

PARISH OF BANAGHER

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 31st January 2021

Mass Times for the forthcoming week:

Online Weekday Masses:

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am

St Mary's Church, Altinure: Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am

Online Weekend Masses:

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Sunday 9.15am

St Mary's Church, Altinure: Saturday 5.30pm Vigil

An Anniversary Mass will be celebrated for the happy repose of the soul of Noel Hasson RIP on Friday 5th February 2021 at 9.30am in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn.

Baptism: We welcome into the family of God baby Fallon Crossan.

Children for Baptism: If you have a child for Baptism, please contact Fr Micheál. Baptism ceremonies can continue during this current lockdown but are restricted to immediate family and no more than 10 in the Church at the time of the ceremony.

Feast of St Brigid – Monday 1st February: If you wish to have a St Brigid's Cross blessed, there will be a basket placed in front of the altar in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn this weekend. If you attach your name to the Cross and place it in the basket, they will be blessed at the 9.30am Mass on Monday morning. They can be collected after Mass.

Candlemas – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – Tuesday 2nd February: Candles will be blessed at the 10am Mass in St Mary's Church Altinure on Tuesday morning. They will be available after Mass in both Churches in a basket at the front of the Church.

Blessing of Throats – St Blaise's Day – Wednesday 3rd February: Fr Micheál will bless the throats of parishioners after Mass on Wednesday morning. God's blessing is not restricted by space or time, so it will be effective virtually. You are welcome to hold the blessed candles to your throat at the time of blessing.

Confirmation 2021: Due to the ongoing, extended restrictions and the uncertainty around when children in Primary 7 will return to face-to-face teaching, and in addition, the continued closure of Churches, Confirmation will have to be postponed once again, at least until after Easter. Once we can be certain that children will be back in school and Churches are permitted to have public worship, then we will arrange a new date. Apologies for the inconvenience and repeated postponement of the celebration. Much of this is outside our control and I appreciate your understanding at this time.

Housebound Visitation: Routine home visits to the sick and housebound are still not permitted. If someone is gravely ill and needs a priest, please call the parochial house.

Hospital Visitation: If you have a relative or friend in hospital and they wish to see a priest, please ask a member of the hospital staff to page the Catholic Chaplain. There is always a priest on call to visit. Thank you for your understanding.

Sick, Elderly, Homebound & Shielding Do you have a relative who would normally attend Mass or receive a monthly visit from Fr Micheál and is presently shielding due to COVID-19? If you or another family member who cares for them would like to bring them Holy Communion once per week, please let Fr Micheál know.

Funerals: During this current lockdown the number of mourners permitted in the Church and at the graveside are restricted to 25 people.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £NIL **St Mary's Church, Altinure:** £NIL

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: £NIL **Online:** £310

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Online Financial Contributions, for those who wish to, can be made directly to the Parish Bank Account. Sort Code: 95-03-06 Account Number: 51052659. Please indicate your name as a reference on the payment.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses – If you are planning on getting married in the near future, you are expected to take part in a preparation workshop. Due to current restrictions on gatherings, these are taking place virtually online. Upcoming dates are: April 13th/14th 2021; May 11th / 12th 2021 & June 8th/9th 2021. Courses are limited to 15 couples and you can book online at: www.accordni.com

ACCORD – COVID-19 Counselling & Support: If you can't talk to each other, talk to Accord. Accord's free and confidential 'Relationships Support Phone Line' for marriages, families and relationships, offers support to those experiencing extra pressure due to social restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Accord NI – 028 9568 0151.

Preparing for Marriage? Catholic Engaged Encounter: A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 27-28 March 2021. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. This course fulfils the requirements of getting married in the Catholic Church. Information/Booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028276 38512

Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) with Online Delivery: St Angela's College, Sligo, beginning Autumn 2021. The course is open to: Qualified primary school teachers; Qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education may also apply. Closing date for Applications is Friday 14th May 2021. This date may be extended. For further information and application forms contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, School of Education, St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo Email: mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie or visit www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie

If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please see contacts on church noticeboards.

Saints this week:

Monday 1st February: St Brigid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland She was born in 451 or 452 at Faughart, near Dundalk, in Ireland. Her name is that of the pagan goddess of fire. She converted to Christianity, inspired by the preaching of St Patrick. She founded a double monastery, of monks and nuns, at Kildare, the first women's monastic community in Ireland, and she died there in 525.

