

# Laragh Parish Newsletter



Website: [www.laraghparish.com](http://www.laraghparish.com)

Email: [laraghnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:laraghnewsletter@gmail.com)

Kilmore Website: [www.kilmorediocese.ie](http://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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**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 – Feast of All Souls**

## 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

- 6. Memorial Tree:** All three churches in the parish should have a memorial tree near the altar from Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
  - 7. 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.)
  - 8. Lough Derg November Memorial Service:** for deceased pilgrims and benefactors Live via webcam from St. Mary's Church, Pettigo, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm [www.churchservices.tv/pettigo](http://www.churchservices.tv/pettigo) *TO ENROL A DEPARTED LOVED ONE* please contact us by email: [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org) or Tel: 0(0353) 71 9861518 Write to: Fr La Flynn, Prior, Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co Donegal F94 YC60
  - 9. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Numbers were 2, 4, 13, 15. €30 winners were Terry Reilly, Paula Brady, Tina Kangley, Kitty Cusack, Aine & Matthew. Next week's jackpot €6,400. Tickets can be purchased online.
  - 10. Christmas Shoebox Appeal:** Volunteers from Co Cavan have been supporting the Christmas Shoebox Appeal for many years. With it moving online this year, Cavan Coordinators Hazel Speares and Edna Smith are going to walk 1000km by 23<sup>rd</sup> December to raise as much funds as possible to help vulnerable children. All donations will allow Team Hope's network of local partners in Africa and Eastern Europe to purchase items for shoeboxes, which will be wrapped and delivered directly into the hands of children. Often these shoeboxes are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they deliver is incredible. Please donate what you can to Hazel or Edna or by [www.justgiving.com/team/Cavan](http://www.justgiving.com/team/Cavan)
- Your prayers are requested for the souls of the late:**
- Kathleen McEntee, Aughagoldrick**, whose funeral took place on Monday in St. Brigid's Church Laragh. We extend our sympathy to her sisters Margaret and Eileen and extended family.
  - Teresa Quinn (nee Lynch), Manchester and late of Carrickacromin.** We extend our sympathy to her sisters Bernadette Brady, Tullyinchin, Geraldine Cooney, Carrickacromin, Una, America, brothers Eugene, Carrickacromin and Michael, Navan and entire family circle.

## Water Bugs and Dragonflies

There was once a colony of water bugs living below the surface of a quiet pond. The bugs spent months flitting about in the silt at the bottom of the pond. Every so often they noticed that one of their number would climb up the stem of a pond lily and disappear. They waited for their friends to come back but they never did. Puzzled, they agreed that the next one who felt compelled to climb up the lily stem would come back and tell the others where they had gone and why. A few days later, the bug who had proposed the motion suddenly found himself moving up the stem. Moments later he was on the surface, sitting on a lily pad that he'd only ever seen from underneath. He was tired from the climb so he fell asleep. When he woke up, he was startled by the change that had taken place in his body. He shook himself and saw that he had four beautiful wings and a long tail. The sun was very hot so he flapped his wings to cool down and suddenly he was airborne. He felt a thrill of delight in his new-found freedom. Looking down at his reflection in the water, he slowly came to understand that the whole point of his life as a bug was to become this magnificent and beautiful creature, a dragonfly. He couldn't wait to tell his friends at the bottom of the pond. He saw them running around and shouted out to them 'Look at me' but they didn't seem to hear him or see him. He tried diving down to them but his body just bounced off the surface of the pond. It began to dawn on him that the plan he had proposed was silly. Even if he succeeded in attracting the attention of the bugs, they couldn't possibly recognize him. He looked so different and sounded so different. If he met them face to face, he would scare them to death. Then he smiled. They'll come up in their own good time, he thought, and find out for themselves. And with that, he flapped his wings and flew off to explore his new world.

It's hard for us to understand what happens when we die. If only someone would come back from the dead to tell us what it's like, we muse. But, as the parable of the waterbugs and the dragonfly suggests, we couldn't begin to understand what that new world might be. Meanwhile, we have two choices. We can live in hope of climbing the lily stem to freedom or we can decide that the bottom of the pond is as good as it gets.

## GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Plenary Indulgence for the Deceased:** Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the need to avoid large groups from forming where prohibited, the Plenary Indulgence applicable to the deceased by those who visit a cemetery has been extended beyond the normal dates, 1-8 November. This year the indulgence can be obtained by anyone who visits a cemetery (even mentally) on any day in November and devoutly prays for the faithfully departed. (The intention to fulfil the normal requirements, when possible, is presumed: Confession, Holy Communion and prayer for the Pope's intentions).
- 2. Beatification of Fr. Michael Joseph McGivney:** Fr. McGivney was a priest of Hartford Diocese, Connecticut. His parents, Patrick McGivney of Drumkilly and Mary Lynch of Castlerahan, left Ireland in the 1840s and were married in Waterbury, Connecticut. Their son, Michael, was born there on 12 August 1852 and was ordained for Hartford Diocese in 1877. In 1882, while working in New Haven, Connecticut, he founded the Knights of Columbus to provide spiritual support for Catholic men and financial assistance for families that had lost husbands and fathers. It is now one of the largest Catholic organisations in the world. Fr. Michael fell ill during a pandemic in 1889 and died on 14 August 1890, two days after his 38th birthday. In March 2008, on a papal visit to the United States, Pope Benedict declared him a Venerable Servant of God. Earlier this year, a miracle attributed to him was officially recognized by the Vatican, fulfilling the requirements for his beatification. The miracle involved an unborn child, who in 2015 was healed of a life-threatening condition when his family prayed to Fr. McGivney. His beatification took place on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- 3. Visitation of the Sick and Housebound** will take place on Thursday and Friday next at the usual times. All necessary precautions will be taken. If people have concerns about being visited, they can ring me at 086 0422996 or 4330142. Alternatively, I can arrange to have communion brought to them through a family member when I arrive at the house.
- 4. 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](http://accord.ie) for details.
- 5. 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.