

Beragh Parish Bulletin



6th Sunday Year B

14th February 2021

Parish Priest Mgr Colum Curry PP VG

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Cardinal MacRory Pastoral Area

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Parish Office Opening Hours

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



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

We could say the leper in today's gospel ignored the rules of social distancing as did Jesus. The law stated that there should be no contact with lepers. But the sight of this man pleading on his knees is very moving. As an outcast he saw no hope but had heard of the healing touch of this special person called Jesus of Nazareth.

Leprosy made a person an outcast, shunned by society, defined by their disease and banished to live apart. We don't know how long it had been since someone shook this man's hand, patted him on the back, put an arm around his waist, hugged him, touched his cheek, wiped a tear from his eye or even engaged him in conversation. The truth is, all these things were merely a memory as he probably lived in a leper colony far removed from his family and community.

Most people didn't always die directly from leprosy, but they often languished in their separation from family and community. Life away from others was haunted by hunger, hunted by wild beasts. And then there was the loneliness, which diluted the will to struggle and survive.

Leprosy is a disease that first attacks the outer skin and devours the inner structure of the afflicted part. It is an apt image for sin - how the gradual slide in to the pattern of sin eats away at a person's inner dignity and self-respect. Just as the leper is distanced from other people and compelled to leave family and society, sin removes the sinner from God and from the Church community. The sinner is alienated and separated.

In the gospel, Jesus breaks with the customary practice - he acknowledges the leper; he speaks to him; he reaches out and touches him and he enables him through the gift of healing to be restored to his former life. Jesus did not come to condemn but to bring hope and new life. In like manner the Lord reaches out to the sinner through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Today's psalm celebrates the wonder of such mercy: "Happy the one whose offence is forgiven; whose sin is remitted".

With every blessing,

Monsignor Colum.

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. As always, this season provides renewed opportunities for reflection and conversion - albeit under very challenging circumstances. Unfortunately, because of the "Stay at Home" message, and continuing public health restrictions on gathering for worship, we will not be able to do some of the things we normally undertake during this time of year. For one thing it will not be possible to carry out the distribution of ashes in the usual manner.

Wednesday will be a day of fast and abstinence; there will be Mass streamed by webcam at 7.00 am and 7.30 pm.

In the meantime, Trocaire boxes are available at the back of Beragh chapel.

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 was released on Thursday evening (January 28th) on Facebook and www.armaghprays.com to outline the resources the team have made available to parishes and parishioners in the months ahead. These resources 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.

The video also includes 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: Tilly O’Dea; Sean McGeown; Paddy Keenan;
Fr Joe McKeever; Fr Tommy McGeough;
Mick Kerr, Drumnakilly; Michael Murphy, Fox Park
Fr Enda Keenan; Carmel O’Hanlon, Sixmilecross;
Mary Bennett (nee Donnelly) Altamuskin (funeral was
in Killyclogher).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 14th February	11.30 am	Brigid and John McAleer.
Monday 15th February	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Tuesday 16th February	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Wednesday 17th February		7.00 am * and 7.30 pm
Thursday 18th February		7.00 am * and 7.30 pm
Friday 19th February	7.00 am *	Teresa Donnelly 7.30 pm
Saturday 20th February	10.00 am	Private Intention.
Sunday 21st February	11.30 am	May Gordon and deceased members of Gordon family and James McHugh. Louis McNamee and deceased members of McNamee family. Madeline Slane. Terence and Patsy Mullin and their son Joe Mullin.

***These times are provisional and will be reviewed next week.**

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.