulnerable - offers the greatest hope for humanity and its future. Both mother and child in a crisis pregnancy have a right to a humane and life-affirming outcome for both. Rather than using medically destructive interventions to take away life, it is possible to build a loving and supportive society around every child in the womb, including those diagnosed with a disability.

We therefore encourage voters to make their voices heard by telling candidates on the doorsteps that they expect them, if elected, to work for the equal dignity of all, including the protection of all mothers and their unborn children.

“We ask all voters to consider seriously the choice before them in this election - of supporting a loving, positive culture of life and care, or of further facilitating a culture that denies the very humanity and right to life of our unborn children, even directly targeting those with disabilities.”

A warm welcome to those in need

Christians, and all people of goodwill, should seek to build a civilisation of love and care that promotes the well-being and progress of all. This culture of welcome and care includes an obligation to welcome those who are fleeing violent conflict, persecution, famine or other tragic human situations, including the increasingly irreversible consequences of climate change.

Since Brexit, ongoing changes to immigration laws and benefits are making the situation of migrants here increasingly difficult. Similarly, in contrast to the generous and welcoming response of the European Union, the so-called ‘Homes for Ukraine’ scheme, recently introduced by the Westminster Government, is proving too difficult to access and is so far failing to provide an effective response to the urgent needs of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Yet, the difficulties being experienced by Ukrainian refugees and migrants in general, are receiving little comment or attention from our local politicians.

We appeal for urgent cross-border co-operation on the island of Ireland to address the plight of Ukrainian refugees. We ask all those seeking election to the NI Assembly to pledge their support for ending the increasingly hostile policies and processes that are making our society a less welcoming place for migrants.

Building a culture of care for each other and for our common home

Welcoming the stranger, protecting and nurturing human life in all its stages, these are fundamental values of the Christian faith. They extend also to our duty of care for the earth itself - our common home. As Pope Francis once put it, “A Christian who doesn’t safeguard creation, who doesn’t make it flourish, is a Christian who isn’t concerned with God’s work, that work born of God’s love for us.”

As he also pointed out, “The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth ... We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!”

There is an urgent need to meet the commitments made at the Glasgow COP 26 Conference last November. This includes reviewing immediately our use of fossil fuels and developing more sustainable modes of agricultural, industrial and economic activity. These are important issues to be considered while weighing our Christian conscience in preparation for voting in the forthcoming election. In Ireland, we have the

privilege of living in a particularly rich and beautiful natural environment. Ensuring this rich heritage is protected now and for future generations is a fundamental responsibility of every politician in their service of the common good.

“A Christian who doesn’t safeguard creation, who doesn’t make it flourish, is a Christian who isn’t concerned with God’s work, that work born of God’s love for us.”
- Pope Francis.

Respect for religious freedom and for faith in the public square

Those who stand for political office deserve our respect. Their role is often a difficult and challenging one and increasingly undermined by vile and highly personalised attacks, often from anonymous persons.

Those in public life are called to model respectful and constructive debate, and to demonstrate high standards of tolerance, inclusion and respect in public discourse and policy making.

Increasingly, those of religious faith and conviction can find themselves marginalised, excluded or treated differently from other groups in society. The idea that politics should be ‘neutral’ and ‘does not do religion’ is itself a concept that implicitly denigrates the right to hold and live by one’s religious convictions. Among the ways it manifests itself is in the view that, to be a truly tolerant and inclusive society, we must ‘liberate’ ourselves from religious institutions, religious identity and religious belief. As leaders in the Catholic faith we see this reflected, for example, in the erroneous charge that Catholic schools are divisive, or are somehow to blame for the violent conflict that pervaded our society. Similarly, it is suggested that a politician, or other public figure, with a religious faith, should never allow that faith to influence their approach to policy and legislation.

We encourage politicians and voters to support a truly diverse and tolerant political culture, and to challenge the trend towards a culture that claims to be secular but is in fact intolerant and increasingly hostile to religious faith and its right to offer a respected voice in the public square. Catholic and other faith-based schools contribute actively to reconciliation and the common good. They have the right to be treated equally and with respect.

