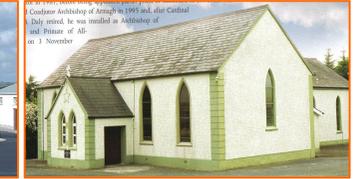


Laragh Parish Newsletter



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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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3rd January 2021 – Second Sunday of Christmas

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



Counting the Days

Tom Ervin was a Professor of Music at the University of Arizona. On one occasion he attended a conference for music teachers in New York. His young son accompanied him on the trip. While they were there, Tom bought a new metronome, an instrument used to count the beats in a musical composition. But this metronome was different from every other one he had owned: it was a talking metronome. Tom didn't check to see exactly how it worked. He decided to figure that out when he got home. Before he and his son boarded their flight to Phoenix, he lifted his bag on to the security-check conveyor belt. The security guard's eyes widened as he watched the monitor. 'What is that thing you have in your bag, Sir?' he asked, as he carefully lifted out the black contraption with dials and switches. Other travellers standing nearby moved quickly away from the security area. 'It's a talking metronome,' said Tom, 'Look, I'll show you.' He took the device in his hands and suddenly realised he hadn't a clue how it worked. His son turned away, cringing with embarrassment. 'Uh, em...I think, eh, it goes like this' he stuttered, as he threw one of the switches, everyone else in the vicinity diving for cover. To his relief, a recorded voice calmly counted out 'One...two...three...four'.

Moments later, as he and his son were allowed to proceed to their plane, the boy turned to him and said, 'Aren't you glad it didn't go "Four...three...two...one...?"'

For the past few weeks we have been counting down the days till Christmas. Now we are counting the days till the end of level 5. Like Mary and Joseph and the child Jesus, we are threatened by the terrors that surround us, feel isolated in the Egypts where we seek safety, and can't wait to return to the Nazareth of normal life. Let us stay close to them on our journey. They will lead us home.

- 1. Feast of the Epiphany:** Wednesday 6th January 2021.
- 2. Booked Mass Intentions:** Fr Brian will be remembering those whose Anniversaries are celebrated at this time in private Masses.
- 3. Covid 19 Pandemic:** NEPHET and the HSE have announced that the virus is now "absolutely rampant" in communities across the country. 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. 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."
- 5. 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.
- 6. Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Winning numbers 9, 12, 17, 24. €30 winners Brian McGuire, Kilnacreeva, Catriona Brady, Munelta, Patricia O' Reilly, Tullyco, John Johnston and Teresa McGuigan, Online. Next week's draw €8,200. Many thanks for your continued support.
- 7. 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:

- Fr Eugene Clarke, Cavan, whose funeral will take place on Monday in Drumcor.