

# Laragh Parish Newsletter

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 – Pentecost Sunday

## Lower Your Buckets

Towards the end of the 19th century a large sailing ship was becalmed off the coast of South America. Day after day the ship lay there without a breath of wind to help it move. The captain was becoming increasingly desperate. Water supplies were low and the crew were complaining of thirst. And then, one day, a sign of hope on the horizon: a steamship appeared heading directly towards them. As it drew near, the captain of the sailing ship called out, 'Please help. We have no fresh water.' The steamship responded, 'Lower your buckets where you are.' The captain was exasperated. 'You don't understand. Drinking water! We need drinking water.' But the same answer came back, 'Lower your buckets'. And with that, the steamer sailed on. The captain, beside himself with rage and despair, went to his quarters to reflect on the terrible fate that awaited them if no other ship came to their aid. Meanwhile, one of the crew decided to act on the steamer's advice. He lowered a bucket into the ocean, drew it up and gingerly tasted the water. To his astonishment it was perfectly sweet, fresh drinking water. It turned out that the ship was becalmed just out of sight of the mouth of the Amazon where fresh water poured into the ocean in massive quantities.

On the Feast of Pentecost we can take heed of the steamer's advice to 'lower our buckets where we are'. St Paul reminds us that the Spirit of God has made his home in us and constantly replenishes our lives. All we have to do is lower our buckets and receive the fountain of living water springing up within us. Lowering our buckets will mean turning each day to the Holy Spirit living within us and asking his enlightenment and consolation, his help and guidance in our lives. 'Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.'

## GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Return to the Public Celebration of Mass:** Around the middle of June the Irish Bishops will issue a document entitled *Framework Document for a Return to the Public Celebration of Mass and the Sacraments and the Pastoral Life of the Church*. These guidelines will give us a better idea of how we are to manage public gatherings and pastoral care when the government regulations are relaxed towards the end of July.
- 2. Leaving Cert Mass:** Mass will be said on 3<sup>rd</sup> June by Monsignor Liam Kelly in the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Felim, Cavan at 6.30pm. This Mass will be celebrated for all Leaving Certificate students, their parents/guardians and teachers, of our diocese who were prevented from taking their Leaving Cert examination on this day. The link for the mass is <https://www.churchservices.tv/cavancathedral>
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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](http://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.
- 5. 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>
- 6. 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.
- 7. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. 9, 12, 13, 28. €30 winners Liam Brady, Kathleen Brady, Tony Galligan, Michelle Geoghan, Thomas, Jack and Megan McKenna. Online prize winner was Martina Hawthorn. Next week's jackpot €16,400. Tickets can be purchased online.