

A Word of Thanks...

To all who have helped in the Parish in the past year:

The members of the Pastoral Council & Church Committees

The finance and accounting teams

The Secretary

The Sacristans, Altar Societies & Altar Servers

The Ministers of the Eucharist

The Eucharistic Adoration Groups

The Readers, Collectors, Choirs & Organists

The Ushers & Car Park Attendants

The CES workers

All our generous donors and contributors

To those who prepared the Churches for Masses during Covid-19,
those who sanitised the Churches, and those who acted as stewards
and ushers.

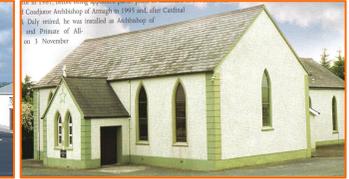


Happy New Year 2021

**Wishing you all
a very happy, safe
and prosperous
New Year**

Fr Brian Flynn

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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27th December 2020 – Feast of The Holy Family

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

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child

In June 1940, the famous French writer and philosopher, Jean Paul Sartre, was taken prisoner by German troops and held in Stalag 12D in the city of Trier. Most of his fellow-prisoners were priests so Sartre put his atheism temporarily aside and wrote a Nativity play that they could perform at Christmas. It tells the story of Bariona, a village chief violently opposed to the Roman occupation, who learns to his horror that a Messiah has been born who will grow up to be a man of peace. He sets out immediately for Bethlehem determined to kill the child but, on arriving at the stable, is so captivated by the look on Joseph's face that he undergoes a complete change of heart and, ultimately, dies defending the child from Herod's soldiers. The most striking passage in the play is Sartre's description of the relationship between Mary and her son. 'And no other woman has had God just for herself in that way. A very tiny God whom she can take in her arms and cover with kisses, a warm-bodied God who smiles and breathes, a God she can touch, a God who is alive. And if I were a painter, it is at a moment like this that I would paint Mary. I would try to capture the air of affectionate daring and delicate shyness with which she puts out her finger to touch the soft little skin of this baby God whose warm weight she feels on her lap and who smiles at her. She looks at him and thinks: "This God is my child, this divine flesh is my flesh. He is made of me, he has my eyes and the shape of his mouth is the shape of mine...He is my God and he looks like me."'"

Years later Sartre explained that the play had not affected his religious outlook in the slightest. He wrote it simply because he thought it was a good way to foster unity among the prisoners during that Christmas of 1940. Despite these disavowals, many believers have found his description of the mystery of the Incarnation a vivid and compelling one.

I have referred to this play on previous occasions, during the Christmas season. The account above is based on an article from last Tuesday's Irish Times by Fr. Thomas Casey S.J., dean of philosophy at St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

GENERAL NOTICES

- 1. Bishop Martin Hayes:** has issued the following instructions in response to the Covid-19 guidelines:
 - Under current restrictions no public Masses will be celebrated.
 - Churches will remain open for private prayer and reflection.
 - Funerals will be limited to 10 mourners.
 - Weddings may have 25 people up to and including 2nd January 2021. From 3rd January the number of guests will be reduced to 6.
 - There will be no Baptisms or other Sacraments celebrated until restrictions are lifted.The Bishop concludes his statement: "We hope and pray that in abiding by these new guidelines and with the eventual availability of a vaccine we will be able to gather again early in 2021 for Mass and celebration of the Sacraments."
- 2. Recent Baptisms:** The Christian Community welcomes with joy Baby Caolin James Brady, Laragh, who was baptised in St. Brigid's Church, Laragh on Sunday last; Baby Toby Thomas Brady, Longfield, who was baptised in St. Brigid's Church, Laragh on Tuesday last; and Baby Árla James Fitzpatrick, Corgreagh, who was baptised in St. Brigid's Church, Laragh on Christmas Day.
- 3. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Winning numbers 2, 3, 9, 30. €30 winners Claire O' Reilly, Louise O' Reilly, Pauric Shiels, Danny Brady and Noelle Cooney. Extra Christmas Draw Winners: €100 Leanne Smith and Liv Cooney, €50 Rosemary Donohoe and Denis Brady. Next week's draw €8,000. Many thanks for your continued support and wishing you all a Happy New Year.
- 4. Church Accounts 2020:** The Church Finance Committees would like to thank you, the parishioners, for all your contributions to date. As the financial year ends on 31st December, please bring all outstanding dues etc up to date. Please make any cheque payments for dues to Priests Revenue Account. Donations made via the envelope system enable the parish to recoup tax refunds from the Revenue Commissioners.
- 5. Envelopes 2021:** Are now available, please collect your packet from the churches if you have not already done so.

Your prayers are requested for the soul of the late:

- **Caroline Tallon, Carrickacromin, formerly Trim, Co Meath**, whose Funeral Mass takes place, today Sunday in St. Michael's Church Clifferna at 12noon, followed by cremation in Lakelands Crematorium. We extend our sympathy to her husband Brendan Moran, her daughter Shanndonna, grandchildren Clodagh, Alfie and Alex, her parents Phill and Declan Tallon and extended family circle.