

Laragh Parish Newsletter

Stay Awake

The Guinness Book of Records decided some years ago that it would not accept records that involved sleep deprivation. It took that decision when it emerged that the world record holder - a man who succeeded in going without sleep for 11 days - suffered badly afterwards, with problems ranging from concentration and memory loss to paranoia and hallucinations. So when Jesus tells us in today's Gospel to stay awake, we can safely assume that he doesn't mean it literally.

So what does he mean? The context shows that Jesus is speaking to the first four apostles, Peter, James, John and Andrew. He describes them as doorkeepers who must stay awake for the master's coming. There are other servants who work during the day and need their night's sleep. The doorkeepers will keep watch to enable them to take their rest but also to wake them up when the master appears. At this point, Jesus refers to the four traditional divisions of the night: evening, midnight, cockcrow and dawn. The implication seems to be that each of the four apostles, holders of the keys to the kingdom, will take it in turn to stay awake through these four 'watches' of the night. The whole household has to be ready for the coming of the master, 'each with his own task', but it is the apostolic ministry to keep watch through the four watches of the night so that the house can be roused when he comes.

The most intriguing part of the Gospel comes at the end when Jesus extends this apostolic ministry to us as well. 'What I say to you, I say to all: "Stay awake!" The message surely is that we are to keep watch in the same way that the apostles kept watch, not for ourselves only, nor to deprive ourselves of rest, but for the benefit of others, for the household of faith. On behalf of the Church, we watch for the coming of Christ today in the poor, the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned; and we alert all mankind to the signs of his coming in glory.

The Church gives us four Sundays in Advent, 'four watches of the night', when we watch for the coming of the Lord and watch out for each other and those around us. It is in staying awake and keeping watch that we prepare ourselves to receive him when he comes.



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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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29th November 2020 – 1st Sunday of Advent

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

GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Visitation of the Sick & Housebound:** will take place on Thursday and Friday.
- 2. Advent:** Today is the first Sunday of Advent. The Jesse trees and Advent Wreaths will be on display throughout the season.
- 3. Welcome Back:** to all who are able to attend Mass this weekend after the long break. Please remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend and those who are afraid to return at present. We also remember the families who have been affected by the virus. Please God all of us will be able to celebrate Mass together in the near future. We are limited to 50 people to attend each mass.
- 4. Advent Courses:**
 - **Tarsus Scripture School:** 6 Presentations (two from each presenter available on Vimeo from 23rd November. An online webinar on 10th November. Cost €20 per household. www.tarsus.ie
 - **The Hook of Faith:** A three session Virtual Advent Retreat with Fr Billy Swan from Tuesday 1st December to Thursday 3rd December from 8pm – 9pm on zoom. Tuesday 1st December – Faith; Wednesday 2nd December – Hope; Thursday 3rd December – Love. To take part, email thehookoffaith@gmail.com to receive the link for zoom. All are welcome.
- 5. 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 23rd 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
- 6. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Numbers were 21, 24, 25, 32. €30 winners were Mark Shiels, Patsy & Maisie Smith, Denis Sherry, Ruth Cooney, Aimee Smith. Next week's jackpot €7,200. Tickets can be purchased online.



Congratulations!!!

**To Mickey Graham and his team
on winning the Ulster Final
We wish them well in the All Ireland
Semi Final against Dublin**

Your Prayers are Requested for the Soul of the late:

- **Bennie Sexton, London and late of Carricknashoke**, whose funeral will take place in London. We extend our sympathy to his niece Helen, nephews Eamon, Bernard, Gerard and entire family circle.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH LARAGH

Masses this week:

Tue 1 st Dec	7.45 pm	As Requested
Wed 2 nd	10.30 am	For the People of the Parish
Thur 3 rd	10.30 am	As Requested
Fri 4 th	7.45 pm	Phil Smith, Longfield A/V
Sun 6 th	11.00 am	Andy & Agnes Dowd, Cara A/V

Eucharistic Adoration: On Tuesday from 5pm – 7.45pm

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH CARRICKALLEN

Masses this week:

Sun 6 th Dec	9.30 am	Johnny & Molly Smith, Tullyinchin A/V Roseann & Michael Boylan, Carrickacromin A/V
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ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CLIFFERNA

Masses this week:

Sat 5 th	7.30 pm	PJ, Dympna & Baby Oliver Smith, Tierlahood A/V
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