

Laragh Parish Newsletter

The Wrath of the Mother-in-Law

The Bible doesn't do mother-in-law jokes but it may help us understand where they came from. In today's Gospel, Simon's mother-in-law is out of sorts and has taken to her bed before Jesus arrives at the house. The English translation says she has a 'fever'. The original Greek is more ambiguous. It says she is 'burning up' or 'on fire'. 'Fever' is a reasonable translation - but not the only possibility. What if she is 'burning up' with rage and has taken to her bed to avoid the visitor? Why would she do that? Well, perhaps because she can't cope with the fact that her impulsive son-in-law has just given up his responsible job in the fishing industry to follow a penniless itinerant preacher. You can imagine her thoughts when she first heard that. 'The only reason I allowed my daughter to marry the guy was because he had a good job. How is he going to put food on the table now?'

We can identify with this story. Whenever someone we care about makes a decision that seems utterly stupid to us, we feel 'on fire' as well. A son drops out of college to pursue an unrewarding career. A husband invests most of the family money in a dubious scheme. A daughter is going out with a guy who seems to be a complete loser. We can see where Simon's mother-in-law is coming from. Does the Gospel provide her with an answer? Yes, though not one she had been expecting. When they tell Jesus what's wrong with her, he goes straight to her room, takes her by the hand and helps her up. With that, the 'fever' leaves her and she begins to serve them food and drink. Mark, the Gospel writer, describes this change in rapid-fire prose; he doesn't waste time explaining how it happened. He wants us to understand that if we really allow Jesus into our 'room' things change, especially our perspective on life. He wants us to know that if Jesus 'touches' us he will take away our anger and help us to serve others.



Website: www.laraghparish.com

Email: laraghnewsletter@gmail.com

Kilmore Website: www.kilmorediocese.ie

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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7th February 2021 – Fifth 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

The following Masses are booked and will be offered in the coming week:

John Reilly, Carrickacromin A/V

Minnie & Eugene Lynch, and their daughter, Gretta Mulligan, Tievenanass
Baby Walsh, Corgreagh A/V
Dessie O' Reilly & Dec family members, Stradone A/V

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

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## Laragh Church Webcam

*Apologies for the failure of the live Mass broadcast last Sunday. We are taking steps to ensure that it will not happen again. We hope to be up and running by the first Sunday of Lent at the latest.*

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Your prayers are requested for the souls of the late:

- **Dominic McKenna, Drumole**, whose funeral took place in Laragh on Thursday. We extend our sympathy to his wife Bernie, children Colm, Sinead, Liam and Fergal, brothers, sisters and family circle.
- **Benny O' Reilly, Bunnoe**, whose funeral took place yesterday. We extend our sympathy to his daughter Clare Brady, son-in-law Philip and grandchildren Peter & Fiona, Drumole.
- **Michael Reilly, Bailieboro**, whose funeral took place on Tuesday. We extend our sympathy to his son Noel and family, Countenan.
- **Anthony Dowd, England**, whose funeral took place in England. We extend our sympathy to his brother Christopher, Tullyco.

And all those who have died recently

GENERAL NOTICES

1. **St. Michael's Cliffferna:** Anyone wishing to hand in dues or envelopes can do so on Sundays from 11.30am – 12.30pm.
2. **National School Enrolment Forms for 2021:**
 - Laragh NS is now taking enrolments for the coming year 2021 – 2022. To request a form please email laraghschool@gmail.com
 - Cliffferna NS is now taking enrolments for the coming year 2021 – 2022. To request a form please email office@cliffnans.ie
3. **Backpack Facilitators Course Online:** This course is free to members of the Kilmore Diocese and begins Tuesday, February 16th at 7pm. The course runs for 90 minutes via Zoom for 8 consecutive weeks. As a Catholic faith community, we must remember the urgent need of our young people with regard to mental health, as well as spiritual connection. The hope is to have two facilitators trained in each parish to help present the course virtually to teens in your parish. The course will be light-hearted and you can participate with your sound and audio on or off. For further information or to register for the course, please email contact@thebackpack.life or phone 083 487 7325.
4. **Lent Workshop:** Kilmore Youth Ministry is offering an online workshop for Lent 2021. Each week you would be emailed a piece of writing or scripture on the Monday and then have a group video or call on a Thursday to discuss it. Each week would have a different theme. You must be 16+ to sign up. Any questions please feel free to contact Francis Keaney on 086 3977872.
5. **Lourdes Collection:** The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes has been cancelled for this year; the collection will not take place.
6. **North West STOP:** provides free counselling in your area with no waiting lists. Please phone or text our counselling coordinator on 086 7772009 to arrange to speak to a counsellor.
7. **Covid 19 Pandemic:** Thankfully the numbers have started to reduce, but sadly we are seeing more people dying from the virus. Please continue to 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.
8. **Laragh United GFC Lotto Results:** No jackpot winner. Winning numbers 9, 23, 24, 29. €30 winners were Arlene McGivney, Online, Tony Mannering, Caulfield, Michael Smith, Drumcrow, Fitzgerald Family, Yearly Lotto, Rosemary Donohoe, Tullyco. Next week's draw €9,200. Many thanks for your continued support.
9. **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.