

The Parish of Leitrim Ballydugan/Kilmeen.

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(The parish newsletter is available on the internet www.clonfertdiocese.ie)

First Week in Ordinary Time:

Masses: The following are the Anniversary Masses booked before restrictions came into place:

Saturday 9th January: John and Mary Hale and Alice Daniels

Sunday 10th January: Brigid Coen (1st Anniversary.)

Saturday 16th January: Private Intention.

Sunday 17th January

Tom Loughnane (6th Anniversary.) and a Special Intention.

Correction: Last Sunday's intention should have read Willie, James and Sadie Lyons and not Griffin.

Note: The Masses can be said privately or rescheduled when restrictions are lifted. Please let me know your intention at the above number. Thank you

Visits: No household visits except for care and exceptional reasons.

Ordinary Time begins in the Church after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday 11th January. This is symbolised by the colour green. Readings are taken from Weekday Cycle 1 and Sunday Cycle B.

Our churches remain open for private prayer during Level 5 restrictions. I will say daily Mass for your intentions. You are invited to make a spiritual communion whenever you can.

Week of prayer for Christian Unity: 18-25th January 2021. The theme is 'Abide in My Love...You Shall Bear Much Fruit.' It was discerned by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and finds its origins in the Gospel of John 15: 5-9.

Pope's Intention for January: Human fraternity. May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our sisters and brothers of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Kilnadeema Leitrim GAA Club: The numbers drawn on January 3rd were: 6, 15, 22, 27. There was no jackpot winner. Match three Winners; Hannah Skelly; John Whelan; Patricia Comer. The next draw will be for a jackpot of €11,400.

A thought: Patrick Kavanagh spoke poetically about the liturgy of the seasons: "O give me faith/That I may be/Alive when April's/Ecstasy/Dances in every/Whitethorn tree"

From the PP's Desk:

The restrictions continue to be challenging on a personal level. Please be aware of the possibility of forming a support bubble. "To support those who risk isolation, a 'social bubble' will apply for the duration of Level 5. In certain situations, you can form a bubble with 1 other household (of any size). You can then act as one extended household. You must still keep physical distance from people outside your support bubble. You can form a support bubble with another household: • if you are living alone with children under the age of 18 • if you live alone • if you share parenting or custody arrangements • if you live with an adult you provide care for (for example a dependent adult relation or a partner with dementia) • if you live by yourself and have a carer or carers who support you, including a live-in carer (see www.gov.ie).

Those aged over 70 and the medically vulnerable are advised to continue to exercise personal judgement. It is recommended that they stay at home as much as possible, limit engagement to a very small network for short periods of time, while remaining physically distanced. When taking exercise outdoors, it is important to maintain 2 metres distance from others and wash hands on returning home. It is recommended to shop during designated hours only, while wearing a face covering, and to avoid public transport (see www.gov.ie).

By taking personal responsibility we can lower the number of infections, save lives and move to a new place with the help of the vaccine in the not-too-distant future. Take good care and keep the prayers going!

Reflection: A mystic or nothing at all? - Karl Rahner wisely reminded us that "the number one cause of atheism is Christians. Those who proclaim Him with their mouths and deny Him with their actions is what an unbelieving world finds unbelievable...In the days ahead, you will either be a mystic (one who has experienced God for real) or nothing at all." That's the challenge facing us in the Church at home and universally.

Readings for The Baptism of the Lord: Jesus is anointed with the Spirit and his power. He is proclaimed Messiah. He now goes about doing good, working the signs that make him known as the Servant of God. He is the one who brings good news to the poor and tells of salvation. Through our Baptism each one of us is ordered to the life of Christ - Priest, Prophet and King - and the Father looks on us with favour.

Irish Hospice Foundation: Support Line, freephone 1800 80 70 77.

ALONE Covid-19 for older people. Phone: 0818 222024, 8am - 8pm. See www.alone.ie to become a volunteer.