

Clonskeagh Parish Newsletter

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



Clonskeagh Parish Mass Times are as follows:

•10am Monday to Friday •6.30pm Saturday (Vigil) •10.30am Sunday

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 continue to be strictly observed. Everyone who visits our church is to wear a face covering, to practice hand sanitising and social distancing, in order to protect everyone's health.

Parish Office Email: parishofficeclonskeagh@eircom.net Sacristy/Parish Office

Telephone: 01 2837948 Website: www.clonskeaghparish.ie

LOUGH DERG 2021:

Lough Derg regrets that it will not be possible in 2021 to reopen Station Island for the Traditional Three Day Pilgrimage or even for the autumn programme of Day Retreats. Lough Derg will again offer the opportunity to "*Do Lough Derg from wherever you are*" on 3rd – 5th July. The outdoor *Pilgrimage on the Lough Shore Pilgrim Path* will also be available as the summer goes on. Further information from Lough Derg office [0\(0353\) 71 9861518](tel:00353719861518) or www.loughderg.org

FAMILIES WALKING TOGETHER IN HOPE

The 'Walking Together in Hope' initiative will be launched on **25 August 2021 at Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral**. The Archdiocese of Dublin will provide some simple and achievable ideas for families and parishes starting in **September 2021**. We want to encourage families to take part in various initiatives to support faith lived in the home and celebrated together in our parishes. Our goal is to celebrate moments of hope and joy in family life, with resources suitable for learning, living and leading faith that are complementary to the way family is lived **today**.

SUPPORT SERVICES

AWARE - SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS

If you, or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, please consider using the Phone In and Zoom Support & Self Care Groups, the Support Line or Support Mail, now and throughout the holiday season. These services provide support, coping skills and information – and most importantly help people who are in distress to know and feel that they are not alone in their experience. For more information about the groups <https://www.aware.ie/support/support-groups/> and all of our services on www.aware.ie

COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, **8am - 8pm, by calling [0818 222 024](tel:0818222024)**

A Few Words From Fr Joe...

I saw a graph in this morning's paper illustrating the dramatic fall in the numbers of people in hospital and in ICU with Covid 19, it was a very uplifting image. We had hoped that the effect of the vaccines would be swift and the evidence shows that to be the case. Please God we will never see another spike in numbers again.

During the past 16 months, I lost two friends to Covid, both from the Philippines and working in the health sector. One left a wife and three children and the other a husband and an infant child. Their experience of Covid won't be transformed by the vaccine as they carry this loss every day and it is cruelly painful.

Just after Christmas I asked for prayers for another friend, a teacher in his early 50's who had tested positive, gone home to bed, was discovered unconscious the next morning and rushed to hospital and straight into ICU. As the days turned into weeks, he lay in an induced coma, with very little improvement in his blood oxygen levels.

His family and friends started a prayer circle, lighting candles and praying for him each evening. In our WhatsApp group images were shared of the candles burning in a whole variety of homes. As we approached the 40th day, and hope was fading the first good news came, a slight improvement. All in all, he was 78 days in hospital. The afternoon he arrived home the whole estate came out and clapped, cheered and whistled, he knew how much his recovery meant to so many.

On Sunday evening, I met him for dinner, outdoors at a friend's house and couldn't believe how well he was. At first, he didn't talk about his experience at all, but then late into the evening the whole story spilled out. It was full of gratitude for the medical, nursing and general staff at the hospital who had taken over his life, provided for his every need and brought him back to life. He was deeply moved by the prayers and good wishes of family and friends. He, and all of us, had a deep insight into how precious life is, how much we matter to others and the supports that are there in our darkest hour.

It is a wonderful feeling when prayers are answered, thank God all is well now for him, and thanks too for your prayers for all the sick.

Prayer for Exam Time

Lord, I ask you to help me at this stressful time.

I feel that in addition to carrying my own burdens, I am carrying the expectations of so many others – family, friends, society. Help me to keep calm at this time, so that I can think straight and apply myself to the best of my ability. Let your Spirit help and inspire me, so that I can remember all that I have studied and put together my answers in the best way. Guide me in all ways so that I will find fulfilment in You.

Amen



We prayerfully remember all those who are **Recently Deceased** & all whose **Anniversaries** occur at this time.

"May they rest in peace. Amen."