

# Laragh Parish Newsletter

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Priceless Scribbles

A 9 year old boy walked into the family living room one day and saw his 2 year old brother scribbling on the title page of a book. It was an expensive new coffee-table book their father had purchased the previous week. The 9 year old was horrified. He knew how much his father treasured his books and loved to keep them in pristine condition. Just as he was about to call out to his younger brother, his father walked into the room and took in the scene at a glance. The boy froze; even his 2 year old brother sensed something was wrong. The father reached down and gently took the book and the pen from the child. Then he sat down and began to write on the title page himself. This is what he wrote: 'John's work, 1959, aged 2. How many times have I looked into your beautiful face and into your warm, alert eyes looking up at me and thanked God for the one who has now scribbled in my new book. You have made the book sacred to me, as have your brother and sister to so much of my life.' The 9 year old peered over his father's shoulder to see what he had written. 'Wow', he thought, 'this is punishment?' Many years later, long after his parents had died, when he sent the story to a Christian magazine, he recalled how the book had become a treasured family possession, a tangible proof that their parents had loved them in ways they could scarcely comprehend. This simple incident became for him a key to understanding what the Gospel meant when it described how precious we are in the sight of God and how parents can make God's love real in a world full of fear and evil deeds.



**Happy Father's Day**  
**to all Father's in the Parish!**

## GENERAL NOTICES

### 1. Return to Public Celebrations:

- The Pastoral Council members and Church Committee members in each Church area are invited to identify a number of people who would be prepared to act as ushers/stewards in the Churches while restrictions are in place at Mass. Their function would be to greet people and guide them to their seats. It will be necessary to meet these volunteers in each Church between June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup> to clarify their responsibilities.
- Seats in use will have yellow markers that also indicate the appropriate distance between people (that does not apply to families). Seats not in use, namely every second row, will have red markers with white lettering reminding people that they are not to be occupied during Mass.
- As far as possible, Church doors should be kept open to avoid contact with door handles. There are fitted hand sanitisers in all Church porches.
- Collection baskets will be clearly visible, not in the porches, but inside the Church. Envelopes should be placed in them before you take your seat.
- We estimate that no more than 45 people will be able to attend Mass within the Church in both Cliffernna and Carrickallen, and no more than 80 in Laragh. In all three Churches, the speakers outside will be switched on for those unable to gain access.
- For the month of July at least, unless there is a significant relaxation of rules in the meantime, I propose that we dispense with altar servers, choirs, readers and ministers of the Eucharist. If a musician and singer are available, of course, we would be delighted to accommodate them.
- The traditional sign of peace will not take place.
- The procession for communion should take place in an orderly fashion in accordance with instructions issued at every Mass, while at all times observing the rules of social distancing. People should come up for Communion in a single file. Communion should be received in the hand only. The priest will sanitize his hands immediately before Communion and will wear a face mask during the distribution of Communion.
- Once again, please note that there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass during the Covid crisis. A summary of all recommendations will be published on next Sunday's newsletter.

2. **Visitation of the Sick and Housebound:** will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July for those who feel comfortable about the priest calling to their house. Please ring 086 0422996 if you do not wish the priest to call.

3. **Baptisms:** A few babies have been waiting patiently to be baptised. I have good news for them. Baptisms will recommence from the beginning of July. Their parents can ring me at 086 0422996 to arrange a suitable date.

4. **Confirmation/First Communion:** Confirmation will take place around the end of August/beginning of September. I will try to have a definite date fairly soon. First Communion will take place in Laragh on 10th October and in Cliffernna on 17th October.

5. **Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. 10, 17, 24, 30. €30 winners Lonan McKenna, Martin Smith, Carmel Molloy, Darragh, Aoife, Niall & Paul King, Mairead, Katie, Clare and Emma Sexton. Next week's jackpot €16,800. Tickets can be purchased online.