

Errigal Parish News – 7th February 2021

Weekday Masses:

St. Mary's Church: Monday through Thursday at 10am.

Extension of the Covid-19 Shut-down by the Northern Ireland Executive: On 21st January 2021, the Northern Ireland Executive took the unanimous decision to extend the current Covid-19 restrictions until Friday, 5th March 2021. In the light of this decision, and on the basis of the clear and unequivocal public health advice that people should continue to stay at home, the Northern Catholic Bishops have decided that, until 5th March (but subject to ongoing review in line with any change to the public health advice), the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies should continue to take place without the physical presence of the faithful - with the exception of marriage, funeral and baptismal liturgies.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – It is now mandatory as a directive received from the Department of Health via the Diocesan Office that all services presently permitted in the church ie (Funerals, Wedding's, and Baptisms) to proceed must be recorded through the medium of 'Track and Trace'. Hence, we now must in advance receive the names and contact telephone numbers of those attending services in our churches.

USUAL WEEKEND MASSES AT 6PM AND 10AM.

(No congregation permitted at weekday/weekend Masses presently - webcam/radio availability) Congregational gathering can only take place at funerals/weddings with limited numbers permitted access.

As there is no internet/webcam provision available in St. Joseph's Church there will be NO weekend Masses until directed otherwise.

Funeral Masses can take place in St. Joseph's Church.

St. Joseph's Oratory: No weekday Mass presently.

Parish Finance: Thank you to those in recent months who continue to contribute to the parish finances by cheque/parish envelopes. Parishioners have found imaginative ways of returning envelopes via the post box at each Parochial House or by post. We thank you for your donations received to date and acknowledge your generosity during these times. All donations are recorded accordingly. (Cheques can be made payable to Parish of Errigal).

If you wish to contribute to the parish by standing order - forms can be forwarded upon request by sending an email to - errigalparish@gmail.com At the end of each month we shall include in the collection figures the amounts relating to the increase in standing orders, these figures are stated in brackets.

Parish Collections - Thank you. (Three weeks collection returns – in the brackets monthly direct debits for January).

340 boxes of envelopes in circulation. Returns - (Pink/White)

St. Mary's - Parish: £500 (330) Renovation £230 (55)

St. Joseph's - Parish £0 (242) Renovation £0 (260)

Baptisms: Baptisms will resume in February and we offer the following dates for both churches.

St. Mary's Church – Saturday 13th February at 5pm. St. Joseph's Church – Sunday 21st February at 12noon.

NOTE – There are restrictions in place regarding the amount of people who can gather to celebrate the Sacrament.

Stamp Boxes: There is a box at the back of each church for the collection of used stamps for the missions.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Following enquires regarding the reception of this Sacrament (Confession) provision can be accommodated respecting social distancing and wearing a facial mask, by arrangement either in the space proved in the church or alternatively in the Parochial House.

St. Mary's Church Readers – 13th/14th February

Vigil 6pm. – Anne O'Neill.

Sunday 10am. – Amelia O'Neill.

Sacrament of Initiation Dates 2021: *Sacrament of Confirmation* - is postponed until the next school term after Easter. Further details will follow when a date is re-arranged with both schools and when circumstances permit the safety of families to gather.

First Communion - St. Columba's School Saturday 24th April at 11am. St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's School Saturday 15th May at 11am.

Sacraments of Initiation: MyFaith.ie is a parish-based programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It releases new modules every two weeks or so as the children and their families prepare for the Sacraments. Each module begins with a short lesson - for parents - on the content of that module before the next item, a taught lesson for the children. The programme is highly interactive, and learning is reinforced through challenges, quizzes and interactive games which are scored but can be repeated indefinitely. This is offered to parents/guardians as a format of instruction during the pandemic.

Face Coverings/Numbers at Services: We request the wearing of face coverings as they are now mandatory upon entering and leaving the church. Some people are exempt from the wearing of face coverings, even in situations which would otherwise be mandatory. Please continue to observe social distancing, to use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving each of our churches.

Diocesan Paper 'The Net': The February edition of The Net is now available online, on the parish website. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles, and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

ACCORD Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme - 2021 Course Dates: 9th/ 10th March. Booking now online at www.accordni.com.

Preparing for Marriage? Catholic Engaged Encounter: A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 27th -28th March. This 2-day course is a positive way of

preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. Information/Booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028 276 38512.

Anniversary Masses: Anniversary Masses/Month's Mind Masses either to be booked or to be added to the weekend list, need to be recorded in the Anniversary Book in each sacristy. As is the custom previously established, the requested Masses can take place during the week or at the weekend, when the date is available. It is advisable where possible to book well in advance in the case of anniversaries. **In the case of a booked Anniversary Mass please inquire of the sacristan before the Mass begins that the Mass is offered for the intention you request.**

Derry Diocesan Society (DDS): In each of the parishes of the diocese Mass is offered alternating in each parish (list at the back of each church) for deceased and living members who are registered in the society. The deceased members registered are remembered in the anniversary list for three consecutive weekends each quarter (three months). Registration is £20 and can be given to a sacristan or Fr. Crowley - please ensure name and address of the person to be enrolled, and whether it is for a living or deceased member.

