

Beragh Parish Bulletin



19th Sunday Year A

9th August 2020

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,

Following on from last Sunday's account of Jesus feeding the huge crowds with five loaves and two fish, we hear today that he goes up into the hills by himself to pray. Meanwhile the apostles who are in a boat out on the lake, suddenly find themselves battling with heavy waves and strong winds. Even though some of them were fishermen and familiar with such unpredictable storms on this notorious stretch, they panicked. It's also worth noting that the Jews regarded the sea as evil, the dwelling place of terrifying monsters, so when the apostles saw what appeared like a ghost walking on the water, we can imagine their state of utter alarm and confusion.

When Matthew was writing this gospel, he was aware that a boat was one of the early Christian symbols for the Church. The infant Church was seen as a tiny boat making its way out into the depths and being violently tossed about on the seas of life. At that particular time the Church was beset with bitter persecution, coping with difficult decisions, navigating its way through troubled waters and sometimes feeling abandoned by her Master.

We might be tempted to think that the Church in our time is also at sinking point: scandals of recent years have been a source of great shame and discouragement; vocations have been in decline for some time and the rate of religious practice seems to be falling rapidly. The pursuit of personal gratification would appear to be taking precedence over moral principles and we can feel overwhelmed by the gales of secularisation.

Even in our own personal lives, we can be subjected to relentless forces outside our control. Those dark heavy gusts break hard upon us when a job is lost, an exam is failed, or a relationship is ended. What do you do when you are constantly lashed by a stormy marriage, disturbed by children going adrift or facing the future with the worry of a mysterious pandemic or personal sickness? It is all too easy to panic and, like Peter, collapse under that sinking feeling that everything is lost.

And yet some of the most powerful and consoling words of Jesus are contained in today's Gospel: "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid!" And we contemplate that compelling image: "Jesus put out his hand at once and held him".

So, for those of us who might be distressed by the circumstances of life, this gospel reassures us that the Lord is ever present, always available, giving us support and sustaining us when everything else fails. He will never let us down.

With every blessing, Monsignor Colum.

The Annual Blessing of Graves

The annual blessing of graves is an important event for many families and for people away from home as we remember in prayer loved ones who are no longer with us. Unfortunately, the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus has prevented us from celebrating the blessing of graves this year. As an alternative, I would like to proceed with a private blessing and sprinkling of Holy Water for each of the three graveyards and a commemoration in prayer of all those who have died during the past twelve months. I am hoping that these celebrations, can be recorded by drone and streamed by Web Cam and Facebook mid-August. I will verify the dates shortly, but in the meantime, I would encourage parishioners to begin preparing their family plots in the usual way.

Congratulations

We welcome into our Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism, *Maria Sharon Meenagh; Daithí-Colin O'Neill; Emily Eva Craig and Malachy Seamus O'Lone.*

Summary of Beragh Parish Collections

Weekly Envelopes: £ 595

Loose Collection: £ 8

Other Collections

Candles: £ 77

Education of Student Priests: £ 30

Building Fund: £ 135

Priest's Dues: £1,120

Total: £1,965

Grant them Eternal Rest, O Lord

All Names on the Parish Dead List

Recently Deceased: Anthony Munroe; Terry O'Hagan (Funeral in Eskra on Friday).

Church of Immaculate Conception, Beragh

Sunday 9th August 11.30 am	Michael McNelis.
Tuesday 11th August 9.00 am	Private Intention.
Thursday 13th August 9.00 am	Private Intention.
Friday 14th August 7.30 pm	Private Intention.
Saturday 15th August 10.00 am	Feast of the Assumption.
Sunday 16th August 11.30 am	Mary Grimes.

St Malachy's Church, Seskinore

Monday 10th August 7.30 pm	Private Intention.
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Church of St Patrick, Drumduff

Wednesday 12th August 9.00 am	Private Intention.
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Assumption of Our Lady

Saturday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated in Church of the Immaculate Conception, Beragh on Friday at 7.30 pm and on Saturday at 10.00 am.

Parish Confirmation

On Wednesday 12th August the children of Roscavey PS will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at 7.30 pm. The Irish Bishop's Council for Catechetics have produced 3 videos to help prepare children for the sacrament of Confirmation this year. These are now available on the diocesan website at <https://www.armagharchdiocese.org/confirmation-day/> and on the Armagh Prays website at <https://www.armaghprays.com/confirmationvideo>.

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.

The Oratory in Sixmilecross will be closed until further notice.

It’s worth noting that the Rosary and Masses from the Oratory are available on You Tube. Search for “sixmilecross oratory youtube”.

StopCOVID NI **USE THE APP - SAVE LIVES**

- This free app from the Health Service will support contact tracing, help prevent another lockdown and save lives.
- It tells you automatically if you’ve been near another app-user who tests positive.
It can also let them know if you test positive.
- It never knows or shares your identity or location.

What does the StopCOVID NI App do?

- It supports contact tracing and helps protect as many people as possible.
- The app uses Bluetooth technology to check if you’ve been in close contact with another app-user.
- It tells you if you have been near someone who has tested positive, even if you don’t know them.
- If you receive an alert, it will tell you to self-isolate for 14 days and show you where to get advice on symptoms and booking a test.
- If you test positive, it updates app-users who have been in close contact with you.
- It only knows if you have been near another app-user, not your identity or location.

How do I download the App?

Download the app from your phone's app store.

This will be the Apple App Store for iPhones and the Google Play Store for most other phones. Search **'StopCOVID NI'**. You should see the app with its black and white HSC logo. Click **'Install'** or **'Get'**.

The app will then be installed on your phone. Open the app and follow the guidance to set it up. You will be asked to confirm you want to use the app, agree to the Terms and Conditions, and allow the app to use your Bluetooth feature to send you notifications.

Learn more at nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus

Theology Programme

Do you want to learn more about your faith?

If you are interested, why not consider joining our Theology programme. The course takes two years with one night per week and two weekends over the academic year and is accredited by St Patrick's College, Maynooth. There are no educational entry requirements, and completion of the course is based on submitted work and does not include sitting exams. Our Theology course will be continuing this year with predominantly online classes, starting on 8th September 2020.

If you are interested, and would like more information, please contact Milanda on 00353 429 336 393 or email: milanda@parishandfamily.ie (9.00 am - 2.00 pm). All are welcome.

Youth 2000 Summer E-Festival **(14th - 16th August 2020)**

Youth 2000's primary objective is to provide young people with a real retreat, not just an educational conference. We strive to lead each young soul to a genuine encounter with the Living God, even within these restrictive circumstances. We usually have over 1,000 attendees at the Summer Festival, so the possibility of reaching even more online is immense, but only if it is well executed.

We are currently celebrating 30 years of grace in Youth 2000 (1990 - 2020). Registration is free at www.youth2000.ie