

Beragh Parish Bulletin



Easter Sunday

4th April 2021

Parish Priest Mgr Colum Curry PP VG

Telephone: 028 8075 8206

Email: beraghparochial@btinternet.com

Website: www.beraghparish.com

Facebook: Parish of Beragh - Co. Tyrone

Cardinal MacRory Pastoral Area

Priests of the Pastoral Area:

Mgr Colum Curry PP VG 028 8075 8206

Fr P Hannigan 028 8776 1211

Fr C Devenney 028 8555 7212

Fr M O'Dwyer 028 8555 7212

St Vincent DePaul Helpline: 07738 837 875

Parish Office Opening Hours

Tuesdays: 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm; Fridays: 9.00 am - 1.30 pm.



Dear Parishioner and Gentle Reader,

May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you. On this Easter day we celebrate the central mystery of our faith. As St Paul said a long time ago, “If Jesus is not raised from the dead, then our faith is useless, and we are to be pitied”.

I think it’s interesting that there are no witnesses to the Resurrection of Jesus and no descriptions of what actually took place - possibly because it is outside of time and space and outside human understanding. As somebody once wrote, “the gospels do not explain the resurrection; the resurrection explains the gospels. Belief in the resurrection is not an appendage to the Christian faith; it is the Christian faith”.

On this Easter Sunday, an allegory from the East might help us appreciate the many implications of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

There was a garden in the East. The Master of the garden loved all its dwellers and cared for them with love and affection, particularly the grand and noble Bamboo. Every time he walked by, Bamboo would bow his great majestic head with respect. When the wind blew through the garden, Bamboo would throw aside his dignity and sway with wild abandon in the wind. One day the Master came to Bamboo and informed him that he had a special task for him. Bamboo was delighted and threw his head

into the air with happiness. But the Master was sad, because he would have to cut Bamboo down. And not only cut him down but hack off his branches and strip off his leaves and then cut him in two and tear out his very heart before he could use him. Upon hearing the Master's words, the birds of the garden were silent, and the sun hid its face behind the clouds. Bamboo was shocked and pleaded with his Master not to do it. But the Master said he could not use him unless he cut him down. Eventually, with great sadness Bamboo agreed to his Master's request. The Master cut him down and hacked off all his branches and stripped off all his leaves and cut him in two and hollowed out his insides. Then he gently carried Bamboo's remains to a little spring. He put one end of Bamboo into the clear sparkling water and the other end into a dry field. The fresh cool water rushed down through Bamboo's hollowed out body into the waiting field. Rice was planted, shoots grew and the harvest came. Bamboo was glorious in his beauty, but more glorious in his brokenness. In his emptiness he became a channel of abundant life to the Master's world.

During these Easter days let us ask the Risen Lord to renew our faith, deepen our hope and in our prayers help us:

look backward - to see Christ dying for us;
look upward - to see Christ pleading for us;
look inward - to see Christ living within us;
look forward - to see Christ coming for us.

**With renewed blessings and every wish for a lovely Easter.
Monsignor Colum.**

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £2,769

Other Collections

Candles: £ 192

Christians Holy Land: £ 97

Emigrants: £ 188

Other Special Collections: £ 50

Building Fund: £ 390

Priest's Dues: £1,110

Total: £4,796

Amount received by Standing Order Payments during the month of March was **£2,604.00.**

Trócaire

Trócaire needs our help more than ever. Owing to the current restrictions it will be difficult for all boxes to be returned in the normal way during the Easter ceremonies. The Government this year has agreed to match-fund all donations that are received by Trócaire NI. There is, however, a cut-off date, so we are asked to ensure that donations are returned to the parish in the coming weeks of April early May.

Easter Holy Water

Holy Water will be available after Mass on Easter Sunday and during Easter Week. Please feel free to collect a bottle from Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh.

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Barney McKillion, Annie Conway;
Michael McSorley (Dublin).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 4th April	9.00 am	Ronan Kerr.
	11.30 am	Ellen Jane Conroy (MM); Danny McDonald; Barney O'Neill; George, Brigid and Fr Sean McCartan.
Tuesday 6th April	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Thursday 8th April	9.00 am	Private Intention.
Friday 9th April	7.30 pm	Michael McAleer.
Saturday 10th April	10.00 am	Mary and Felix Owens and Hughie and Bridget McCrystal.
Sunday 11th April	11.30 am	Margaret Montague; Sean Owens; Joe and Margaret Donnelly.