Feasts during the Week: Wednesday - St. Scholastica: Died c543 sister of St. Benedict. She spent her life as a consecrated servant of God. **Thursday – Our Lady of Lourdes:** ‘**World Day of the Sick**’ On this day in 1858, Our Lady appeared to the fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous. Later Bernadette was to learn that the mysterious lady was the Blessed Virgin and to hear from her lips, ‘I am the Immaculate Conception’. In 1992 Pope John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick to be held on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

World Day of the Sick: Pope urges “trust-based relationship” in care for the sick.

In his message for the 29th World Day of the Sick on 11th February, Pope Francis urges a Path of healing grounded in a trusting and interpersonal relationship between the sick and those who care for them.

“A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love.” Pope Francis makes the point in his message for this year's World Day of the Sick.

To fight hypocrisy and self-idolatry, he says, Jesus asks us to “stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them,” the Pope says in the message.

The Catholic Church marks the annual day on 11th February, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II on 13th May 1992, the first World Day of the Sick was marked the following year. The theme of this year's observance is, “You have but one teacher and you are all brothers” (Mt 23:8), which calls for “a trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick”.

Pope Francis says that the annual day “is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities.” He expresses his spiritual closeness and the Church's loving concern for those suffering the coronavirus pandemic, especially the poor and the marginalized.

Fighting hypocrisy

Drawing attention to the theme of this year's observance, the Pope warns Christians about the danger of “self-idolatry” when our “faith is reduced to empty words and we are unconcerned with the lives and needs of others.”

Noting that Jesus criticizes those who “preach but do not practise”, the Pope says “none of us is immune to the grave evil of hypocrisy, which prevents us from flourishing as children of the one Father, called to live universal fraternity.”

Sickness and faith

Sickness, the Pope notes, makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It raises the question of life’s meaning, which we bring before God in faith, in order to seek a new and deeper direction in our lives. In this regard, the Pope holds out the biblical figure of Job as a model. Abandoned by his wife and friends in his misfortune, he says, Job feels forlorn and misunderstood. Yet, he rejects hypocrisy and chooses the path of honesty towards God and others. The Lord hears Job's cries and confirms that his suffering is not a punishment or a state of separation from God, much less a sign of God’s indifference.

Closeness between the “sick” and carers

The Pope says that sickness has many faces. They are the sick, as well as all those who are ignored, excluded and are a prey to social injustices that deny their fundamental rights. The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our healthcare systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick, with the elderly, weak and vulnerable people not always granted access to care, or in an equitable manner. The pandemic has also highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious. The Holy Father pays them homage, saying they are “a silent multitude of men and women” who “chose not to look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they saw as neighbours and members of our one human family.” “Such closeness,” the Pope remarks, “is a precious balm that provides support and consolation to the sick in their suffering.” As Christians, he says, we experience that closeness as a sign of the love of Jesus Christ, the Good Samaritan, who draws near with compassion to every man and woman wounded by sin. He says that as a community, we too are called to be merciful like the Father and to love in particular our frail, infirm and suffering brothers and sisters, leaving no one behind, especially those most in need.

Fraternal solidarity and relationship

Pope Francis then speaks about the importance of fraternal solidarity towards our neighbours, which takes a variety of forms. “Serving means caring for the vulnerable of our families, our society, our people.” We are called to set aside our own wishes and desires, the pursuit of power, and look to the faces of the most vulnerable, touching their flesh, sensing their closeness and helping them. For a therapy to be effective, the Pope points out, “it must be relational, as it enables a holistic approach to the patient.”

This path of healing grounded in a trusting interpersonal relationship, he emphasizes, can help doctors, nurses, professionals and volunteers in caring for the sick. This relationship between the sick and carers, based on mutual trust and respect, openness and availability, he says, will help to overcome defensive attitudes, respect the dignity of the sick, safeguard the professionalism of healthcare workers and foster a good relationship with the families of patients.

Jesus, the Pope concludes, proves this by healing “not by magic but as the result of an encounter, an interpersonal relationship.”

Prayer for our Parish in Challenging Times: God of love, we the people of the Parish of Errigal, turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as a people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

Healing God - Bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and loved ones. We pray especially with those who isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Generous and Merciful God: Fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear!

God of Strength: Accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical and nursing professions and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of their communities. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

Ballerin Lotto: There was no winner of the Lotto the No's were 10, 15, 24, and 30. J/P £10,000 2nd J/P £8,250. (approx.) £50 winner Sen McKay (Kilrea).

Church Safeguarding: If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact: Noel O'Donnell, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, 71362475, mobile 07596500793 or Celine McKenna, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, 71362475, mobile 07707311358 or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services.