

Laragh Parish Newsletter

Witnesses to Christ

Acting as a godparent at a baptism is rarely considered one of life's difficult tasks. In fact, it's usually viewed as little more than an honour, important only if you're not asked! The Code of Canon Law thinks otherwise. It devotes a whole page to the subject of godparents, spelling out the importance of the role and the kind of person who would be suitable for it. It also highlights the need to record the godparents' names in the baptismal register. Why the big fuss? The answer is that the godparents are witnesses to Christ, witnesses to his action of cleansing, witnesses to his promise of eternal life, witnesses to salvation.

The idea of witness goes back to the Gospel accounts of Jesus' Baptism and, especially, to the second reading in today's Mass. 'Who can overcome the world?' the first letter of St. John asks. 'Only the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness.' So there are three witnesses, the reading concludes, the Spirit, the water and the blood. What does this mean? Simply this: that Christ not only became a human being and was revealed in his baptism (water) but that he also died to reveal God's love for us and save the human race (blood) and that he breathed his life into us so that we might be his witnesses in the world (Spirit). These three witnesses remain with us today in the sacraments of Baptism (water), Eucharist (blood), and Confirmation (Spirit).

Human witness can hardly be compared to the divine witness revealed in the sacraments but this is the background against which we see ourselves whenever we act as sponsor at a baptism or confirmation. It isn't quite as easy as it looks. 'Overcoming the world' never is!



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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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10th January 2021 – The Baptism of the Lord

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

Mass Intentions

Since early last year, Fr Brian has been offering Masses for all those who have had anniversaries booked. He will continue to say these privately until we can return to the churches as a congregation. The following Masses are booked and will be offered in the coming week:

Felim Reilly, Tierlahood A/V
Helen & Pat McCabe, Carrickacromin A/V
Noel Smith, Artina A/V

Anyone wishing to book a Mass can do so in the normal way.

Your prayers are requested for the souls of the late:

- **Thomas Gargan, Bailieborough**, whose funeral took place on Tuesday in Tierworker. We extend our sympathy to his sister Ita Cullivan and family, Corfad.
- **Patricia Conaty (nee Tierney), Virginia and late of Greaghagibney**, whose funeral took place in Maghera on Monday. We extend our sympathy to her brother Larry and family, Greaghagibney.



GENERAL NOTICES

1. **Please Note:** There will be no baptisms or visitation of the housebound until further notice.
2. **Booked Mass Intentions:** Fr Brian will be remembering those whose Anniversaries are celebrated at this time in private Masses. Anyone wishing to book masses can do so in the normal way.
3. **Covid 19 Pandemic:** We have seen an increase in numbers of people infected with Covid 19 and unfortunately the numbers of those passing away from it are rising too. We are at a very serious stage. Please act responsibly to minimise the risk of contracting the disease or infecting others. If you feel unwell in any way or if you have been in touch with a positive case, please isolate in your own home.
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. **Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Winning numbers 3, 8, 14, 32. €30 winners Ruairi Power, Kilnagarbet, Aoife Clarke, Ravenswood, Claire Fagan, Fergus Costello, Jack McKenna, Drumole. Next week's draw €8,400. Many thanks for your continued support.
6. **Envelopes 2021:** Are now available, please collect your packet from the churches if you have not already done so.
7. **ALONE:** Manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff 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.
8. **Useful Telephone Numbers:**
ALONE (Support for Elderly): 0818 222024
AWARE (Support for anxious/depressed): 1800 80 48 48
TEARMANN (Domestic Abuse): 085 8102433
PIETA (Mental Health) 1800 247 247
SAMARITANS (Someone to Talk to) 116 123
CHILDLINE (Support for Children) 1800 666 666