

Laragh Parish Newsletter



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25th October 2020 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



"When Autumn leaves start to fall"

Loving God *and* Neighbour

One day God summoned three major political figures to a meeting: the Russian leader, Nikita Khrushchev, the American President, John F. Kennedy, and the Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir. He spoke to them about love and peace and when he had finished he asked each of them if they had a question for him. Khrushchev rose to his feet and said, 'Unlike the others, I can't call you Lord since I don't officially recognize your existence but my question is this: Will there ever be peace between the Soviet Union and America?' 'Let's call it Russia,' said God, 'since I don't recognize the Soviet Union and, in any case, it won't last much longer. Will there ever be peace between Russia and America? Yes, there will,' said God, 'but not in your lifetime.' Kennedy then stood up and asked, 'Lord, will there ever be peace between blacks and whites in America?' To which God replied, 'Yes, there will be, but not in your lifetime.' Then Golda Meir got to her feet and asked, 'Lord, will there ever be peace between Jews and Arabs?' God looked at her thoughtfully and replied, 'Yes, there will be. But not in *my* lifetime.'

Jesus insists on combining love of God and love of neighbour because he knows how easy it is for religious people to fall into the trap of loving God and hating their neighbour. Of course, he also knows that when we fall into that trap we lose sight of both God and our neighbour. Only by sharing love with others do we come to understand who God is; only by learning to love God do we come to see the divine spark in others. It was the power of this twofold love in the lives of early Christians that won the admiration of the pagan world. A Greek philosopher called Aristides testified to it in a letter he sent from Athens in 125 A.D. to the emperor Hadrian. This is what he wrote: 'Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows. They save orphans from those who would hurt them. If one of them has something, he gives freely to the one who has nothing without boasting. If they see a stranger, Christians take him home and are happy as though he were a real brother. And if they hear that one of them is in jail or persecuted for professing the name of their redeemer, they all give him what he needs and, if it is possible to redeem him, they set him free. And if there is among them any poor or naked, if they have no spare food, they fast for two or three days to supply the needy. Truly, this is a new people, and there is something divine in them.'

GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Accord:** is providing a four hour facilitated virtual interactive programme for couples preparing for marriage following the temporary suspension of its face-to-face programme. The final part of the programme will be a meeting with the priest who is conducting the ceremony. Couples who have arranged their wedding date but have not had an opportunity to attend a pre-marriage course should check accord.ie for details.
- 2. November:** is a month traditionally associated with prayer and remembrance for the dead and the bereaved. On November 1st at 3.00p.m. there will be a short service of prayer led by bishops and priests throughout the country to remember those who have died and their families. People should be able to participate online.
- 3. Memorial Tree:** All three churches in the parish should have a memorial tree near the altar from Monday the 2nd of November, the Commemoration of All Souls. (The Jesse trees from the Advent season will do fine.) Families are encouraged to write the names of their loved ones on a piece of paper pasted on cardboard, preferably in colour and cut in a design they find meaningful. Please use a thread or, preferably, a ribbon through a hole in the top of the cardboard to hang these on the tree and light a candle in remembrance of those who have died. Each church should also highlight the names of those who died in the past year.
- 4. November Offerings:** Masses will be offered during the month (privately) for those who have died. The November lists of the dead should be placed as usual in a special container near or on the altar. In view of the fact that our churches will not have public Masses during November, it would probably be unwise to put money into the envelopes. Please wait until public Masses return to make your contribution to the November Offerings.
- 5. Masses:** 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.)
- 6. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Numbers were 13, 14, 22, 32. €30 winners were Clare Cooney, Noelle Cooney, Alison Rudden, Peadar Coyle and Seamus Cooney. Next week's jackpot €6,200. Tickets can be purchased online.