

Laragh Parish Newsletter

Sunday 24th May 2020 – Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Dressed In White

The Russian astronaut, Yuri Gagarin, made history by becoming the first man in space. After he had returned to earth, dressed in his white spacesuit, he declared, 'I went up to space but I didn't see God!' Had he listened to two other men dressed in white he could have saved himself the trouble. 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky?' The message is clear. We're not going to find him by looking into the sky. So where will we find him? In today's Gospel Jesus says, 'I am with you always.' Mark's Gospel throws more light on the matter. 'The Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it.' It is through the signs then that we come to know him.

The Great Sign, of course, is the Eucharist. But not everybody is convinced by it. Like Yuri Gagarin, many people go into the sacred space and come out without having seen him. Pope Francis has something to say about this. He says we all need an 'openness' through which Christ can encounter us, the 'openness' of humble faith. When we approach the sacrament in humble faith, the Great Sign gives rise to other signs that the Lord is working with us. Pope Francis is thinking of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy such as feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, forgiving offenses, bearing patiently those who wrong us. These are some of the signs through which we reveal the Lord's presence with us.

Someone has estimated that 95% of Christians never succeed in bringing anyone closer to Christ. Given the number of conversions that happen every year, that means 5% are doing some heavy lifting. But it doesn't have to be heavy work. G.K. Chesterton said, 'If a thing's worth doing, it's worth doing badly!' He meant that the most important things in life like loving others, handing on faith to children, being generous to those in need, forgiving those who hurt us, are rarely done well but they're worth doing. Because they are signs, ways in which we witness to the power and presence of Christ in our lives.

GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Trocaire:** Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:
 - Online at www.trocaire.org
 - By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
 - By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. KildareThe contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference.
- 2. Church Envelopes:** It now seems likely that public Masses will not resume before 20 July. In the meantime Church income is dropping and people are wondering what they should do with their envelopes. Obviously many people are suffering financially in the current crisis and may be unable to pay. If you are in a position to pay, however, you can do so in one of two ways: (a) by putting your contribution aside each week and handing it in when public Masses resume or (b) by sending it to the parochial house where it will be safely kept until it is counted and lodged in the usual way.
- 3. Face Masks for All:** Laragh Community Alert are involved in the manufacture of free face masks for all the community and health care workers in particular. Thanks to our volunteers Christine Kelly, Marie Dowd, Patricia Gillick, Rita Rudden and Barbara Smith who are doing Trojan work in this regard. If you or anybody you know needs a mask text or whatsapp us on 086 6044415 to be put on a list. If you would like to donate material (i.e light curtain lining/coloured or plain (not white), duvet covers etc or round or quarter inch elastic, please contact 086 6044415. Also if you want to donate we have a Go Fund Me page <https://www.gofundme.com/f/laragh-face-masks-for-all>
- 4. Laragh Childcare Services:** Any parents/guardians wishing to register their child with Laragh Childcare Services CLG Preschool for September 2020 are asked to contact Caroline O'Grady on 0870555333 to arrange for registration forms to be sent to them. Please let your friends and relatives know also.
- 5. Kilmore Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** As a Diocese we are unable to attend our Pilgrimage to Lourdes. On May 30th at 6.30pm in our Cathedral a Mass led by Monsignor Liam Kelly will be said. This mass will be on www.churchservices.tv/cavancathedral
- 6. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. 1, 2, 14, 23. €30 winners Fergal O' Rourke, Ita Smith, Jackie McKenna, Patricia O' Reilly and Siobhan Cooney. Next week's jackpot €16,200. Tickets can be purchased online.

Your Prayers are requested for the souls of the late:

- **Breda Palmer, Aughagoldrick.** Funeral arrangements will be announced later.
- **Paddy Fay, Bailieboro,** whose funeral took place on Wednesday in Bailieboro. We extend our sympathy to his brother Jim Fay, Stradone.