

Come and See

Two of John the Baptist's disciples are intrigued by Jesus. As he passes by, they decide to follow him. When he becomes aware of them, he turns around and asks them what they want. They want to know where he lives. He answers, 'Come and see'. They go with him and spend the rest of the day with him. That's today's Gospel story. We've heard it so often that it doesn't seem at all unusual. But there *is* something unusual about it. When we ask people where they live, they usually tell us. They don't invite us to come and see their place. The Gospel is trying to tell us something about how God responds to our questions. He doesn't give us simple answers; God issues invitations.

We are full of questions for God. Why is there so much violence in the world? Why do Church and State get it wrong so often? Why do so many not believe in God? Why do good people suffer so much? Why do evil people get off lightly? Why do I often feel anxious or depressed? How can I protect my family? Why can't I get a job with a decent salary? What is the point of a pandemic? Will it make us better people? The list of questions is endless. But God doesn't answer them. Instead God says, 'Come and see'.

Life would be so much easier if God answered our questions. It seems that God doesn't want life to be easy for us; God wants something else. He wants us to grow and become deeper people by grappling with the problems of life. Fundamentally, God wants us to trust Him, to trust in His presence and guidance. He knows that we could never understand the mysteries by which He is building His Kingdom. So he asks us to believe that He is in charge, that there is a plan and that that plan will gradually become clearer to us if we walk with Him day by day and encourage others to walk along with us.

John Henry Newman expressed this truth more powerfully than most. 'I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. God has not created me for nothing. I shall do good. I shall do God's work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it - if I do but keep God's commandments. Therefore, I will trust God, whatever, wherever I am. I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may be a service, in perplexity, my perplexity may be a service. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve God's Kingdom. God does nothing in vain. God has a plan. God may take away my friends, throw me among strangers, make me feel desolate, make my spirit sink, hide my future from me. Still God has a plan and I will trust the One who guides me.'

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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17th January 2021 – Second 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

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:

Peter & Bridget Donnelly, Cliffrina A/V

Annie & Michael Clarke, Carrickacromin A/V

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

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## The Penitential Prayer of Pope Francis during his celebration of Mass in Phoenix Park on 26 August 2018

We ask forgiveness for the abuses in Ireland, abuses of power, of conscience and sexual abuse perpetrated by members with roles of responsibility in the Church. In a special way, we ask pardon for all the abuses committed in various types of institutions run by male or female religious and by other members of the Church. Furthermore, we ask forgiveness for the cases of exploitation through manual work that so many minors were inflicted.

We ask forgiveness for the times that as a Church we did not show survivors of all kinds of abuse: compassion and the search for justice and truth through concrete actions. We ask forgiveness.

We ask forgiveness for some members of the Church's hierarchy who did not take charge of these painful situations and kept quiet. We ask forgiveness.

We ask forgiveness for the children who were taken away from their moms and for all those times when many single mothers were told that to seek their children who had been separated from them – and the same was told to their daughters and sons who were looking for their mothers – that this was a mortal sin. This is not a mortal sin but the Fourth Commandment. We ask forgiveness.

Lord, sustain and increase this state of shame and repentance and give us the strength to commit ourselves so that these things never happen again and justice may be done. Amen

## GENERAL NOTICES

### 1. **Counselling Service for Former Residents of Mother and Baby Homes:**

The Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes was established by Government in 2015 to provide a full account of what happened to women and children in Mother and Baby home institutions during the period 1922 to 1998. A Collaborative Forum was also established to make recommendations relating to health and well-being supports for former residents.

In response to these recommendations, the Government committed to developing a package of health and well-being measures. The importance of ensuring former residents' mental health and specific need for psychological support was recognised and prioritised.

The National Counselling Service (NCS) was asked to provide counselling to former residents through its counselling locations:

The HSE's NCS has 20 years of experience in providing counselling and psychotherapy to a wide range of clients including those who have experienced psychological difficulties due to time spent in institutions.

Counselling is available face to face, by telephone or online through secure video.

This service is available to adults living in Ireland if you are a former resident of Mother and Baby Homes (mothers or children).

NCS Contact Details for the Cavan Area - Phone 1800 234 117

2. **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** takes place from 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17.

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. **Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Winning numbers 12, 22, 23, 29. €30 winners PJ Brady, Siobhan Cooney, Noel Brady, Olive Sheridan, Alan Gemmell. Next week's draw €8,600. Many thanks for your continued support.

5. **Envelopes 2021:** Are now available, please collect your packet from the churches if you have not already done so.

6. **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.

### 7. **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