

**JOINT CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2020
FROM
ARCHDEACON BRIAN HARPER, CHURCH OF IRELAND
ARCHBISHOP'S COMMISSARY FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLOGHER
AND
BISHOP LARRY DUFFY,
ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF CLOGHER**

'At this season of the year, we are reminded that God is in the midst of us'

Saint Matthew tells us that the Lord had said through the prophet that the virgin will be with child and they will call him Immanuel which means "God with us". It is this name – Immanuel- which takes on added meaning at this time of year when we celebrate the birth of Christ. This event in our common history tells us of how God Almighty came among us in humility to live as we live, to walk where we walk, to see what we see. He does so, not from a lofty throne, but with us in our sorrow and joy, in life and death.

2020 has been a year that we will remember. In some ways, it has been a lost year, a year without any plan or direction, a year without confidence or certainty. It has been a year when truth has been shrouded in "fake news" and conspiracy theory and when we have truly stepped into the unknown. It is not the first time this has happened. There have been many "plagues" that have affected us through history and throughout the world but this has been the first in a world which is so interconnected and interdependent.

At a personal level, families have been separated, the elderly and vulnerable have become isolated, and loved ones have died. Poverty, depression, anxiety have increased. Yet there have been moments of celebration that have dotted our landscape. We have seen the dedication of our health care workers. We have witnessed heroic efforts being made for charitable causes and we have testified to the beautiful deeds of kindness shown to one another.

In the midst of the worst of times, we may have asked the question "Where is God in the midst of this crisis?" or "Why can't God come down and sort this out?" At this season of the year, we are reminded that God is in the midst of us, he has entered this broken world and he is Immanuel which means "God with us". In the child born to Mary, we see our Saviour, Jesus, and we humbly place our trust in him.

In the quietness of this particular Christmas, may we know the presence of Immanuel in our lives and in our homes.

+ **Larry Duffy**

Archdeacon Brian Harper

Parish Mobile (in case of emergency): 085 817 6203.



Parish of Clones

Sacred Heart, Clones
St Alphonsus, Connon
St Macartan's, Aghadrumsee

Parish Office
10.00am—4.30pm (Monday—Friday)
Telephone: 047 51048
Email: clonesparish@gmail.com
Website: www.clonesparish.com

**20th December
2020**

**Fourth Week
of
Advent**



Masses and Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Vigil	7.30pm	Simon, Eileen & Edward Rafferty, Clonfad
Sun 20th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	10.00am	Patricia Toye, Kilgarrett
	11.30am	Peggy McCabe, Magheraveely (Month's Memory)
Mon 21st	10.00am	People of the Parish
Tue 22nd	10.00am	
Wed 23rd	10.00am	Liam & Loretta Slowey, Carraveetra
Thurs 24th	10.00am	Larry McGonnell, O'Neill Park
	6.00pm	The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (St. Macartan's A'd'see) Mass of Midnight
	9.00pm	(Sacred Heart, Clones) Mass of Midnight
Fri 25th	9.00am	(St. Alphonsus, Connon) Mass of Dawn
	10.00am	(St. Macartan's, A'd'see) Mass of Dawn
	11.30am	(Sacred Heart, Clones) Mass During the Day
Sat 26th	10.00am	No Mass
		The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Vigil	7.30pm	Bernadette & Pat McGrane & Bogue Family, Millbrook
Sun 27th	11.30am	Eugene Mulligan, Killyliffer & Donagh

We wish all who live in the Parish of Clones and our friends who live elsewhere, a very Happy Christmas and New Year. 2020 has been a strange experience for all of us and we thank those who have worked tirelessly to keep us safe in Parish during this past 9 months.

We cannot afford to be complacent just because it is Christmas, so we encourage you, for the sake of yourselves and others, to follow HSE guidelines and stay safe and healthy.

Fr. Jim & Fr. Dick

Masses for the week		
Saturday	7.30pm	Sacred Heart, Clones
Sunday	9.00am	St. Alphonsus, Connon's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
	11.30am	Sacred Heart, Clones
Weekdays: Mon-Sat in Sacred Heart Church at 10.00am		
(When there is a funeral in Clones, the Mass will be at 11.00am)		

Baptism: We welcome into our Christian faith community Ger Logan Cadden

Deaths: We pray for
 Luke Padian, Tempo
 Peter Nugent, Sixmilecross

St. Alphonsus:
 Reader 25th Dec
 Eucharistic Minister
 Kathleen Maguire
 Ann Hackett

St. Macartan's:
 Reader 24th Dec
 Reader 25th Dec
 Reader 27th Dec
 Eucharistic Ministers 24th Dec
 Eucharistic Ministers 25th Dec
 Eucharistic Minister 27th Dec
 Siobhan Maguire
 Sheila Maguire
 Yvonne Crudden
 Ann Flanagan & Ella Crudden
 Naoisa Faux & Máire Cullinan
 Samantha Boyle

Sacred Heart Church Readers:
 24th Vigil Theresa Jenkins
 25th 11.30am Paul Jenkins
 26th Vigil Patricia O'Connor
 27th 11.30am Joe Kirke
Sacred Heart Church Eucharistic Ministers:
 24th Vigil Bridget Bray & Deirdre Kelly
 25th 11.30am Teresa McMahan & Anna May Greenan
 26th Vigil Dymrna Colgan
 27th 11.30am Danny Crudden
Altar Society Marie Collins & Mary Wilson

<p align="center">Service of Reconciliation - Christmas 2020 There will be an opportunity to celebrate Reconciliation online this Sunday 20th December 2020 at 7.00pm; visit www.clonesparish.com</p>
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St. Macartan's, Aghadrumsee.

Due to new restrictions announced this week by the Northern Ireland Executive, Mass will not be celebrated in St. Macartan's from 26th December until further notice.

Christmas Eve Reflection from Bishop Larry: You can join Bishop Larry Duffy on www.clogherdiocese.ie or on the Diocese of Clogher Facebook page at **5.00pm on Christmas Eve** as he lights the centre candle on the Advent Wreath and gives a short reflection on the Gospel reading. Advent & Christmas Prayer Resources for families are available on www.clogherdiocese.ie and are shared through Facebook pages.

Trócaire's Christmas Appeal 2020 addresses the humanitarian crises as a result of hurricanes in Central America and supports people left hungry by the impacts of Covid-19. Support to Trócaire this Christmas will also fund the charity's response to crises around the world. Trócaire and its local partners are providing shelter, food and other vital support to people left homeless by these hurricanes. Contributions to Trócaire can be made on www.trocaire.org.

Prayer in the Home for Christmas 2020

Prayer at Crib
 Heavenly Father, as we wonder and hesitate to believe like the shepherds in Bethlehem, fill our hearts with joy, as we recognize in the helpless babe the revelation of your love, a new radiant version of your glory.

Filled with wonder and nearness of our God in Mary's newborn child, may we now offer him praise, worship and thanksgiving and give him the love and loyalty of our hearts. Amen

Prayer to the Holy Family
 Jesus, Mary and Joseph in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communication and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph graciously hear our prayer. Amen

Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia

