

Errigal Parish News – 24th January 2021

Weekday Masses:

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

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: Thanks to those in recent months who continued to contribute to the parish finances by cheque/parish envelopes. Please note that collection baskets circulating during Mass are suspended presently. There is a collection box at the back of each church at the weekend Masses. 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.

Baptisms: Baptisms will resume when the churches re-open for weekend scheduling of Masses.

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 – 30th/31st Jan

Vigil 6pm. – Madison McGilligan

Sunday 10am. – Joshua O'Neill.

Sacrament of Initiation Dates 2021: Sacrament of Confirmation - Saturday 13th March at 11am. 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 January 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 February and 9th/ 10th March. Booking now online

at www.accordni.com. **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 weekend's 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: Monday – St. Paul He preached the power of God at work in the lives of each one of us. His own conversion shows that power in his life. Out of a persecutor God made a preacher and teacher of the peoples. Paul never ceased to express thanks and wonder for this grace. But he still prayer for perseverance. **Tuesday – Ss. Timothy & Titus** Were close to St. Paul as followers and later in their work with him. Tradition makes Timothy the first bishop of Ephesus. Titus was sent to organise the Church in Crete. **Thursday – St. Thomas Aquinas** Was born in Italy in 1224. He died in 1274. Thomas taught that Christian revelation and human knowledge are aspects of a single truth and cannot be in conflict with one another. One of the greatest theologians, he is patron of schools, universities, students and booksellers.

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 9,10, 17 and 19. J/P was £10,000 2ns J/P £7680.00. £50 winner Brendan Ferris.

**Statement by the Northern Catholic Bishops
Re extension of the Covid-19 Shut-down by the Northern Ireland
Executive
to 5th March 2021.**

Yesterday afternoon the Northern Ireland Executive took the unanimous decision to extend the current Covid-19 restrictions until Friday 5th March 2021. This decision was based on the strong recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Advisor, as a result of the continued extremely high level of transmission of the Covid-19 virus throughout the community (which over these last four weeks had not reduced to the level that had been hoped for), along with the increasing numbers in hospital and intensive care.

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. Marriage, funeral, baptismal liturgies and drive-in services may continue (subject to strict safety guidelines and regulations). Arrangements for recording and/or livestreaming and making individual visits for private prayer are also permissible in accordance with regulations. We encourage parishes, where possible, to continue to broadcast the celebration of Mass - and other devotions and prayer services - online and on other media, knowing that faith and prayer can be a tremendous support to individuals and society during these difficult times.

We once more make this decision reluctantly, conscious of the pain that not being able to gather for public worship causes for all the faithful, but in the hope that this period of sacrifice is inspired by the command of Jesus to love our neighbours and undertaken for the protection of life and health and for the Common Good.

We continue to ask for prayers for the sick, the bereaved and all those whose livelihoods have been particularly impacted by the pandemic. We keep especially in mind all health workers, carers, chaplains and other essential workers. We welcome the announcement that a similar position is being taken by the leaders of the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and many other denominations and faith communities in response to the unequivocal message from public health authorities that as many people as possible stay at home at this time.