

Errigal Parish News – 14th February 2021

Weekday Masses:

St. Mary's Church: Ash Wednesday 10am and 7pm. Tuesday through Friday at 10am.
(ASHES WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED THIS YEAR)

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.

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.

Trocaire 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. Trócaire theme for Lent this year will be explored later in the season.

Day of Fast and Abstinence: Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. There is an obligation to fast, (one main meal and two light meals in the course of the day) and to abstain from meat. The law of fasting obliges all Catholics (except the sick) from the age of 18- 59 years. The law of abstinence obliges all Catholics over the age of 14 years. It is recommended that as Lent begins, we might make a similar effort during the Friday's of Lent to make some sacrificial penance during these weeks of Lent on days of our own discretion.

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).**

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

Diocesan Lenten Prayer 2021 - 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, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Season of Lent - Liturgical Year: Begins on Wednesday of this week. It lasts for forty days (excluding Sunday's) as it recalls the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert. It is a season of preparation for Easter Resurrection. It is a time to make a special effort to set time aside to pray, fast and to do good deeds. For adults who want to become Christians it is the final time of preparation before their Baptism. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. **Discernment** – Our **prayer** is a sign of our hunger and thirst for God. Our **fasting** is a sign of sorrow for our sin and an openness to conversion and turning back to God. Our **almsgiving** is a sign of gratitude, for we have received mercy, and through generous giving show mercy.

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>

Penitential Vigil: Fast starts: 12.00 midnight Thursday, 18th February 24 hour Vigil starts: 6.00 am Friday, 19th February Lent is an annual season of the Liturgical Year with a strong emphasis on the biblical practices of prayer, penance and almsgiving. (Matthew 6:1-18).

I invite people to consider joining us across the Diocese of Derry on the first weekend of Lent 2021. As happened last year, we propose to mirror some of the key elements of the centuries-old Lough Derg pilgrimage. This pandemic has caused a crisis for many institutions in church and civil society. This is a time to open ourselves to God's grace through penance and intense prayer. We pray for an end to the ravages caused by the virus and by lockdowns. The Lenten emptying of ourselves is an invitation to the Holy Spirit to fill us with the fullness of divine grace in God's service. Only when we have died with Christ, can we join him in his Resurrection. (Romans 6:5) +Donal McKeown

This time of prayer and penance at home will take its shape from core elements of the 3-day Lough Derg pilgrimage. Each person is invited to participate in whatever parts of the penitential 'virtual pilgrimage' that they feel able to adopt. If anyone is suffering from weakness or ill health, they should not overexert themselves. At the heart of the full Lough Derg pilgrimage are the following elements:

a. THE STATIONS: - Lough Derg Style: Throughout the Friday, participants will pray three Stations: 08.30 am First Station 12.00 noon The Angelus and Second Station 06.00 pm The Angelus and Third Station

b. THE NIGHT VIGIL: During the Night Vigil, four Stations are prayed: 12.00 midnight Fourth Station 01.30 am Fifth Station 03.00 am Sixth Station 04.30 am Seventh Station. The Night Vigil will conclude with Mass, at 6.00am on Saturday from St Eugene's Cathedral.

c. FASTING: To join spiritually with Bishop Donal on this 'virtual pilgrimage' people are invited, if they are physically able, to adopt the Lough Derg-style Fast from 12.00 midnight on Thursday night until after 6.00am Mass on Saturday morning. The Lough Derg Fast consists of water or black tea or coffee (no milk or sugar) with dry bread, toast and oatcakes, one time during the day. 'Pilgrims' can drink water, tea or coffee anytime.

Requiescant in Pace: We extend our sympathy to the family and relatives of Danny McNicholl 19 Drumbane Road who died recently.

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 – 20th/21st February
Vigil 6pm. – Mary McLaughlin.
Sunday 10am. – John Mullan.

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 or parish 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.

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 are 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 1, 14, 22, and 30. J/P £10,000 2nd J/P £8,550. (approx.) £50 winner Kevin Deighan (Maghera).

Granaghan & District Woman's Group Swatragh: We are delighted to share with you that Dr. Anne Monaghan from Ederney Co Fermanagh will be providing 12 sessions of bespoke Self-Care for us in the near future. These sessions will be provided by our local women's group absolutely FREE and cover topics such as: Thought Management, Breathing, Techniques, Reflexology etc. And more! This fabulous project will be delivered via ZOOM. We will of course, let you know all the details on how to join us as soon as possible. We want to help everyone to stay at home but, at the same time, stay well and connected.

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.