

Laragh Parish Newsletter



Website: www.laraghparish.com

Email: laraghnewsletter@gmail.com

Kilmore Website: www.kilmorediocese.ie

Clergy & Pastoral Care

Fr Brian Flynn	049 4330142	Mobile	086 0422996
Fr Liam Kelly	049 5553035	Mobile	087 9877739
Fr Yusuf Bamai	049 5553218	Mobile	089 9645065
Fr John Cooney	049 5552163	Mobile	086 8755695

Emergency Numbers

Cavan Gardai	049 4368800	Doc-on-Call	1850 777911
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18th October 2020 – World Mission Sunday

Mission Family Prayer

God our Father

we pray for those who are suffering

for those who are grieving

for those who are anxious

and for those who are working tirelessly

to care for the sick.

God our Father

Your Son Jesus Christ

came into our world

to heal us from division

and to bring us life in abundance

By the power of your Spirit

help us to strive together

as one family of many nations

to help those in greatest need

during this crisis.

We ask this in the name of Jesus

our Risen Lord.

Prayer to St. Joseph

God, our heavenly Father,
grant us the fortitude of Christ your son

to face the Covid-19 crisis

with trust, patience and compassion.

Give us the grace of the Holy Spirit

to free us from fear

and look forward together to the future

with healing and hope.

Through the intercession of St. Joseph,
the guardian of Jesus, and Mary, the mother of Jesus

and mother of the Church,

may we be guided through this time of peril.

Preserve us in peace; protect the vulnerable;

keep safe our health care workers

and all who serve society,

at home and abroad.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Make Disciples of All the Nations

On the 9th May 1946, a crowd gathered at the parental home of Fr. Luke Lynch in the parish of Moynalty to wish him well in his new appointment. The following morning he would set off on a journey to Shanghai in China where he was to work as a Columban missionary. As he closed the door on the last of the visitors, it was well after midnight. Returning to the kitchen, he saw that his elderly parents were sitting in silence by the fire. There was nothing he or they could say to ease the pain. They knew they would probably never see him again. Later, in his autobiography he wrote that when the Day of Judgement came he hoped that, whatever his sins, full account would be taken of the sacrifice he had to make that night. He spent the next three years in a quiet rural parish but recurring health problems forced him to move into the city of Shanghai. His arrival in Shanghai coincided with the Communist takeover in China and his life changed utterly. Every day he witnessed arrests, persecution, and protest suicides. Under the inspired leadership of the local Bishop, Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei, the Church battled on but by 1952 most foreign missionaries were expelled. Luke Lynch and his fellow Columbans received new assignments in the Philippines.

By 1955 Bishop Kung's refusal to cooperate with his Communist masters led to his arrest. He was tortured for 3 months and then led out to a large public gathering where he was to confess his misdeeds. All around he could see signs that read 'Long live Mao Tse-tung'. When he was brought to the microphone, instead of confessing he shouted 'Long live Christ the King'. The crowd took up the chant with such enthusiasm that his embarrassed captors dragged him away. He spent the next 30 years in prison. After his release he learned that Pope John Paul II had secretly made him a Cardinal in 1979. The official ceremony took place in Rome in 1991. Cardinal Kung died in 2000 at the age of 98. Meanwhile Fr. Luke Lynch worked in the Philippines until 1961 when ill-health finally brought him home. In the years that followed he worked in various parishes in Ireland and England. He died at Dalgan, Navan, in 2007.

As we reflect on these two lives, a question suggests itself: 'What prompted their sacrifice?' The simple answer is that it originated in the lives of those from whom they received their faith. Cardinal Kung was almost certainly inspired by the lives of the missionaries he encountered as a child, Fr. Lynch by the faith of his parents and neighbours and the heroic tales of missionaries he heard in his youth. At a deeper level both of them came to understand that faith is a flame that will die unless it is spread and that the Church is not an institution that must seek to survive in the world but a sign of salvation for all humankind.

GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Masses:** In the event that the four Archbishops are not successful in persuading the Government to restore religious services, those who have booked Anniversary Masses during this period should note that their intentions will be honoured at private Masses offered on the appropriate days. (Please do not send in stipends for these Masses.)
- 2. World Mission Sunday:** 18th October: This Sunday is Pope Francis' annual appeal for spiritual and financial support for the life-giving work of overseas missionaries. In 2020 that work is under threat as a result of the cessation of religious services. Fewer envelopes will be handed in and collections will be seriously depleted. Tragically, this will happen just at the moment when Covid-19 has added a new challenge to the difficulties our missionaries are facing. Our appeal is a twofold one. If you can afford it, please increase your Mission Sunday contribution for this year. Second, in this month of the Rosary, please offer a decade or a full Rosary every day for the success of the Missions. The theme of this year's Mission Sunday is 'Together we can do more – Blessed are the peacemakers'.
- 3. Mission Sunday Collection 2019:** The total contributed amounted to €41,922.10 (down almost €3000 from 2018. Laragh Parish contribution €1020.70 (an increase of €200 from 2018).
- 4. Name Change:** World Missions Ireland is part of a global network of charities serving the Church in over 120 countries. Internationally many are known as 'Missio' and together they are the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. To honour this union and to harness the energy of the Missio family, over the coming months World Missions Ireland will become Missio Ireland. All that is changing is the name. The mission, made possible by you, remains: to support overseas missionaries and struggling faith communities through all challenges, struggles and hardships.
- 5. ALONE** manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.
- 6. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Numbers were 3, 17, 22, 26. €30 winners were Thomas McGreevy, Colm Cusack, Rosemary Donohoe, Carmel Young, Sandra Hyland. Next week's jackpot €6,000. Tickets can be purchased online.