

14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 **Dungiven Parish Bulletin** No 1569

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**SUNDAY MASS TIMES - St. Patrick's:** Sat. Vigil 6.00 pm. Sun. 9.00 am. & 11.30 am.

**WEEKDAY MASSES: St. Patrick's:** Mon. – Sat. 10.00 am. *Via the webcam.*

#### MONTHS MIND MASSES

For Bridie Reilly on Tues. 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 10.00 am. in St. Patrick's. *Via the webcam.*

For Thomas McGilligan on Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 6.00 pm. in St. Patrick's. *Via the webcam.*

**DERRY DIOCESAN SOCIETY -** The 10.00 am. Mass on Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. will be celebrated for all deceased members of the society.

**THE ROSARY -** Mon. – Sat. at 9.35 am. in St. Patrick's Church. *Via the webcam.*

**BAPTISMS -** Will take place in St. Patrick's Church on the following dates: **Feb. Sat. 27<sup>th</sup>. March: Sun. 7<sup>th</sup>. Sat. 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.** Two weeks notice must be given. Only 10 persons (including children) per family in the church. There will be only individual baptisms.

✠ **DEATHS –** We extend our sympathy to the Halsey family circle on the death of Graham Halsey, formerly Finvola Park, to the Hutton family circle on the death of Gary Hutton, formerly Dungiven. May they rest in peace.

**LAST WEEKS COLLECTION: £1,690**

*Thank you to all who contributed.*

**COVID VACCINES AVAILABLE:** For 65 – 69 year olds. Slots available next week in Foyle Arena. Tel: 0287 1610 753 to book or use website <https://vaccinations.covid-19.hscni.net/booking>

**DIOCESE OF DERRY PRAYER FOR LENT 2021**  
*Each day of Lent everyone is encouraged to pray the Diocese Lenten Prayer.*

Loving Father, To prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your kingdom to the world, Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert.

In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in my

heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness.

With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FAST & ABSTINENCE**

- Unfortunately we cannot invite you to come to the Church this year on Ash Wednesday so here are some possibilities to help us begin this holy Season in very difficult times.

- Alternatives?

- Make a black cloth cross from old black material and then you can either put in the window of your house or car or wear it on your lapel.
- Prepare some ashes; ours are usually made from burning the branches that were used for Palm Sunday last year. Then you can use them in the house or put them on your forehead. We will bless them at the three Masses on Ash Wednesday: 7.00 am., 10.00 am. and 7.30 pm. Have your own holy water at hand to sprinkle after the Blessing.

We would encourage you to take on some discipline during this holy season of Lent.

We will have the usual 10.00 am. Mass every morning during the week *via webcam*. Also we will have an early morning Mass at 7.00 am. on Tuesdays & Thursdays & an evening Mass on Mondays & Wednesdays at 7.30 pm.

Then on Sunday afternoon at 3.00 pm. *via our webcam* we will have a special Lenten programme, which is being promoted by the Diocese. It is called **“Walking with Jesus along the Via Dolorosa.”** There will be a special leaflet published each week with the bulletin and it will also be available on our web site **and is included with this week's bulletin for the first Sunday of Lent.**

**THE ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**  
Will take place on Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. the first Friday of Lent. The Day of Prayer is an initiative by Pope Francis and was first marked in Irish dioceses and

parishes in 2017. “I encourage dioceses and parishes to undertake this prayer initiative and to light the ‘Candle of Atonement’

***A candle will be lit at the statue of the Sacred Heart in St. Patrick's Church.***

#### **Candle of Atonement Prayer**

Lord, forgive us our many sins.

We grieve and repent with all our hearts for having offended you, for our great failings and neglect of the young and vulnerable.

We place all of those who have been hurt by the Church in any way into your loving hands and under the protection of Our Blessed Mother.

Lord, bring peace to their broken lives and show us all the way out of darkness and into the light of your Word.

#### **CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GORTNAGHEY**

Improvements and Maintenance Works.

As part of a programme of minor works, preparations are underway for the erection of new perimeter fencing at Gortnaghey Church to better define and enclose the grounds which serve the church.

New purpose made metal fencing is to be erected enclosing the grounds, particularly to the graveyard areas to the rear and the car parking and landscaped areas behind and beyond. This will be accompanied by a length of new walls and piers with infill purpose made metal panels extending from the road entrance back to meet the new general fencing.

The space between the new fencing and the existing post and wire fence will be of maintained grass with new tree planting inserted to finish off the perimeter arrangements and provide overall enhancement to the setting of the church and grounds. Artists sketch impressions can be seen on the church notice boards.

*The response to date has been very positive and we would encourage any further suggestions or proposals and they can be forwarded to the parish office or Michael Hegarty via e-mail or letter.*

#### **ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH DRUMSURN AND OLD CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE.**

As announced in the bulletin a few weeks ago, we are soon to embark on a substantial and much needed refurbishment of St. Matthew's Church, Drumsurn, and it's grounds. During these considerations it was discovered that the Diocese still owns the Old Church and grounds in Drumsurn village and were not in receipt of insurance cover for it. The

remains of this Church building had deteriorated considerably in recent years, especially the western gable, and following concerns being raised we availed of a generous offer by a parishioner to voluntarily render the wall safe. We discovered then that a prerequisite to accessing public liability insurance cover through Diocesan Insurers was that a secure fence be erected around the Church building to prevent access. Because of the extreme urgency of the situation we instructed a local contractor to install fencing to the required standard and we are very pleased with the outcome. Again this was done voluntary without any charge to the Church for work or materials. Michael Hegarty, a Diocesan Architect, and native of this parish, has been invaluable in advising on the best way forward and, with his experience of similar situations elsewhere, feels that it would be a mistake to allow this historical landmark to be removed completely and that an attempt should be made to retain the outline of the Church at a safe level. It is felt that it would be most appropriate that we endeavour to consolidate and maintain the two surviving window arches on the southerly wall. These would have architectural and aesthetic value but may require professional input due to the skill set level necessary for successful completion. We are grateful for the supportive advice received from former parishioners who have expertise in the field of stone masonry and listed buildings, while stressing that this is not a listed building. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone with opinions on this subject would communicate them by email or letter via Parish Office or by posting through letter box of outer sacristy door in St. Matthew's Church, Drumsurn, or contact Liam Begley. We would, of course, welcome physical support with any work undertaken in the future. We will seek financial support via any grant awarding body although we are well aware of the current constraints on all organisations. It is felt that there would be benefit to be gained from addressing the works for both the present and previous Churches for the Drumsurn area simultaneously. We could possibly incorporate historical information on both in a short publication for any official recognition of these developments. We would encourage parishioners who have any knowledge of ancestors interred in the old graveyard or anything of note with regard to the history of the Church to record it, as it could be invaluable to anyone compiling a record of this topic. All communication will be treated sensitively, collated and preserved.