

Laragh Parish Newsletter

Sunday 7th June 2020 – Most Holy Trinity

The Simplicity of God

G.K.Chesterton tells the story of the lady who picked up a book of selections from the work of the great Medieval theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas. She turned to a section entitled 'The Simplicity of God' in the hope of finding some spiritual nourishment. After a couple of minutes she put the book down with a sigh and said, 'If that's the simplicity of God, I wonder what his complexity is like.' The answer, of course, is that God has no complexity i.e. he is not made of different parts. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not three parts of the One God; they are One God in a unity of dynamic love. That is why we struggle to understand God. We are complex, God is simple.

And yet, the Scriptures remind us, we are made in the image and likeness of God. That is to say, we have an affinity with him, something within us that resonates with the inner life of God and inflames our imaginations. We hear it in Moses' words in the 1st reading today: 'Let my Lord come with us, I beg...and adopt us as your heritage'. In our rivalrous world where individuals constantly compete with and seek advantage over others, we long for the simplicity of God, for the harmony and unity of love between the persons of the Trinity. The Greek Fathers had a word for this unity, *perichoresis*, 'a dancing around'. The point of the dance is that it is an open circle inviting others to join in. 'Let our Lord come to us...and adopt us as his own.' If we are made in the image of the divine dance, our fulfilment as human beings is to transform the world we inhabit into a dynamic circle of mutual and self-giving love.

G.K.Chesterton said that he believed in the Trinity because no religion invented by a human being would have at its heart an idea that nobody could grasp or explain. This is true. The simplicity of the Trinitarian God will always escape the nets of our minds. But it doesn't escape the nets of our hearts. They yearn to take part in the dance of divine love.

GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Cemetery Sunday 2020:** Due to the Covid-19 restrictions on public gatherings, there will be no Blessing of the Graves ceremony this year. However, graves can be prepared as usual for the appropriate Sunday in July as they will be blessed at some point that day. Families, meanwhile, can light a candle at home for their deceased family members and pray for the repose of their souls.
- 2. Pilgrimage to Knock:** Kilmore Diocesan 'Virtual' Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday 21st June. Pilgrims are welcome to join the afternoon ceremonies from their homes. The schedule for the afternoon will include the praying of the Rosary at 2.30pm, followed by Mass and Benediction at 3pm. In advance of the day, pilgrims may place their petitions online on the Knock Shrine website and these will be placed on the altar for the Mass. Many pilgrims light candles for loved ones and their intentions during their visit to Knock Shrine and this service is also available online. A candle will be lit at the outdoor candelabra for each request received. The pilgrimage will be streamed live on www.knockshrine.ie and on Radio Maria (Saorview TV Channel 210).
- 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. 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, Meg Smith 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>
- 5. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. 5, 10, 18, 26. €30 winners Marguerite Lynch, Louise Fuller, Margaret Brady, Paula Brady, Dee Sheridan. Next week's jackpot €16,600. Tickets can be purchased online.

Your Prayers are Requested for the Souls of the late:

- **Breda Palmer, Aughagoldrick**, whose funeral took place on Tuesday. We extend our sympathy to her husband Edward, son Andrew, daughters Audrey and Lyndsey and extended family.
- **Serena Galligan, Knockateggart**, whose funeral took place on Thursday in Crosserlough. We extend our sympathy to Denis and the Sherry Family, Knockateggart and to her uncle Michael Brady, Drumcrow.
- **Leo Brady, Canada and late of Drumlane**, who has died in Canada. We extend our sympathy to the Cahill family, Lislea.