

# Clonskeagh Parish Newsletter

Let us remember those who are sick  
and housebound in our Parish  
today!



We prayerfully remember all those who  
are **Recently Deceased** & all whose  
**Anniversaries** occur at this time.  
**“May they rest in peace. Amen.”**



## *Christmas Dues*

**Christmas Dues envelopes are available  
at the back of the Church. Please take  
your envelope and return to the Parish  
Office/Sacristy or you can place them  
into the collection baskets at the  
weekend Masses.**

Sincere thanks to all who have already  
contributed their **Christmas Dues**.

## **Church Collections –**

At the moment the best way to donate to  
the Church is through our online payment  
facility which is available on our Parish  
website.

Please feel free to donate online at  
<https://www.clonskeaghparish.ie/>  
*Thank you for your continued support.*

**“Be strong and take heart, all you who  
hope in the Lord”**  
**Psalm 1:24**

Fr Joe Mullan Adm.

Since **December 30th** and for at least  
one month we are operating our parish  
under level 5 restrictions, the details of  
these restrictions are available on  
the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) website.

The churches are open for *private  
prayer* and those over 70  
and those with underlying conditions  
are asked to limit their contacts, stay in  
place at home in so far as possible and  
to exercise a heightened sense  
of personal care.

The *Parish Office* is closed to the  
*public* and not available for in person  
visits to book masses or get Mass cards.

Please email  
[parishofficeclonskeagh@eircom.net](mailto:parishofficeclonskeagh@eircom.net)  
as the emails are checked remotely.

We all need to exercise caution in our  
interactions with the public and with  
each other. The norms of social  
distance, hand washing, and masks are  
to be strictly observed.

## Parish News & Announcements

### **Few Words from Fr Joe –**

In my extended family, we are 63 cousins, children of 8 families. Of these 9 were adopted as children and we all grew up together as cousins and shared the same grandparents. During this week, I have been very mindful of all those women whose children were adopted, of all the adopted themselves and all the families like our own who received the gift of an adopted child or children. Knowing the story of these various family members I am aware of the desire of some of them to know about their birth mother and their father. I have seen first-hand the joys and pain of that journey of discovery with some great successes and some pretty painful rejections. To my shame I don't know exactly how these adopted cousins came to their adopting families, this part of the story wasn't widely shared in the family. The stories of their lives before they came to be with my aunts and uncles wasn't much spoken of. I am aware of mention of nuns and convents and I imagine that Mother and Baby Homes are part of our story too. Now I am wrestling with questions as to why we didn't talk about this aspect of their lives more openly.

There has been a great deal of pain, sorrow, anger and outrage expressed during the week as the final report of The Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes was first leaked and then published. So many different aspects of the reality of life in these Homes has been revealed, apologised for and comment on, it is hard to take it all in.

The Church played an enormous part in this aspect of Irish life for the first 60 years of the Irish State some of which is deeply shameful and totally lacking in Christian love. Bishops, Religious Congregations and others within the church community have expressed unreserved apologies, promised to make reparations and to sustain all effected by this harsh and unkind regime. This is the very least they can do and their actions will be closely scrutinised in the months ahead to ensure that actions follow in keeping with these promises. The church of today, all of us, are asked to bring the compassion of Christ to our encounter with all the people affected by this report.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021**

The theme for the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th to 25th January, 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 (John 15:5-9).

The Grandchamp Community has its origins in Europe in the 1930s, when a group of women of the Reformed tradition sought to rediscover the importance of silence and listening to the Word of God. Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

Abiding in Christ is an inner attitude that takes root in us over time. It demands space to grow. It can be overtaken by the struggle for the necessities of life and it is threatened by the distractions, noise, activity and the challenges of life.

We live in a time that is both troubling and magnificent, an often dangerous time where we are challenged by pandemics, wars, violence, poverty, racism and climate change. Yet as Christians seeking reconciliation, justice and peace, we also know the full value of a spiritual life, have an immense responsibility and must realize it, unite and help each other create forces of calmness, refuges of peace, vital centres where the silence of people calls on the creative word of God. It is a question of life and death.

The summary of the rule of life that the sisters of Grandchamp recite together each morning begins with the words "pray and work that God may reign". Prayer and everyday life are not two separate realities but are meant to be united. All that we experience is meant to become an encounter with God.