

Coolkenno GAA Lotto: Last week's numbers: 2,11,14,25

No Winner. This week's jackpot €3,600. Next Draw: 7th. February in Club House
Lucky Dip Winners: Roan Murphy, Hayley Kane; Patrick Dalton; Mary Corcoran.

Thought for the week

ST. BRIGID - ABBESS AND SECONDARY PATRON OF IRELAND By
Fr Billy Swan

On Monday 1st February, we celebrated the Feast Day of St Brigid or Mary of the Gael. Here I explore how the example and witness of St Brigid takes us back to the primacy of charity and love at the heart of the Church. The earliest surviving hagiography of Brigit was written by the Kildare monk Cogitosus (c. 620-680), within 150 years of her death. In his account, Brigid is portrayed consistently as compassionate and merciful. She is a woman of charity 'to the poor and to wayfarers...having given all away to the poor'. On one occasion when a man had suffered a grave injustice, we are told she was 'moved with pity...filled with deep grief for the unfortunate man who had been unfairly condemned'. Cogitosus speaks of 'the excellence of her holiness', 'her marvellous hospitality' and how 'no poor person left her presence empty-handed'. He also writes of her charity and kindness to lepers and animals. A later hagiography tells the story of how, when she was asked during a ceremony to choose a particular beatitude to live by, she chose 'the beatitude of mercy'. The fruit of Brigid's witness to mercy was unity. In his prologue to The Life of Brigid, Cogitosus refers to 'this woman who drew to herself from all the provinces of Ireland inestimable numbers of people of both sexes'. All were 'filled with admiration for the girl who was incomparable in her faith and in the merit of her good works' and that 'people were drawn to her from all parts by the great fame of her virtue and exceeding generosity'. In Brigid, the Irish Church has an exemplar of charity and hospitality. These are the virtues without which the Church would disintegrate. She is someone who calls us back to mercy and who points the way to an ecumenism of love. She connects the unity of Christians and the charity between them, as Christ did at the Last Supper when he prayed that we be one and that we 'love one another as I have loved you' (John 13:34). To the measure we love one another, to that extent we are united. Put simply, 'where there is sin, there is division. Where there is charity, there is unity.' If love and mercy are the key to unity within the Church, then it is also the key to her mission ad extra to the world. To be continued next week....

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

6th. February - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre will be open on Tuesday and Friday
9.30 - 1.30. Tel. 059-9156890

clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com

Fr. John: 086-2403787; email: frjohn51@gmail.com.

Website: www.clonmoreparish.ie



Jesus the Healer

In today's Gospel we read about Jesus' first healing in Mark's Gospel. Jesus hears of the illness of the mother of Simon's wife and goes to her. Due to the purity laws of his time this scene would have been considered controversial. His first healing is of a woman and we are told that he touches her, raises her up; he completely restores her to health. Many of his actions here would have been considered inappropriate. The 'whole city' was crowded around the door as many people wanted to be healed. What a commotion! Jesus, very early on in his ministry is clearly a very popular and attractive figure. Another important aspect of this story is that Jesus does not remain comfortable in this house. He keeps moving, keeps going outward. This requires so much energy and an outpouring of love for those in need. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel what it takes to stay energised for our various ministries: quiet time and space for real encounter with God. Even then, the people hunted for him and said, 'Everyone is searching for you', and still today, everyone is searching. We too are called to bring healing to others in any way that we can, to those who are seeking, those who are lost, those who are isolated. Jesus shows us that to do this we must be connected to that Divine Presence within us and in our world. Today we can ask ourselves, what do I need healing from? Bring this to Jesus in prayer. And also, how can I reach out, with a healing presence, to others, especially during this time of pandemic? 'I ask God to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture and religion. Let us ask him to anoint our whole being with the balm of his mercy, which heals the injuries caused by mistakes, misunderstandings, and disputes. And let us ask him for the grace to send us forth, in humility and meekness, along the demanding but enriching path of seeking peace'. (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 254)

Christian Motivational Phrases

The Cross means there is no shipwreck without hope, there is no darkness without dawn, no storm without a haven. St. John Paul II

Anniversaries - with love we remember



Kilquiggan 6th. February 9.00

Edward Hickey, Cronalea, Month's Mind.

Clonmore 6th. February 10.30

Patrick Connolly (Jnr.) Crab Lane & Ballyshane.

John Blake Mullinacuff and Bunclody

Ballyconnell 12th. February 7.30.

Lyla Nanasy, Months Mind; and her brother Denis O'Reilly Killinure and her sister Kathleen Carey (New York)

Kilquiggan 13th. 9.00

Edward Dempsey and his son Christy, Mullinacuff.

Collections: Weekend: 29/30 January

Envelopes: €430 Baskets: €460. Envelopes returned:78

Bingo: €400 Lotto: €235

Mass Schedule

Tuesday 8th. February: Mass at 9.30.

Wednesday 9th.: Mass at 9.30

Friday 11th.: Mass at 7.30 in Ballyconnell



Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Sunday 10th. – 17th. April 2022.

Further details form Duffy Coach Hire: 087-2543235; 059-6471681

PARISH LOTTO: Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Results for Wednesday 2nd. February 2022 Numbers: 11,17, 26, 29 - No Winner. Next week's Jackpot €12,000. 12 Match 3s win €84 each

I would encourage you to support our Lotto. At this time of the year some of your subscriptions have expired. The lotto is a very welcome support for our parish finances. For you personally, it is also an opportunity for you to win some money. If you are not in you can't win.

Synod News: A Listening Lent. Preparations are beginning across the diocese to open up a variety of listening forums in Lent so that we can listen to people's experience of faith and walking together in faith, of being part of the community of the Church and our hopes for the Church into the future as we seek to bring God's love to the world. Look out for our first video in the coming week inviting you to take part in A LISTENING LENT. See www.kandle.ie/synod and www.synod.ie to learn more about the synod and the synodal pathway for the Irish Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT MOUNT ST ANNE'S RETREAT CENTRE, KILLENARD, PORTARLINGTON.

Prayerful Meditation Day on Saturday 12th February 10am - 3.30pm with Sr Anne Kearney

Cost: €25 (please bring packed Lunch) Tea/Coffee provided.

Phone 057-8626153 to book a place

Spring Online Courses - 7pm to 9pm on Zoom on the following dates:

March 8, 15, 22, 29 (Kieran J. O'Mahoney)

March 9, 16, 23, 30 (Janet Forbes and Oonagh O' Brien)

April 5, 12, 19, 26 (Deirdre Ní Chinnéide)

April 6, 13, 20, 27 (Gráinne Doherty)

€100 for each 4-night course

To book a place please email ceo@mountstannes.com

Visit our website for full details of all our upcoming events: www.mountstannes.com

2022 All Ireland Eucharistic Conference. Saturday 5th February at 2pm live on Radio Maria Ireland. Speakers include Fr. John Mockler, Servant Sister of the Home of the mother, Antoinette Moynihan (Children of the Eucharist) and Fr. Morty O'Shea.



Ballyconnell Bingo: There will be bingo

Sunday 6th. at 2 pm. Please spread the word; and thanks for your support.