

Beragh Parish Bulletin



20th Sunday Year A

16th August 2020

Parish Priest Mgr Colum Curry PP VG

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Cardinal MacRory Pastoral Area

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Fr P Hannigan 028 8776 1211

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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,

In today's Gospel we are told that Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon (present day southern Lebanon) which was then a predominantly pagan area and where there was bitter hostility between the local Canaanites and the Jewish people. We are not told why Jesus ventured into such foreign territory, but much to the annoyance of his disciples, a local woman approaches them shouting and screaming and begging Jesus to help her little daughter who is very unwell.

Leaving aside all political and religious reservations, this Canaanite woman is more concerned about the welfare of her child and falling on her knees she pleads with Jesus to help her. There then follows one of the strangest exchanges between Jesus and another person - initially he seems to give her the silent treatment, followed by a quick rebuke which leads to light banter and eventually a recognition that this woman has something special : "Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted".

At one level this Gospel reminds us that we must welcome the stranger, respect the outsider, have time for the marginalised and show acceptance towards those who differ from us. Like the late John Hume, we should be in the business of building bridges between people and extending the hand of friendship to those who on life's journey are travelling on a different roadway than ourselves. We are being called to widen our horizons and to acknowledge an openness to those who are of a different background or social class.

Today's gospel is a gentle reminder that we cannot possess God for ourselves and that God can never be the exclusive property of any one particular group. Every person is made in the image and likeness of Christ and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of circumstances.

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

The Annual Blessing of Graves

The blessing of graves in Beragh will take place privately on Wednesday evening 19th August or shortly thereafter. Thanks to Enda and Rory Donaghy, the Ceremony of Prayer and Blessing will be recorded by drone and streamed later, on the Parish Website and Facebook. Details about that next weekend. In the meantime, parishioners are encouraged to attend to their family plots in the coming days and, where necessary, to tidy those graves that may not have anyone to do so. The blessing of graves in Drumduff and Seskinore cemeteries will take place early September.

Congratulations

We welcome into our Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism, *Sophie Tara Heaney* and *Ellie-Mae Rose Mallon*.

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £1,016

Loose Collection: £ 37

Other Collections

Candles: £ 71

Building Fund: £ 395

Priest's Dues: £ 535

Total: £2,054

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All Names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Anthony Munroe; Terry O'Hagan; Eamon McAlinney (burial on Wednesday in Seskinore).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 16th August 11.30 am	Mary Grimes, Avril Monaghan (her daughter Maura and unborn twins).
Tuesday 18th August 9.00 am	Private Intention.
Wednesday 19th August 7.30 pm	Confirmation in Beragh.
Thursday 20th August 7.30 pm	Tommy McCann.
Saturday 22nd August 10.00 am	Private Intention.
Sunday 23rd August 9.00 am	John, MaryAnn and Pat Donnelly and deceased members of the Donnelly and McKillion families.

St Malachy's Church, Seskinore

Monday 17th August 7.30 pm	Private Intention.
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Church of St Patrick, Drumduff

Wednesday 19th August 9.00 am	Ellen Cunningham.
Friday 21st August 7.30 pm	Leo Loughran.

Parish Confirmation

On Wednesday 19th August the children of St Oliver Plunkett's PS will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at 7.30 pm. The Irish Bishop's Council for Catechetics have produced 3 videos to help prepare children for the sacrament of Confirmation this year. These are now available on the diocesan website at <https://www.armagharchdiocese.org/confirmation-day/> and on the Armagh Prays website at <https://www.armaghprays.com/confirmationvideo>.

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.

The Oratory in Sixmilecross will be closed until further notice.

It's worth noting that the Rosary and Masses from the Oratory are available on You Tube. Search for “sixmilecross oratory youtube”.

StopCOVID NI **USE THE APP - SAVE LIVES**

- This free app from the Health Service will support contact tracing, help prevent another lockdown and save lives.
- It tells you automatically if you've been near another app-user who tests positive.
It can also let them know if you test positive.
- It never knows or shares your identity or location.

What does the StopCOVID NI App do?

- It supports contact tracing and helps protect as many people as possible.
- The app uses Bluetooth technology to check if you've been in close contact with another app-user.
- It tells you if you have been near someone who has tested positive, even if you don't know them.
- If you receive an alert, it will tell you to self-isolate for 14 days and show you where to get advice on symptoms and booking a test.
- If you test positive, it updates app-users who have been in close contact with you.
- It only knows if you have been near another app-user, not your identity or location.

How do I download the App?

Download the app from your phone's app store.

This will be the Apple App Store for iPhones and the Google Play Store for most other phones. Search ‘**StopCOVID NI**’. You should see the app with its black and white HSC logo. Click ‘**Install**’ or ‘**Get**’.

The app will then be installed on your phone. Open the app and follow the guidance to set it up. You will be asked to confirm you want to use the app, agree to the Terms and Conditions, and allow the app to use your Bluetooth feature to send you notifications.

Learn more at nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus

Theology Programme

Do you want to learn more about your faith?

If you are interested, why not consider joining our Theology programme. The course takes two years with one night per week and two weekends over the academic year and is accredited by St Patrick's College, Maynooth. There are no educational entry requirements, and completion of the course is based on submitted work and does not include sitting exams. Our Theology course will be continuing this year with predominantly online classes, starting on 8th September 2020.

If you are interested, and would like more information, please contact Milanda on 00353 429 336 393 or email: milanda@parishandfamily.ie (9.00 am - 2.00 pm). All are welcome.