

## Parish of Killooney & Creagh

Sunday, JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas 2021

Tel (090) 9643916

email: [stmichaelsballinasloe@clonfertdiocese.ie](mailto:stmichaelsballinasloe@clonfertdiocese.ie)

PRIESTS: Fr's John Garvey, Colm Allman, Bernie Costello

**R.I.P.** Paul Spencer, Church Street, Creagh. Mary Casey, Woodlands, Creagh

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK IN ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH: 10a.m.**

**Mon:** William Hogarty, Killahornia (M.M).

**Tues:** Personal Intention.

**Wed: Feast of the Epiphany: First Mass of; Tues @ 7p.m.**

Mary Donnellan, Poolboy; John Dolan & John Dolan Jnr, Kilgarve;

Michael, Theresa & John McCarthy, Sarsfield Road.

**Wed: 12noon:** Dec mem Moylan Family;

Peter & Margaret Egan, Gortnasharavogue.

**Thur:** Sean Largey, Melbourne.

**Fri:** Dec mem Naughton Family, Kilconnell.

**Sat:** Bridget (B) Kelly, Station Road (M.M.)

**SUNDAY, : First Mass of; Sat 7p.m.**

Liam Kelly, Church Street, Creagh; Thomas Flynn, Cuilleen.

**12noon** Michael Forristal, Hawthorn, Creagh.

Martin & Mary Grenham, Main Street; Gerry Rynne, Poolboy;

Nancy Corson, Athenry.

Masses from St Michaels Church are now being live-streamed at

[www.churchservices.tv/ballinasloe](http://www.churchservices.tv/ballinasloe) Please spread the word.

**Thank You for Your Parish Donation it is Greatly Appreciated:**

Church Envelopes and Calendars for 2021 are available at The Presbytery, Dunlo Street.

Please call for yours Monday – Friday between 10.30am and 4.30pm

Online donations can be made by logging on to [www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://www.clonfertdiocese.ie) Click on the secure

“Donate” button located on the right of the screen and follow the instructions given. At

the drop-down menu click on the name of your local Parish to ensure that your donation

goes to there. Once again thank you so much for your contributions to the continued

upkeep of our Parish. They are very much appreciated in these difficult times.

**A revision of life**

I remember bumping into a monk, we'll call Kevin, who was going through a challenging time and was headed to a confrontational meeting. He shared how, leaving his cell, he said a prayer, “God, please be with me.” Immediately came the reply, “No Kevin, you be with me.” There is a world of difference between asking God to be part of our agenda, instead of surrendering to the Beloved. We know from Scripture and

experience; God often seems to favour the tougher route. Recall when the Israelites were leaving Egypt, God did not lead them by the shorter route, but rather the longer way through the desert of the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-18). Going with God is a risk, it means stepping into the unknown and yet we know from John's Gospel, the Beloved is the route and road, “I am the Way.” As we prepare to step into this New Year, only too ready to shake the dust of the “Camino Covid” from our feet, perhaps it would be important to pause and do “a revision of life” on 2020. Where did I grow, where did I stagnate? Where did I find healing, where was I hurt? What excited me, what paralyzed me? Where was the Beloved this past year? It would be a pity to miss the gift and grace of 2020. Surrendering our expectations and plans, ‘staying with the Beloved’ ( A reflection by Fr Michael Fish.)

*There is a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (6 January) when the family gather to ask God's blessing on their home and family life. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our homes.*

**Instructions for Blessing the Home** Using chalk mark the lintel of your front door as follows:

**20 + C + M + B + 21** saying: **The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and nineteen years ago.**

**May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year.**

**Amen.** Then say the following prayer:

Visit, O Blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence.

Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love;

and grant that we may manifest your love to each other

and to all whose lives we touch.

May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you;

guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace,

O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

What does the inscription ‘20 + C + M + B + 21’ mean? The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar – who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.”

The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “21” at the end mark the current year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year. The new year, perhaps more than ever, is a year in which we need to invite Jesus into our homes, our Domestic Churches.