Tuesday 2nd February: The Presentation of the Lord occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles, under normal circumstances, is included in today's liturgy. This is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity Crib until this feast.

Wednesday 3rd February: St Blaise was bishop of Sebaste and was martyred, probably early in the fourth century. Devotion to him spread throughout the Church during the Middle Ages. He is particularly invoked for disorders of the throat.

Friday 5th February: St Agatha was martyred at Catania in Sicily, probably during the persecution of Decius (250-253). Devotion to her was widespread in the Church in the earliest times and she is mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

Saturday 6th February: Sts Paul Miki & Companions was born in Japan between 1564 and 1566. He joined the Society of Jesus and preached the gospel to the Japanese people with great success. When a persecution of the Catholics arose he was arrested together with twenty-five others. Mocked and tortured, they were eventually taken to Nagasaki on 5 February 1597, bound to crosses and speared.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Mary's GAC, Banagher: The winning lotto Numbers were 3,13,23,24. No winners this week. Receiving £50 each were Nicolle Farren & Kathleen Cartin. Next week's jackpot is £1,400. Thanks very much to everyone who continue to support our club lotto.

Winding Roe Magazine 2020 edition. If anyone would like a copy of the magazine and are unable to get to the shops, we can forward by post. Contact us on 028 777 42494.

Learmount Community Centre: *information for people living in the Sperrin Electoral Area.*

If you have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and fall under any of the following categories below you are entitled to support during this crisis:

- Have lost income or your job during the current crisis (even temporarily). Had a reduction in your income due to reduced hours/furlough including self-employed.
- Have increased child/caring responsibilities that are impacting on your ability to work or causing increased expense in the home.
- An older person, particularly those living alone. People living with a disability/carer. Families with children/young people (0-24yrs). Those clinically vulnerable (previously shielding). People from minority communities.
- People with chronic ill health/disability or who been recently bereaved, and this is impacting on their ability to work/source income.

- Those in receipt of one of the following benefits: Child Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Universal Credit (incl. pending applications), Job Seekers Allowance, No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), Working Tax Credit.

We can offer support with food vouchers and also some support with coal/oil/electricity costs. This help is available directly through the Community Centre for individuals or families who are currently struggling a bit and live in the local area (within the Sperrin electoral area). Please get in touch by ringing 0776377765 or 02877781881 or send a private message to the Learmount Community Centre on face book.

Openreach Broadband The scheme is a community fibre partnership which allows residents, businesses and community providers to pledge a free government Gigabit voucher worth £1500 for homes and £3000 for businesses towards the cost of the works associated with upgrading the broadband structure in the area. The vouchers will allow Openreach to undertake works on roads/addresses that would not usually be commercially viable and will therefore deliver superfast broadband to most addressees in Feeny & Park.

However, they need in the region of 80% of the exchange area to pledge their voucher in order for the scheme to proceed. So far only 102 vouchers out of a possible 820 have been pledged and therefore the target is falling considerably short on the current uptake. If the target was to be met, the scheme would be expected to be delivered this year which would be a major boost to the local area in a very short period of time.

Please visit www.openreach.cm/connectmycommunity to register.

Privacy Notice: The Diocese of Derry complies with GDPR regulations. A privacy notice is available on the Parish Website or by contacting the Parish Office. Live stream and recordings of Mass and Services in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and St Mary's Church, Altinure are available online. Parishioners should note that the first three rows of seats are visible online in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and the first 6 rows of seats in St Mary's Church, Altinure.

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Micheál McGavigan Adm. JV
42 Glenedra Road, Feeny, BT47 4TW
Tel: 028 7778 1223
Email: mcgavigan@derrydiocese.org

Retired Priests Residing in the Parish

Fr Seamus O'Connell PEm Fr Michael Collins PEm. Fr Arthur O'Reilly PEm.
028 7778 1228 028 7778 1776 028 7133 8261

CONTACT US

To arrange a Baptism, Wedding or Anniversary Mass, please call Fr Micheál or the secretaries on 028 7778 1223 or email banagherparish@derrydiocese.org
Bulletin notices should be emailed to banagherparish@derrydiocese.org

Mass is Live and Recorded on the Webcam at www.banagherparish.com

SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973