

PARISH OF BANAGHER

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19th July 2020

Weekday Mass Times for w/c 20th July 2020:

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Mon & Fri: 9.30am, Wed: 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Altinure: Tues & Thurs: 10.00am
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: **Wed & Fri: 7.00pm***

Weekend Mass Times for 25th & 26th July:

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Vigil: 7.00pm. 9.15am
St Mary's Church, Altinure: Vigil: 5.30pm. 10.30am
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: Vigil: 7.00pm. **10.30am***

**Please note change to regular Mass times in Foreglen.*

Confessions:

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Wednesday 7.00pm; Friday 10.00am
St Mary's Church, Altinure: Saturday 5.00pm
Please wear a face covering in the confession box

Divine Mercy Chapel & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Friday 10.00am – 11.00am
St Mary's Church, Altinure: Thursday 10.30am – 11.30am

**DUE TO THE LOCAL INCREASE IN NEW CASES OF CORONAVIRUS, AS A
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE FOR THE TIME BEING, A FACE-COVERING IS
REQUIRED WHILE INSIDE THE CHURCH. THANK YOU.**

A First Anniversary Mass for the happy repose of the soul of Roland Murray RIP will be celebrated in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn on Saturday 25th July 2020 at 7.00pm.

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God Eadie Betty O'Hara, Micheál John Brolly, Millie McAuley and Sophia Duggan.

Children for Baptism: If you have a child for Baptism, please contact Fr Micheál.

Parish Envelopes: can be returned to the Church in the boxes available at the Church Porches. Please only deposit the envelopes at Mass time. Thank you for your 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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £1270 St Mary's Church, Altinure: £791
St Peter & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: £522 Online: £165
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Guidance for attending Public Mass There is no obligation to attend Mass, even on a Sunday. If you are able to attend on a weekday, please do. Churches have been 'fogged' to kill any infection. Doors will be left open for ventilation. Time inside the Church will be kept to a minimum. Observe the 1-way system in St Mary's Church, Altinure. If you do attend Mass, please observe the following:

- Use Hand Sanitiser on entry.
- Wear a face covering while inside.
- Do not sit on blocked-off pews.
- Families/ Households can sit together on a pew.
- No more than 2 people from different households on other pews, at least 2m apart.
- Do not stand in the porchway or the back of the Church.
- Stay 2m apart when queueing for Holy Communion & leaving the Church, leaving your pew row by row.
- Receive Communion only on the hand.
- Take missalettes home, they cannot be reused.

Saints this week:

Monday 20th July: St Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr: He was bishop of Ravenna, probably in the late second century, and was probably martyred there. Devotion to him was already common in the seventh century.

Wednesday 22nd July: St Mary Magdalene: She was healed of "seven devils" by Jesus. She ministered to him in Galilee and was present at his crucifixion. She was in the group of women who were the first to discover the empty tomb, and it was to her that the risen Jesus first appeared.

Thursday 23rd July: St Bridget of Sweden, Patroness of Europe: She was married to a nobleman and had eight children. At the age of 30 she was summoned to the court of the King of Sweden, where she served as lady-in-waiting to the queen. She tried without much success to moderate the riotous and indecent life of the royal court. After a pilgrimage to the shrine of St James at Compostela in Spain, Bridget and her husband Ulf decided to spend the rest of their lives in monasteries.

In 1350 she travelled to Rome for the Holy Year, and spent the rest of her life there caring for the poor and the sick, denouncing the excesses of the aristocracy, and robustly telling the Pope to return to Rome from Avignon.

Friday 24th July: St Declan: He was an early Irish bishop and abbot. He is sometimes said to be one of four bishops to have preceded Saint Patrick in Ireland in the early 5th century (See also Saints Ailbhe, Ciaran, and Ibar), although he is also made a contemporary of Saint David in the mid-6th century.

Access to Church Services: All our Church Services can be viewed online via www.churchmedia.tv or by logging on to our parish website www.banagherparish.com and following the link to webcam. A new camera and software has been installed in the hope that this will overcome the recent reliability issues and improve the picture. Thank you for your patience.

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. The three numbers are:

- Accord CLG – 01 531 3331
- Accord Dublin – 01 905 9555
- Accord NI – 028 9568 0151 or 00353 1 531 3331

Derry Youth Community is a faith-based Gap Year opportunity for young adults aged between 18 – 25, is now open for applications for the year starting September 2020. DYC offers the opportunity to live in community, to develop and be formed in faith and be involved in youth ministry in parishes. The three main aspects of DYC are: Accompaniment, Community and Encounter. If you are interested in this Gap Year or would like some more information, please email: dyc@derrydiocese.org

St Mary's GAC, Banagher: Lotto numbers for 14th July 2020: 1, 9, 23 & 26. Winning £100 was Arthur Kelly. Thanks to everyone who continue to support our club lotto every week. Next week's jackpot is £3900. **Drive in Bingo** today, Sunday 19th July at 6pm in Sports Pavilion Car Park; gates open at 5pm.

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 are available online. Parishioners should note that the first 3 rows of seats are visible online.

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, we hear many parables about the 'Kingdom of heaven' and what it is like. This might move us to think about the afterlife, but Jesus was describing God's kingdom in the here and now, 'on earth as in heaven.' Jesus, through parables, is trying to describe what is difficult to comprehend. Parables allow our minds and hearts to ponder, to imagine, to move beyond the constraints of language. Jesus is describing what God's vision for this world is like, in the here and now!

Taking one of these parables, the mustard seed, we can explore a little more. There is an ancient text which forbade planting mustard seeds in Palestinian gardens because the shrub would take over. It can go wild, out of control, and attract unwanted birds. Author Shane Claiborn compares it to *kudzu*, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas and even crack cement buildings. I like the idea of something so small causing so much mischief, holy mischief! The Kingdom of Heaven is like this? Yes, growing even where it is not wanted.

People in authority during Jesus' time might have had images of the 'lovely cedars of Lebanon' representing the 'reign of God.' Theirs was a grand vision. As with most of Jesus' parables, he turns things on their head. It is through the smallest of seeds that God's grace affects the world, silently making its way through the cracks.

'Might I,' quavered Mary, 'might I have a bit of earth?' 'Earth!' he repeated. 'What do you mean?' 'To plant seeds in – to make things grow – to see them come alive.'

FRANCES H. BURNETT, *The Secret Garden*

PARISH CLERGY

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Retired Priests Residing in the Parish

Fr Seamus O'Connell PEm.
028 7778 1228

Fr Michael Collins PEm.
028 7778 1776

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