

Granaghan Parish Newsletter

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prisoners' Sunday - 8 November 2020

The time is now

I am a procrastinator. If a task is awkward or unpleasant, I am likely to put off till another day. In any given week, I have a 'to-do' list I need to get through. The most important items always get done - things that can't be avoided, like work deadlines or paying bills. But bigger projects often get put on the long finger and I find myself transferring items to the following week's list. It is part of life to learn how to prioritise, and to be prepared to tackle the important things. Even when we are not ready to face a certain situation, sometimes we need to push ourselves to just dive in.

Among the wedding customs in Jesus' time was a night-time procession from the bride's home to the grooms. The bridesmaids would go out with torches lit to welcome the groom and his entourage. The parable in today's gospel sets two groups in contrast - the 'foolish' bridesmaids who run out of oil because they have failed to prepare, and the 'sensible' ones who are ready with their lamps and oil, who recognise the importance of the task. Only one group was ready when the groom approached.

This parable encourages us to focus on the here and now, to nurture our relationship with God in the present and to live well. There is no point in procrastinating or waiting until the bridegroom is at the door. As well as having the light of faith, we need the fuel - the actions - to keep it lit so we are ready when the Lord comes.

'It's a terrible thing, I think, in life to wait until you're ready. I have this feeling now that actually no one is ever ready to do anything. There is almost no such thing as ready. There is only now. And you may as well do it now. Generally speaking, now is as good a time as any.'

HUGH LAURIE

Jane Mellett

DEATH

We offer our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of: **ELLEN BRADLEY**. May she rest in peace.

GENERAL NOTICE

GRANAGHAN OUTREACHES WALK FOR CHARITY

On the 27th of December 2020, 17 volunteers from Granaghan outreach will take on the challenge of walking the Carn mountain to raise money to drill a well at a primary school in Nara Mora, Western Kenya which will provide clean drinking water and help sanitation. With your help and donations, we can ensure that the lives of so many children will benefit for the better this year. Due to the pandemic our trip to south Africa had to be cancelled and so we have concentrated on helping out local charities such as the open doors club and Maghera food bank. We have also been able to make donations to habitat for humanity and SVdP and a feeding programme for the homeless

children in Zambia. This would not have been possible without the people of Granaghan parish and so we are calling on you again to support us in helping to achieve a fresh water tap for these children. Thank you for continuing to support our charity. Your donations make a real difference to people's lives.

*****DONATIONS CAN BE MADE THROUGH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE 'GRANAGHAN OUTREACH' WHERE YOU WILL FIND A GO FUND ME PAGE LINK ATTACHED.*****

DIOCESAN MASS FOR DECEASED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

Sunday 8th November, at 7.00pm. The Annual Mass for deceased children and young people will be celebrated in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on You can join this Mass live on the St Eugene's Cathedral webcam. If you would like to have a child or young person remembered at this Mass, please email the name to lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or telephone 028 7126 4087.

DROMANTINE RETREAT CENTRE:

Saturday 14 November, 9.30am – 5.00pm. 'Loss and Recovery': This seminar explores how loss is an invitation to wholeness. Fr Jim Cogley: Full cost £35. Enquiries, Tel 028 3082 1964 or email sma.dromantine@sma.ie

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Mass

Mass for deceased pilgrims, staff and friends of the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be celebrated in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry, on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30 pm. Numbers will be restricted in keeping with Covid-19 restrictions. This Mass will be streamed live on steelstownparish.com/webcam.htm

Lough Derg November Memorial Service

There will be a Lough Derg November Memorial Service for deceased pilgrims and benefactors streamed live via webcam from St Mary's Church, Pettigo, on Sunday 22nd November at 7 pm. To watch the service go to www.churchservices.tv/pettigo. If you wish to enrol a departed loved one, please contact us by email at info@loughderg.org or telephone 00353 71 9861518. You can also write to Fr La Flynn, Prior, Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co Donegal F94 YC60.

November Prayer Service Booklet

A short booklet for families has been created to highlight the month of November as a time to remember and pray for our dearly departed. It marks out Feast Days, provides a family prayer service,

and some prayers for November. May it bring comfort, solace and the light of Christ to many people during the coming days and weeks. The booklet can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/november-prayer-service-for-use-at-home>.