

Errigal Parish News – 7th March 2021

Weekday Masses: Weekday Masses:

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

Extension of the Covid-19 Shut-down by the Northern Ireland Executive: The Northern Bishops have discussed the evolving situation. In the light of the Executive's extension of the current restrictions, and on the basis of the continued and unequivocal public health message that people should continue to stay at home, the Northern Bishops have agreed that the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies should continue, for the time being, to take place without the physical presence of the faithful. Marriage, funeral, baptismal liturgies may continue (subject to strict safety guidelines and regulations) with arrangements being made for live-streaming, where possible. The next NI Executive review of current lockdown provisions will be taking place on **Thursday 18th March**.

The Northern Bishops have agreed to further assess the situation immediately after that date in the cautious expectation that, from Friday 26th March onwards, and in preparation for Holy Week, the faithful may safely gather once more for the celebration of Mass, with all necessary risk assessments having taken place and with all necessary precautions and mitigations in place.

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/baptisms with limited numbers permitted access.

No weekend Masses in St. Joseph's Church until directed otherwise.

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

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

Parish Envelopes: The new box of parish collection envelopes will be distributed in coming weeks. They will shortly be received from the printers; they then have to be labelled and area coded before we invite those who deliver them to collect them for distribution. In recent years as previously stated a lot of work to update the parish data base has provided the information required for the distribution of envelope boxes, hence the computer will provide the list for distribution upon usage. There are a substantial number of boxes in circulation in the parish presently un-used, this is the case even prior to Covid-19. Following discussion with the Parish Finance Committee we encourage consideration for those who use envelopes infrequently to consider the use of a standing order, (through this medium you have full control), of the donation at your disposal. Further information is available from the parish website.

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. (February collection returns – in the brackets monthly direct debits for February).

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

St. Mary's - Parish: £995 (227) Renovation £710 (48)

St. Joseph's - Parish £350 (187) Renovation £235 (180)

St. Joseph's Church – Rosary & Divine Mercy: Every Wednesday evening at 7pm.
Everyone welcome.

SEASON OF LENT:

Trócaire: Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. Families like Awut and Ajak's in South Sudan need your support now more than ever. Trócaire are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on www.trocaire.org and donations can be made to the Lent campaign in the following ways: 1. By collecting a Trócaire box in the church 2. Online at www.trocaire.org 3. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI) The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Trócaire Boxes: Are available in each of the church porches, you are invited to take one home with you when it is convenient for you to collect one.

Any donation received before 16th May will be doubled by the UK government. We hope to be able to support thousands of people in South Sudan to grow enough food to feed their families.

AWUT'S STORY - Her painful trek to escape violence, hunger, and thirst in South Sudan. Families at times survive on wild fruits and greens. And for Awut, who is a widow caring for her own children and the orphan children of family members who lost their lives, it is even tougher. In war, woman and children often suffer most of all. They try to stay strong. But they lack so many of life's basics. Proper shelter. Food. Access to clean water, healthcare.

AJAK STORY – Ajak is a widowed mother who is moving heaven and earth to provide for her family, despite the poverty and constant threat of violence that surrounds them in Southern Sudan. And she will never forget Awut, who became her friend and lifted her family up when they had nothing. Even with the two mothers sharing all they have, there is nowhere near enough.

(Testimonies from story told in the Trócaire info contained in the envelope).

PLEASE HELP WAR-WEARY FAMILIES LIKE AJAK AND AWUT'S TO SURVIVE AND TRIVE. GIVE THIS LENT, AND LET YOUR LOVE CONQUER FEAR IN SOUTH SUDAN.

Stations of the Cross: Are an ancient part of our Catholic tradition. They help us to enter more fully into the season of Lent. The Stations of the Cross will take place on the first five Sunday's of Lent alternating between St. Mary's Church and St. Joseph's Church. **Stations of the Cross - St. Mary's Church next Sunday at 5pm (via the webcam).**

'Trad for Trócaire' Calling all local musicians/story tellers!!! We are excited to announce our **'Trad for Trócaire'** Charity Night on Wednesday 17th March. Please share with any musicians/singers. Any entertainers who would be interested in going live on Glennullin Facebook page on the 17th March – please contact Meabh Close 07920005529. All proceeds raised will go directly to Trócaire.

Diocesan Lenten Prayer: Loving Father, to prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your Kingdom to the world Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, we pray that we will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in our heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may we too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Diocesan and Parish Resources for Lent 2021: Throughout Lent resources and parish events for Lent 2020 will be published on the diocesan website and its social media channels. Each week of Lent I will provide a reflection on the Sunday Gospel. You are encouraged to follow and share these resources in your parish(es) at: **Web:** www.derrydiocese.org **Instagram:** @DioceseOfDerry **Twitter:** @DioceseOfDerry **Facebook:** @derrydiocese

LENT 2021: The diocese is promoting through virtual communication opportunities for discernment during Lent. **'Walking with Jesus along the Via Dolorosa - LENT 2021'**. This five-week programme for Lent includes a Gospel Reading, Reflective Prayer and Scriptural Rosary. In the Season of Lent, it is an opportunity to encourage prayer in the home and a deeper understanding of our faith. In the coming days and throughout Lent more prayer resources and activities will be shared on the diocesan website and the diocesan social media channels. You can follow the resources as they are published at this link: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/categories/lent-2021>

Knock Shrine: To host special online faith discussions during Lent under the title 'Living Christian Faith – Lenten Conversations'. The conversations will explore a different theme each week and guest speakers will discuss some of the important questions we all face in living out our faith. The talks are streamed at 8.30pm each Thursday during Lent at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live or on Facebook @knockshrine.

Baptisms: We welcome into the parish community Pauric Michael McCloskey, 1 Lisnascreghog Road who was baptised recently.

St. Marys Church – March Altar Society - Josephine McKeown, Nuala Mullan, and Amanda Mooney.

Baptisms: Baptisms will continue in March and we offer the following dates for both churches.

St. Mary's Church – Saturday 20th March at 5pm. St. Joseph's Church – Sunday 28th March 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 provided in the church or alternatively in the Parochial House.

St. Mary's Church Readers – 13th/14th March
Vigil 6pm. – Tiarna-Niamh Mullan.
Sunday 10am. – Seamus O'Kane.

Sacrament of Initiation Dates 2021: Sacrament of Confirmation – will take place in St. Mary's Church on Saturday 5th June at 11am. (Further details will follow).

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 March 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 or parish website, at your convenience.

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.

Accord Derry: Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (limited to 15 couples per course) - 2021 Course Dates: 9th/10th March 13th/14th April 11th/12th May and 8th/9th June. Booking now online at www.accordni.com.

Feasts during the Week: Monday - St. John of God: He devoted his life to the care of the poor and the sick. He is patron saint of nurses, the sick, and heart patients. **Tuesday - St**

Frances of Rome - Lived a happy married life and founded a society of women with the Rule of St. Benedict and became a member of it after her husband's death.

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 were 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.

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 3, 6, 13, and 15. J/P £10,000 2nd J/P £9,700. (approx.) £50 winner 'The Red Boys' c/o Julie Mullan.

Granaghan & District Woman's Group Swatragh: As promised, famous mindfulness and meditation teacher, inspirational speaker, and author Paddy Brosnan (from Dublin) will deliver FOUR sessions of mindfulness and meditation for us in March, via Zoom! All completely free and open to both men and women. Funded by DFC and DAERA. Tuesday March 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. Time 4-5pm. Places limited so book early. All we require is your postcode and email address. Why don't you visit our Facebook Page: Gdwg Swatragh for more information?

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.

