



Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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13th Sept. 2020

24th Sunday in ordinary time

Pray for the happy repose of the soul of Teresa Casey, Kenagh, Co. Longford (sister of Martina Williams, Rossan) who died in Gortnahoe, Co. Tipperary; Anthony Higgins, St. Ciaran's, Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon (brother of Maureen Higgins, Drumadorn, Cloone) whose funeral took place in Cloone on Friday last and Bernard (Bernie Mac) Dermott, Drumerkane, Carrigallen whose funeral took place in Aughavas on Saturday.

Masses:

Cloone: Sat. 12th Sept.	8.00 pm.	
Cloone: Sun. 13th Sept.	10.00 am.	Pro Populo.
Aughavas: Sun. 13th Sept.	11.30 am.	
Cloone: Mon. 14th Sept.	10.00 am.	
Cloone: Tues. 15th Sept.	10.00 am.	
Cloone: Fri. 18th Sept.	10.00 am.	
Cloone: Sat. 19th Sept.	8.00 pm.	
Cloone: Sun. 20th Sept.	10.00 am.	
Aughavas: Sun. 20th Sept.	11.30 am.	



Baptism: Aoibhín Kate Bohan, Killafee, Aughavas was welcomed into the Christian Community in Aughavas on Sunday last.

Eucharistic Adoration: Cloone: Tuesday 15th September from 8 pm—9 pm.

Stewarding/Sanitising: To ensure that we can continue to have public Masses each weekend, we will urgently need more volunteers for the coming months.

The Season of Creation started on 1st September and continues until 4th October 2020. Each week we will include material to help us reflect on this season of creation.

LAND

"If Chance can dance the dust afar
In myriad motions to a star,
If Chance can mould,
With pollen gold,
The silken seeds where lilies are,
If Chance one daisy can unfold
Then God the hand of Chance must hold."
(Ronald McFie)

Reverence for Nature in modern and ancient writings: Pope Francis writes "God has written a precious book whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe.... Alongside revelation properly so called, contained in sacred scripture, there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night". (Laudato Si: 85.) "The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is ... to discover God in all things. Saint Bonaventure teaches us that as "contemplation deepens ...the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves". (LS: 233). "John Philip Newell reminds us that our intimate connection with Earth is not simply a consoling practice. Rather it is an essential way through which God speaks to us". (Elizabeth Davis, MGP October Resources).

An appreciation of the wonder and sacredness of nature is not new. In the second century Tertullian (c.155 – c.240) wrote "*Nature is the second book of revelation*". The great Galileo (1564 - 1642) quoted Tertullian and had a similar reverence for nature. St Augustine (354 - 430) was of the same mind: "God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?"

Land, the world's food basket and a limited resource: We live on *terra firma* and from the day we first opened our eyes our experience of life is greatly influenced by this fact. Only 20.6% of earth's surface is habitable land. **Half of this is suitable for agriculture and one third of this is forest** - our main oxygen source and absorber of carbon dioxide. The rest is glacier or barren. (UN Food and Agriculture Organisation 2019.)

While the latter may provide stunning scenery we need agriculture and forest for survival. Good earth is precious. Nature develops slowly and surely and soil, plants and animals evolved together in a balanced harmony. This process began when 'primitive' algae learned to survive on rock. These were followed by other 'primitive' rootless plants like mosses and finally higher plants. These combined with the effects of mainly wind, rain and ice eventually produced our soils. "*Each inch of good earth took 10,000 years to evolve.* The surface difference between the earth and the moon is about 13 inches of topsoil!" (Tom Hayden, 1996, *The Lost Gospel of the Earth*.) The land is our bread basket as it was for our ancestors for millions of years. Apart from the dwindling supply of food we get from the seas/oceans etc. most of our food and oxygen come from the land.

Protecting the land is a justice issue: With improved living conditions and better health care in many parts of the world the human population is growing rapidly and the earth's population increased from 1 billion in 1850 to approximately 7.7 billion in 2019. The UN Population projection for 2100 = 10.5 billion i.e. a 36% increase. The poor are always the first to suffer when resources become scarce. Since there is no realistic possibility of increasing the habitable area on the planet, land needs to be safeguarded not only by international laws but also by every one of us. An enlightened international community needs to ensure the right of indigenous peoples to land and to markets that will ensure an acceptable quality of life. It is vitally important that we care for/protect every square inch of land if future generations are to be fed physically, spiritually and emotionally.

Aughavas Parish Improvements Scheme— Cemetery collection: We would like to thank all who contributed so generously to the Cemetery collection this year. Aughavas €755 and Cloone €444. Funds collected go towards the maintenance of our machines etc. Please note that we have a number of vacancies in the area. If you feel that you meet the qualifying criteria please make contact.

Offertory Collection: (30th August) - Cloone € 640.00; Aughavas € 690.00.