

Errigal Parish News – 31st January 2021

Weekday Masses:

St. Mary's Church: Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, and First Friday at 10am. **No Mass on Thursday.**

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.

Candlemas – St. Blaise: Candles will be blessed on Tuesday morning and candles for sale are available from the sacristies when it is safe for us to gather again. There will be **NO** personal blessing of throats this year.

Candlemas commemorates the presentation of Christ in the temple, which took place forty days after his birth (Christmas) as Jewish law required; it is associated with a day of purification. Luke's Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that "he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ([Luke 2:26](#)). Once in the temple, Jesus was purified by the prayer of Simeon – giving thanks to the Lord, singing a hymn now called the 'Nunc Dimittis' 'Lord, now let your servant go in peace, as your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.' (Prayer recited as part of the night prayer of the church every evening).

Candlemas Day was also the day when some cultures predicted weather patterns as the day light hours begin to stretch again. An old song goes: *If Candlemas be fair and bright, come winter, have another flight; if Candlemas bring clouds and rain, Go winter, and come not again.*

This Feast of the Presentation is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, celebrated since the 4th century AD in Jerusalem. This feast never falls in Lent; the earliest that Ash Wednesday can fall is 4th February, for the case of Easter on 22nd March in a non-leap year.

Sick Visitation: Fr. Crowley will attend the sick in his care on Thursday in the morning in Glenullin and the afternoon in Ballerin/Garvagh.

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 – 6th/7th February
Vigil 6pm. – Grace Doherty.
Sunday 10am. – Eamon Mullan.

St. Mary's Church - Altar Society for February: - Rosetta Mullan, Anne O'Neill and Julie 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 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.

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: Monday - St. Brigid: Renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and caring of the sick. She was born c. 454. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her, but she insisted on consecrating her life to God. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in several European lands. The St. Brigid's Cross, in legend used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith, remains a popular sign of God's protection. **Tuesday - Presentation of the Lord:** This feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary, mother of the Lord. With candles in their hands, the people go out to meet the Lord and to acclaim like Simon, who recognised Christ as 'a light to reveal God to the nations'. **Wednesday - St. Blaise:** Died in 315. Bishop of Sebaste, martyred in Armenia. Tradition states that he was a physician before becoming a bishop. Since the eighth century he has been venerated as patron of those who suffer from disease of the throat. **Friday - St Agatha:** Died a martyr for the faith at Catania in Sicily in the third century. **Saturday - Ss. Paul Miki & Companions:** They were martyred at Nagasaki, Japan in 1597. The six Franciscans, seventeen Franciscan Tertiaries, and three Jesuits died suspended on crosses.

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 5, 13, 14, 23 J/P £10,000 2nd J/P £7,930. (approx) £50 winner Robert Mullan.

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.

**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, because 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 based on 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.