

PARISH OF BANAGHER

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26th July 2020

Weekday Mass Times for w/c 27th 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 1st & 2nd August 2020:

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.**

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God Erin Hassan and Faye Mary Annie Millar.

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

Bishop Donal McKeown, the Bishop of Derry, is informally visiting parishes in the Diocese during this time. He will celebrate the 9.30am Mass on Monday 27th July in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn.

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: £500 St Mary's Church, Altinure: £510
St Peter & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: £491 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:

Wednesday 29th July: St Martha was the sister of Mary of Bethany and Lazarus. In the West, her feast day comes a week after that of St Mary Magdalene because of the old and probably erroneous tradition that Mary Magdalene was the same person as Martha's sister.

Friday 31st July: St Ignatius Loyola was born in the Spanish Basque country. He was a soldier but was wounded in the battle of Pamplona at the age of 30. During a long convalescence he read a life of Christ and a collection of lives of the saints, and discovered that his true vocation was to devote his life wholly to God. He and a group of others organised themselves into a regular religious order, and in 1540 the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) was formed. Ignatius had a gift for inspiring friendship, and was the recipient of deep spiritual insight.

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.

The Net– July-August 2020. With the Covid-19 restrictions still in place, the July-August edition of ‘The Net’ will only be available on the Diocesan website at this stage – <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-july-august-2020>. However, the publication will be available again in parishes when the restrictions are lifted. For inclusion of your faith related news in future editions just email: editorthenet15@gmail.com.

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 21st July 2020: 17, 18, 25 & 17. Thanks to everyone who continue to support our club lotto every week. Next week’s jackpot is £4000.

Re-Opening Club Grounds & Resuming Activities From Saturday 25th July under the guidance of the Public Health Agency & The GAA we will safely reopen our facilities/activities in line with COVID-19 protocols. *Club Gyms & Changing rooms will remain CLOSED until further notice.* We would like to thank everybody for their patience and understanding over the last week.

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

Over the past few weeks, we have been reading Matthew 13, with its parables on the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew uses this phrase to describe what our world might be like if we really lived like Jesus lives. This vision is not one focused on power, even though the word ‘kingdom’ might be misleading! It is more a web of relationships. Like the seed parables show us, God’s Kingdom grows quietly, in unexpected places; like seeds, it sometimes grows in the darkness, unseen.

Today’s parable focuses on treasure, something very precious. When we are obsessed with finding something, it consumes us. We will put all our resources, time or money, into finding it. In this parable, Jesus urges us to strive for *the* ultimate treasure, i.e. God.

During the Covid-19 crisis, many people have been thinking about what is most important in their lives. A break from the ‘rat race’ forced all of us to slow down, to step back, to ‘pull the emergency brake.’ We saw who the real heroes in our society are. We witnessed many acts of kindness and community spirit. We stepped back, paused. No doubt, things will not be the same again after this pandemic. But hopefully we will have awakened to what our ‘treasure’ really is.

‘Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world.’ (Arundhati Roy, ‘The Pandemic is a Portal,’ *Financial Times*)

Jane Mellett

PARISH CLERGY

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

Fr Arthur O’Reilly CC
285 Foreglen Road, Dungiven,
BT47 4PJ
Tel: 028 7133 8261

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