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31st January 2021

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pray for the happy repose of the soul of Vincent Kenny, Corduff, Aughavas whose funeral took place in Aughavas on Monday last.

Masses

Aughavas: Sat. 30th Jan. 7.00 pm.

Cloone: Sun. 31st Jan. 10.00 am. Pro Populo.

Cloone: Mon 1st Feb. 10.00 am. **Feast of St. Brigid.**

Séan Connolly, Meiltron and Dan O'Sullivan, Bantry.

Cloone: Tues. 2nd Feb. 10.00 am. **Feast of the Presentation of our Lord.**

Teresa Moran, Aughavas.

Cloone: Wed. 3rd Feb. 10.00 am. **Feast of St. Blaise.**

Pat & Mary Kate McDonnell, Corriga.

Cloone: Fri. 5th Feb. 8.00 pm. Mary Nicholls & D.F.M., Camber.

Aughavas: Sat. 6th Feb. 7.00 pm.

Cloone: Sun. 7th Feb. 10.00 am.

Please Note that all weekend and week day Masses will be live streamed and without a congregation.

Monday 1st February - Feast of St. Brigid. If you wish you may make a St. Brigid's cross and at the 10.00 am mass in Cloone I will say a prayer of blessing over all the crosses that have been made and are in the homes of the Parish. The 10.00 am mass will be live-streamed.

Tuesday 2nd February - Candlemas Day: Today is the feast of the presentation of Jesus in the temple. Normally people bring candles to the church for blessing. This year, you may have the candles in your home and I will say a prayer of blessing over the candles at 10.00 am mass in Cloone. This mass will be live-streamed.

Wednesday 3rd February – Feast of St. Blaise: Normally people come for a blessing of throats. This year, we will ask St. Blaise to intercede for all people with illness of the throat and every other ailment. We will do this at 10.00 am mass in Cloone which will be live-streamed.

"If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts". Open your heart to the possibility that Christ is calling you to a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Speak to your local priest or your Diocesan Vocation's Director, or email the National Vocations Office on info@vocations.ie.

Trócaire Lenten Parish Resources 2021: Available in English and Gaeilge on the Trócaire website www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/resources/ For

more information on our parish resources, parish workshops and Lent webinars, please contact colmhogan@trocaire.org

The coronavirus and our faith in God.

The coronavirus makes us mindful of the fact that whilst our intelligence can give us a technical mastery over nature, nature is not our slave and we can succumb to its devastations. As such, people are (re)turning to God, since God is the only agent who does have the mastery over nature to which we aspire. Yet some may think it foolish to turn to God in such a crisis; indeed some may even go so far as to say that this crisis is positive evidence that God does not exist; for how could such a good God, the God of love, allow this disaster to happen to us? Either God does not care, in which case He doesn't love us, or He is unable to do anything about the current situation.

Yet scripture is very clear that God is love and that he has a design for us which ultimately entails our salvation (cf.1 Jn 3, and 1 Th 4:3). Scripture is also clear that God is master over all of creation (cf. Gen 1). So how does one committed to these truths address the role of God in the current crisis?

Without any effort God could bring to nothing all ills in creation from start to finish, but if He were to do so, creatures would be mere puppets with no causality by which they could act in the world; they would in effect be mere characters in a story. Rather God dignifies creatures with an ability to act and to share in His own causality, and this is especially so for humans who are rational and can make decisions to manifest God's goodness in the world. Hence in regard to the current coronavirus pandemic, God permits humans the dignity of coming together and acting in such a way that they can deal with this crisis. This is manifest not only in the turning to God that is occurring all over the world, but also in the turning to one's neighbour to ensure his or her good, whether it be through key workers, family, or colleagues. Indeed, the turn to both God and neighbour is illustrative of the primary and secondary commandments that God places on his disciples: to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbour as yourself (Mt 22:36-40).

Accordingly, far from being a situation in which the presence of God in the world is cast into significant doubt, the current crisis continues to reveal to humanity their place within and not above nature, but at the same time the goodness and dignity with which God graces humanity in coming through this crisis.

Moving Forward.

My God,
sometimes I do not want to grow,
to move forward in freedom,
to leave my comfortable captivity.

I cling to the familiar smallness of my own world,
pulling back from the vast wilderness
of the exodus journey.

Help me to be open to the stretching of your Spirit;
to allow my heart to be expanded
beyond my immediate comfort and control.

Lead me into that larger life,
that wide land of plenty where my narrow self
can blossom with new life.

Enlarge my heart, O God;
fill me with boundless love.

Catherine of Siena