

# Laragh Parish Newsletter



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## 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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**15<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 33<sup>rd</sup> 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

- Covid 19 support line for older people:** 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. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm by calling 0818 222 024. (price of local call)
- Memorial Tree:** All three churches in the parish now have a memorial tree near the altar. 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.
- 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.)
- Lough Derg November Memorial Service:** for deceased pilgrims and benefactors Live via webcam from St. Mary's Church, Pettigo, Sunday 22nd 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
- Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Numbers were 4, 6, 17, 24. €30 winners were Patricia O' Reilly, Laragh, Amanda McKiernan, Online, Shane O' Brien, Online, Rosemary Donohoe, Drung and Arlene Brady, Online. Next week's jackpot €6,600. Tickets can be purchased online.
- 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)

# Awakening Your Gift

Last week it was the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Next week it's the sheep and the goats. This week it's the parable of the talents. They're all stories about the judgement that will befall those who fail to act: the foolish bridesmaids who fail to get oil for their lamps; the 'goats' ignoring the sufferings of others and failing to see the face of Christ in the poor; and, this week, the man who instead of investing the 'talent', a large sum of money entrusted to him by his master, buries it in the ground. Matthew's Judgement Parables insist that being a Christian means 'doing something' with our lives, especially responding to human need. It isn't enough to believe and pray; we must use our 'talents' and make a difference in our world.

The classic statement on using our 'talents' comes from John Henry Newman. It begins: 'God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another...He has not created me for naught.' A more modern version was composed by the Irish spiritual writer, John O'Donohue. 'There has never been anyone the same as you in the world and there never will be again. Each one of us comes from a special place in God...God is the source of all difference and variety. You are a unique expression of God's spirit, beauty and pathos. Your being here on earth is no accident. God chose you specially to bring a hidden part of his life on to the earth. There is something for you to do here that can be done by no one else but you...God has never created anybody neutral. He lets no one come here without a giftedness. You have within you a special gift that no one else has in the same way. The unfolding of your destiny depends on your awakening, identifying and developing this gift. To awaken this gift is to come into rhythm with the divine pulse of your destiny. To neglect this gift is to dishonour and betray the life of God in you. This gift can only be awakened by love...Each gift has its shadow side. To hone your gift you must learn to love the place where it haunts and disturbs you. A gift is not neutral. Each is a force of life and divine energy. It is not owned by the small fears of the ego. The gifted man in the parable, who ended up in severe condemnation, buried and smothered his gift because he was afraid. Fear is one of the greatest negative forces. It rips asunder, reduces to nothing that which is real and true. It inflates to monstrous proportions that which is empty and false. It is like a fog. Fear destroys through falsity. Fear, faced, looked in the eye, always shrinks. In the awakening of one's talent, to linger on fear is to risk missing the real voyage of one's spirit.'

## GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Mass for Deceased Bishops, Priests and Deacons:** Bishop Martin will offer Mass for deceased clergy of the Diocese on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 10am in the Cathedral. Mass can be viewed [www.churchservices.tv/cavancathedral](http://www.churchservices.tv/cavancathedral)
- 2. Sleep Out Cavan** We are in need of winter clothing – coats, jumpers, hoodies, new socks and underwear for men, women and children. With the weather getting colder and the long nights we need to stock up on clothing for homeless people. Thank you for your continued support to Sleep Out Cavan .Please contact Michael at 085 7742027.
- 3. Deafness and Hearing Loss Support:** Free and confidential support service on all aspects of deafness and hearing loss. Clinics on 17<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December in Teach Oscail Family Resource Centre at 31 Church Street, Cavan, by appointment only – tel 042 9332010.
- 4. 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).
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.