Political stability serves the common good

To address these issues effectively and urgently, our society requires a stable and effective Government. The absence of a functioning Executive has profoundly negative consequences for the most vulnerable in our society. A prolonged absence of the Assembly after the election would serve to destabilise society and disenfranchise many voters. Political stability and a functioning Executive will maximise social cohesion, provide the most fertile ground for economic prosperity and offer the greatest defence against those who would seek to manipulate a failure of politics for alternative means. A functioning and stable Executive and Assembly will provide the most stable space to work through the important issues of reconciliation, legacy and our constitutional future.

We remain convinced that human dignity and the common good of our society are best served by a commitment to the stability of our locally devolved institutions. We encourage all citizens to work to restore and help build a better future for all by making their voices heard in the forthcoming Assembly election.

ENDS

This statement is published on behalf of Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All-Ireland and Apostolic Administrator of Dromore; Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor; Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry; Bishop Larry Duffy, Bishop of Clogher; and, Bishop Michael Router, Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh.

www.catholicbishops.ie

Trocaire Lenten Campaign

Many thanks to all who returned their Trocaire contributions, which will be greatly received by those working with the ‘world’s poorest of the poor’. This is a final appeal to anyone who may yet wish to make a donation - please return all monies and cheques to the parish **before 8th May**. As mentioned previously, the government will match all amounts £ per £, but the deadline is 20th May.

Armagh Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

This year the Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 29th May and will be joined by the Diocese of Dromore and the Knights of Columbanus.

Women of Faith Conference

Live on Radio Maria Ireland on Saturday 7th May from 2.00 pm.

Accord

Accord is recruiting interested people to assist in the provision of Marriage Preparation Courses. Application forms are available by contacting marriagepreparation@accord.ie. Selections will take place in June with training commencing in September. This year Accord is celebrating 60 years supporting couples and families.

New Missionary Group: Apostles of Love Ireland

Check out our Facebook and website www.apostlesoflove.ie for all our activities. We are a new providential missionary group based in the Armagh Diocese on the grounds of Mellifont Abbey, Collon, Co Louth. We would like to inform you of our many activities at our Oasis of Peace Retreat Centre for prayer, healing and pastoral care. We welcome you to visit us any time for a cuppa and chat at our Forest view tea room.

- “Come Away & Find Rest” join us from a choice of one of our Retreat Day’s to suit your needs.
- Join us on one of our highly recommended “Our Lady’s Pilgrim Days” 11.00 am - 6.00 pm on the last Saturday of each month (Medjugorje Style) - Our Lady’s School of Love or join us for our Monthly Holy Spirit School.
- Apostles of Love Eucharistic Prayer Group on Tuesday 11.00 am - 1.00 pm.
- Our Scripture School (beginners 10.30 am - 12 pm) (intermediate 12.30 pm - 2.00 pm) every Thursday.
- Book for our One - One Prayer and Healing Ministry, Unbound Ministry Pastoral Counselling or Spiritual accompaniment.
- Matt Talbot Calix Addiction Recovery Group 3rd Saturday of Month, Be-Loved Faith and Support Group for Separated Ladies, St Joseph’s Food Chest for those in need.

Contact Deacon John Taaffe 0868 611 531 or Deacon Pat Butterly 0868 210 522 or Joan in the Office 0896 152 568.

HSC NI Foster Care

HSC NI Foster Care is urgently appealing for more foster carers and supported lodgings hosts who can provide homes to young refugees who arrive in Northern Ireland without a parent or carer. For more information on becoming a foster carer or supported lodgings host, contact HSC NI Foster Care on 0800 0720 137 or visit www.adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net/young-refugees/

The Irish Council of Churches (ICC)

The Irish Council of Churches (ICC) are seeking to recruit an exceptional individual who will lead us into the next phase of our work. The General Secretary is the senior executive officer, who will provide analytical and strategic analysis and direction to inter-church relations and ecumenism in Ireland.

The details and the application pack are available at www.irishchurches.org/vacancy.

Diploma in Youth Ministry & Spirituality

Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality from Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth. The diploma is tailored for those who wish to work in Youth Ministry. For more information please see www.maynoothcollege.ie/courses

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.

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, *Saoirse Erin Wallace*.

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £ 511.43

Loose Collection: Beragh: £ 41.20

Drumduff: £ 11.00

Seskinore: £ 38.00

Other Collections

Candles: £ 139.76

Emigrants Collection: £ 65.00

Education of Student Priests: £ 10.00

Miscellaneous:	£ 16.10
Building Fund:	£ 223.60
Priest's Dues:	£ 658.40
Total:	£1,714.49

A total of £2,990 was collected by Beragh Parish for the Ukraine Appeal. We thank you for your generosity.