Church of St Malachy, Seskinore

Monday 5th April **7.30 pm** Private Intention.

Church of St Patrick, Drumduff

Wednesday 7th April **9.00 am** Private Intention.

Oratory, Sixmilecross

The Rosary and Masses from the Oratory are available on You Tube. Search for "sixmilecross oratory youtube".

Parish Finances and Covid 19

It is over a year since we first heard of Coronavirus. I don't think anybody could have predicted, back then, the impact it would have on all aspects of our lives.

Apart from the devastating effect of Covid related deaths and sickness, many people have suffered economically while others have struggled with a whole range of financial challenges.

All the more reason why I want to thank sincerely those parishioners who continued to offer their financial support by returning their envelopes, and in many cases backdating their contributions. I also include the growing number of parishioners who have opted to pay by standing order or direct debit.

It is understandable that the parish income for the past twelve months has been severely affected, especially when people were advised to stay at home and, for long periods of time, could not attend Mass. Unfortunately, there was no reprieve for service utilities like water, oil and insurance, along with other sundry parish expenses.

New envelopes will be distributed shortly throughout the parish. Therefore, I am gently reminding parishioners, if you can, to complete outstanding envelopes from the current box and return them to Beragh chapel in the coming weeks. I would encourage parishioners to consider the advantages of online giving and I would remind everyone of the enormous benefit to the parish of signing up for GIFT aid. The relevant forms are available from the parish office.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who contributes in any way to the upkeep of the parish, especially in these challenging times. It is my prayer that 'the Lord who sees all that is done in secret' will reward you abundantly.

Radio Maria

Thank God and sincere thanks also to our many listeners and supporters as RADIO MARIA IRELAND continues to grow. As an Irish run Catholic Talk Radio Station we enjoy commercial free broadcasting. We offer Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies. So do join our growing faith family. Here is how you can listen:

- 1 Via Digital TV - Saorview 210
- 2 Download our **free** App "Radio Maria Ireland"
- 3 Streaming on our website - www.maria.ie
- 4 Via our "Listen Live Radio" link on our Facebook page
- 5 Via phone - get live radio feed by calling 353 (0) 14373277 (no extra charges apply)

Why not drop a line to our Priest Director, Fr Eamonn McCarthy, at Maria Ireland, St Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22

Prayer by Telephone

The Sisters of Mercy at "Bethany" House of Prayer, 34 Point Road, Dundalk, welcome any person who may wish to request prayer, especially during these difficult times. Telephone 00353 (42) 9331602, from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm daily. One of the Sisters will be happy to listen and pray with you. All requests are confidential.

Divine Mercy Novena

Divine Mercy Novena continues until Mercy Sunday, 11th April.

Holy Mass at 3.00 pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh. Celebrant is Fr McCallion. Chaplet recited before Mass.

Novena leaflets can be picked up at the back of all the clustering chapels.

If government restrictions are not lifted, it will be live streamed.

Important Information about the Parish Webcam

The web camera in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh has been upgraded. Anyone wishing to watch Mass etc. being streamed from Beragh Parish should go to the parish website www.beraghparish.com for the new link or go to www.churchmedia.tv Anyone with a set top box should search for Church Media to add that channel. Any problems with the set top box, please call 07879 606 583. You will also notice on the bottom left hand corner an additional camera choice: "Baptismal" which focuses on the baptismal font for the celebration of baptisms and "Mobile" which is available for Devotions and is only available when streaming is active.

Year of Reflection and Prayer

The 'Year of Reflection and Prayer', which was launched last January to begin the process of pastoral planning in the diocese, was due to conclude at the end of this month. Due, however, to the Covid-19 pandemic and to the ongoing restrictions on movement and gathering, the Pastoral Team has decided to extend this period of reflection until the end of June.

Mass arrangements for Beragh Parish

All Masses from Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh are streamed via webcam.

To log on please go to: www.beraghparish.com