

Laragh Parish Newsletter



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Emergency Numbers

Cavan Gardai	049 4368800	Doc-on-Call	1850 777911
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8th November 2020 – 32nd 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

6. 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.

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 22nd November at 7pm www.churchservices.tv/pettigo *TO ENROL A DEPARTED LOVED ONE* please contact us by email: 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 19, 28, 29, 31. €30 winners were Helena & Philip Galligan, Caulfield, Patricia Markey, Canningstown, Joe Brady, Drumnagar, Mark Shiels, Cordevlis, Peter Brady, Drumole. Next week's jackpot €6,600. 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 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

Your prayers are requested for the soul of the late:

- **Teague Breslin, Ardara**, whose funeral took place in Ardara on Friday. We extend our sympathy to his son Niall, daughter-in-law Anne and grandchildren, Moneycass and extended family circle.
- In this month of November, we pray for all our dead. May they all rest in peace.

Fail to Prepare, Prepare to Fail

Today's Gospel story about the five foolish bridesmaids who forgot to bring oil for their lamps could be called the Roy Keane parable. It warns us that if we set out on the Christian journey we must be prepared. 'Prepared for what?' you might ask. A better question might be, 'Prepared *with* what?' The Gospel says we must have oil in our lamps. Oil here means at least three things. It stands for our personal relationship with God, not something we can purchase overnight or borrow from someone else, but a relationship that grows each day and is alert to signs of God's presence. It also stands for a life on fire with the Holy Spirit, eager to serve others and build up God's Kingdom in this world. Finally, it stands for hope in eternal life and union with God.

It isn't easy to hear this message today. We live in the 'meanwhile' between Jesus' first and second coming. Both seem equally distant, equally unreal. Our oil is burnt out, our lamps are empty. Our concern is largely with the here and now, the new-fangled, not with ancient promises or future hopes. Our efforts are focused on enjoying the present and securing our future. As one writer puts it, we 'drown our sense of the infinite in the vulgarity of a superficial, satisfied life'. But the Gospel will not be silenced. Every now and then we are jolted into the realisation that we are building our lives on sand. The planned retirement, the peaceful old age, seem less certain than they once did. Even if we achieve them, are they realistic life goals? What about those deeper 'wants' within us that are never satisfied? Where do we find security when all our man-made securities start to crumble? Jesus invites us to live within the horizon of eternal life, to prepare our hearts for a fulfilment we can never bring about. To be a Christian, to keep our lamps burning, is to be permanently unsatisfied with ourselves and with the world we live in. Like Roy Keane.

- 1. The Lady of All Nations:** In March 1945, an Amsterdam secretary called Ida Peerdeman reported seeing a woman surrounded by light who identified herself as 'The Lady'. The visions continued until 1959. During that time Ida Peerdeman is said to have received the following prayer which some people have found to be helpful in times of world crisis.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now Your Spirit over the earth. Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all nations that they may be preserved from degeneration, disaster and war. May the Lady of All Nations, the Blessed Virgin Mary, be our Advocate. Amen.
- 2. 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).
- 3. 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.
- 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. 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)