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Francie Houston;
 Martin Keenan;
 Peter McConnell (Funeral in Enniskillen on Wednesday);
 Noel Duddy (Funeral in Drumragh on Wednesday);
 Annie Bogan (Funeral in Fintona on Thursday).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Saturday 30th April	10.00 am	Private Intention.
Sunday 1st May	11.30 am	Private Intention.
Tuesday 3rd May	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Thursday 5th May	9.00 am	John McCrystal.
Friday 6th May	7.30 pm	Private Intention.
Saturday 7th May	10.00 am	Private Intention.
Sunday 8th May	11.30 am	Peg Donnelly; Fr Francis Quigley.

Church of St Patrick, Drumduff

Saturday 30th April	7.30 pm	Private Intention.
Wednesday 4th May	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Saturday 7th May	7.30 pm	John, Mary, Eamon and Eugene Maguire.

Church of St Malachy, Seskinore

Sunday 1st May	10.00 am	William, Rose and Liam Crawford.
Monday 2nd May	7.30 pm	Private Intention.
Sunday 8th May	10.00 am	Niamh McQuade.

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.

Training for Defibrillator

We are currently compiling a list of people who may wish to learn how to use the defibrillator.

If anyone is interested, please telephone the Office (02880 758 206); send an email beraghparochial@btinternet.com or put a note through the letterbox.

Please leave a telephone number so that you can be contacted.

Seskinore Forest 5K Run and Walk

Saturday 7th May at 11.00 am

Registration online: www.athleticsni.org

Unique wooden medals and trophies.

Specially designed Seskinore Forest Snoods for first 200 entries.

Proceeds shared between Seskinore Rural Community Group, McClintock, (Seskinore) and Sacred Heart, (Tattyreagh) Primary Schools.

All runners, walkers and spectators welcome.

Refreshments for all served immediately after the event.

Local residents should note that there may be short term traffic delays between 10.45 am and 12 noon.

Beragh Red Knights GAA

Last week's lotto numbers were 3, 7, 13, 23 and 27. No jackpot winner this week but the £50 share went to Stephan Mullan. Next week's jackpot is £14,000 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.

In ladies football, this morning (Sunday 1st May), our U14 girls are in action against Tattyreagh in St Mary's Park. Throw in at 11.00 am. Then on Tuesday evening (3rd May), our minors make the long travel up to Owen Roe. Throw in at 7.30 pm. Our U13 lads are back in action next Thursday evening (5th May), as they travel to Coalisland. Throw in at 7.15 pm.

Good luck to Tyrone Senior football players and management today as they play their quarter final of the Ulster championship against Derry.

Blood Donation Service

Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh

On Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th May 2022

12.30 pm - 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Please call 08085 534 653 or text Blood to 60081 to book an appointment.

Walk in Memory of Anne McCarney

A Memory Walk to commemorate Anne's 1st Anniversary will be held on Tuesday 24th May at 11.00 am - Cranaghan Way Walk at the Slieve Russell Hotel.

Registration Fee £5 (Please drop it into the Neonatal Unit or PayPal joan12@hotmail.com).

There will also be a raffle. Donations are also welcome no matter how small. All proceeds going to Palliative Care Ward, Omagh and Anne's favourite charity - Children in Crossfire.

Rosary at the Grottos

The Rosary will be prayed each day during the month of May at hundreds of grottos around the Island of Ireland. To see a list of locations, or to register a grotto (or other suitable location) simply visit www.coastalrosaryireland.ie You can also register by texting 0872 786 552. We are praying for Ireland and for peace in the world.

Clogher Valley Pieta Darkness into Light

The upcoming Darkness Into Light Clogher Valley Walk takes place on Saturday 7th May at 4.15 am starting from Ballygawley Hall.

The registration link is: www.darknessintolight.ie and you will receive a free memorial T-Shirt when you sign up. You can register as an individual, family or large group/club.

We will be supporting local charity The Niamh Louise Foundation whilst also supporting Pieta House.

If anyone has any questions please email: Ballygawley@darknessintolight.ie or visit our Facebook page Darkness Into Light Clogher Valley.

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