

Errigal Parish – Newsletter Notes – 29th November 2020

Weekday Masses

St. Mary's Church: Monday through First Friday at 10am. (Webcam/Parish Radio only - Mass said behind closed doors. The church will open for private prayer after Mass)

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

Parish Collections - Thank you.

340 boxes of envelopes in circulation. Returns - (Pink/160 White/118)

St. Mary's - Parish: £1300 (337) Renovation £515 (128)

St. Joseph's - Parish £445 (172) Renovation £350 (165)

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 From 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 above in the brackets at the end of each month.

Season of Advent: Advent is the season four Sundays before Christmas in which we prepare for the coming of Christ. The word Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus', which means 'coming'. Advent is a time of waiting, conversion and of hope. Advent has a two-fold character - it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities' of the Christmas Season, in which the first coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and in its turn in anticipation of Christ's Second coming at the end of time. (Advent Season - Year B)

The four outer candles on the advent wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple signifying a time of preparation, of making our hearts open to the coming of the Lord, and one pink/rose candle for the joyful or (Gaudete Sunday - third Sunday) and represents the joy we know because God loved us so much He sent His Son, Jesus into the world. The last remaining candle is the white candle in the centre of the wreath, this candle is lit on Christmas Eve and represents the Birth of Christ in our midst. Join the journey through Advent this year at www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar *'Lord our God, help us to prepare for the coming of Christ your Son. May He find us waiting, eager in joyful prayer. 'Come, Lord Jesus'.*

Sick Visitation: I am unable to attend the sick in the coming week due to the lockdown. Circumstances permitting, I will attend the sick on a date yet to be determined before Christmas.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: In normal times would have taken place in both churches of our parish on the First Sunday of Advent (today – it is cancelled this year).

Requiescat in Pace: We extend our sympathy to the family and relatives of Francis O'Kane, 3 Cloneen Manor, Maghera who died recently.

Baptism Dates: Due to the uncertainty of the prevailing situation going forward, it is difficult to give advance notice of future Baptisms. Due to the lockdown of churches until 11th December once clarification is received endeavour to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism before Christmas.

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.

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 Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal 2020: Christmas time is the busiest time for St Vincent de Paul giving out lots of toys and food parcels kindly donated by the public. However, this Christmas is going to be different with COVID-19 and government restrictions. The safety of the public and their members is paramount. Therefore, St Vincent de Paul are asking the public that instead of buying a physical toy or items of food that they buy a voucher or donate for the amount they were going to spend. If you have any questions or need any help, please ring **St Vincent de Paul on 07563595868**.

Prayer Resources for Advent: A series of Prayer resources for Advent has been created by the Diocese, in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network and the Catechetical Centre, for family prayer at home during the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. These resources contain lots of creative ideas and tips to help families and parishes during Prayer resources for Advent the Season of Advent. A family prayer booklet has been compiled specifically with families in mind. The Gospel for each Sunday of Advent is accompanied by a family activity, prayers and a reflection. The booklet can be downloaded at this link: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/advent-prayer-service-for-use-at-home> Family activities for Advent including prayers, how to create a Jesse Tree, an Advent Wreath and lots more are available to view on the Catechetical Centre website at: <https://catecheticalcentre.org/family-resources/preparing-our-hearts-for-christmas-adventresources>.

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.

Mini Advent Retreat on Zoom: You are invited to take part in a 3-session mini-retreat during Advent that will explore the themes of Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be led by Fr Billy Swan, and will take place from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd December beginning at 8pm. To take part, all you need to do is send an email

to thehookoffaith@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Come and join us to prepare for Christmas.

November Month for the Deceased: November is traditionally the month when we remember and celebrate: 'the lives of those for whom life has changed and the door of death has closed behind them.' In each of our churches in the parish during November there will be a basket placed in the Sanctuary for parishioners to place sealed envelopes of the names of the dead of their loved ones/family circle/relatives/friends. During November we are invited to remember in a special way, our departed loved ones. The donations offered will be forwarded to charity.

St. Mary's Church

Readers - 5th/6th Dec

Vigil 6pm. - Anne O'Neill

Sunday 10am. - Eamon Mullan.

Face Coverings/Numbers at Services: From this weekend the wearing of face coverings 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. Also, with immediate effect the number of people who can attend funerals and weddings are restricted to twenty-five people.

Diocesan Paper 'The Net': The November edition of The Net is now available online, on www.derrydiocese.org. 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: 12th/ 13th January 9th/ 10th February and 9th/ 10th March. Booking now online at www.accordni.com.

Sisters from the St. Elisabeth Convent: (Minsk, Belarus) are launching the very first Online Christmas Market, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please, click here to participate: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market>. Every item purchased at the Online Market is a donation towards one of the Convent's ministries.

Feasts during the Week

Monday - St. Andrew (Apostle) From Bethsaida was a disciple of John the Baptist when he was called by Jesus He in turn brought his brother Peter to Jesus. He is said to have suffered martyrdom on this date. Patron of Scotland and fishermen.

Thursday - St Francis Xavier One of seven Jesuits sent to India by St Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and later in Japan. He is patron of the missions.

Friday - St. John Damascene He was a 7th century Syrian Christian theologian. he became a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem. He was a leading figure in the promotion of icons.

Andy's Charity Plant Sale, 86 Mettican Road, Garvagh

On Friday 4th & Saturday 5th December at
9am - 4.00pm and Friday 11th & Saturday 12th December
at 9am - 4.00pm Winter planters, Wreaths, Garlands and much more. Proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support.