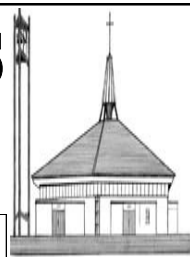




Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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11h July 2021

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pray for the happy repose of the soul of Angela Ball (nee Derwin), Hermitage, Ennis, Co. Clare and formerly of Drumlegga, Cloone (sister of Elizabeth Foley, Drumharkin Glebe) whose funeral took place on Wednesday last; Mary Jo Conboy, Cornakelly, Moyne, Co. Longford (mother of Martina Conboy, Rossan and George Conboy, Drumkeeran) whose funeral took place on Wednesday; Rose McDermott (nee Gallogly) sister of Alice Sweeney, Drumshanbo North) who died in England and Kevin Columb, (brother of Mary McGovern, Grange) who died in England.

Masses

Cloone: Sat. 10th July. 8.00 pm.
Cloone: Sun. 11th July. 10.00 am. Pro. Populo.
Aughavas: Sun. 11th July. 11.30 am.
Cloone: Mon 12th July. 10.00 am.
Rossan: Tues. 13th July. 8.00 pm.
Aughavas: Wed. 14th July. 10.00 am.
Cloone: Thurs. 15th July. 10.00 am. Packie & Kathleen Maguire & D.F.M., Gubbs.
Aughavas: Fri. 16th July. 10.00 am. D.M. of the McGovern Family, Bundarra.
Cloone: Sat. 17th July. 8.00 pm.
Cloone: Sun. 18th July. 10.00 am.
Aughavas: Sun. 18th July. 11.30 am.

Weekday Masses in Cloone and Aughavas: People may attend Mass on weekdays in Cloone and Aughavas. It will be the responsibility of those attending Mass to sanitise the area which they are occupying. This will mean that those attending will need to bring their own sanitising wipes and take care of the area which they are occupying.

Eucharistic Adoration in Aughavas— Monday's from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm. It will be the responsibility of those attending to sanitise the area which they are occupying.

Eucharistic Adoration in Cloone—Tuesday's from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm. It will be the responsibility of those attending to sanitise the area which they are occupying.

Thanks: Many thanks to all those who have been contributing to the Offertory Collection and the Priest's Dues Collection all during the pandemic. Thanks also to all those who have made a substantial contribution to the Offertory Collection or Priest's Dues Collection since we have recommenced having a congregation at Mass.

Pro-Life Campaign: The official figures recently released by the Department of Health show 6,577 abortions took place in Ireland in 2020, representing a massive increase in abortions since repeal happened.

Active Response to God's love for us: This is the first half of an article by Fr. Frank McAuliffe, of St. Patrick's Missionary Society. The second half will appear in next week's Newsletter.

In thinking of how we might respond to God's Love, our first act must be prayer - letting the awareness of God's love become ever more alive in our hearts. But our response mustn't just remain at the level of prayer; it must overflow into action. The test of whether or not my prayer is genuine is the extent to which it overflows into my life, and influences the way that I live. This means, in practice, growing in my commitment to Christ's central commandment of love. St. Paul gives a profound analysis of Christian love in 1 Cor. 13:4-7:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast. It does not dishonour others, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
(N.I.V. translation).

It's significant that the first quality in Paul's list is *patience*. It's a quality we need to explore, since it is foundational in our efforts to love both ourselves and others.

Patience with Myself - Self-Acceptance

As the saying has it, 'charity begins at home'. Charity may not end at home but it has to begin there. If I don't love myself (which is not at all the same as selfishness) it will be very difficult for me to love others. It takes a great measure of honesty and humility to be patient with myself - to love myself as the damaged, but gifted, person that I am. Each of us is limited and wounded in one way or another. We all have our natural limitations as human beings, and then there are the negative forces in our upbringing that have left a damaging mark on us.

We're all greatly influenced by our past. I may sometimes wonder how different I might be today if my personal history had been different - if only I had a more engaging personality, a more even temperament, parents who were more affirming, better educational opportunities, gifts and talents that I admire in others - the list is endless. And if my past is seen by me in a largely negative way, I can easily develop a victim complex, and become resentful that life has not given me the breaks it might have done.

The only way forward to a wholesome future is not through looking back in sorrow on my past. I need to count my blessings as well as my regrets, and *lovingly accept myself as I am here and now*. I must learn to blossom where I'm planted - to be gentle and patient with myself, with my inability to do the things I'd like to do, to be the person I'd like to be, reach the goals I'd like to achieve.

There's profound wisdom in the prayer of Alcoholics Anonymous: 'God, give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference'. The prayer asks us to accept - indeed love - ourselves as the fragile, limited creatures that we are. This is especially true in the area of Christian living, where many of us feel we fall far short of who we'd like to be. Here we find great reassurance in the words of that great lover of Jesus, St. Therese. Though having the highest ideals, Therese could write: 'what does it matter if I fall at every instant, [if I] feel no courage, or strength to practice virtue ... *To bear serenely with the trial of being displeasing to myself* ... this is real sanctity'. How consoling this is for us all. It's the school of self-acceptance - loving ourselves as we are, not as we'd like to be. And this is the way suggested by Jesus in his parable of the wheat and the weeds. Jesus is telling us that it's part of our human condition that the weeds grow with the wheat in our lives. Only at our death are they separated. And they are separated not by our efforts, but by an infinitely merciful God who understands only too well the tangled undergrowth of temptation and adversity we've had to struggle with, all through our lives.

Offertory Collection (26th, 27th June) **Aughavas** € 530.00; (27th June) **Cloone** € 350.00.