Wedding: We wish God's blessings on Lauren Maguire and Alan Keogh.

Clones Parish Office

As most of you are aware, the Parish Office has operated from 5 Carn Dun since last October, but in the last week we have re-located to within the grounds of the Sacred Heart Church. Feel free to call in if you want to book an anniversary, a christening, make wedding arrangements or leave in your Parish Envelopes; blessed candles and Mass cards will be available.

We thank Fr. Jim for his hospitality, generously given, to those who have worked out of his home over the past nine months. We welcome Ellen Gallagher to the Parish Admin Team and wish her happiness and every success.

Communion will be brought to the Sick and Housebound over the coming weeks. If you know of anyone who would like a priest to visit, please phone the Parish Office on 047 51048.

The First Mission

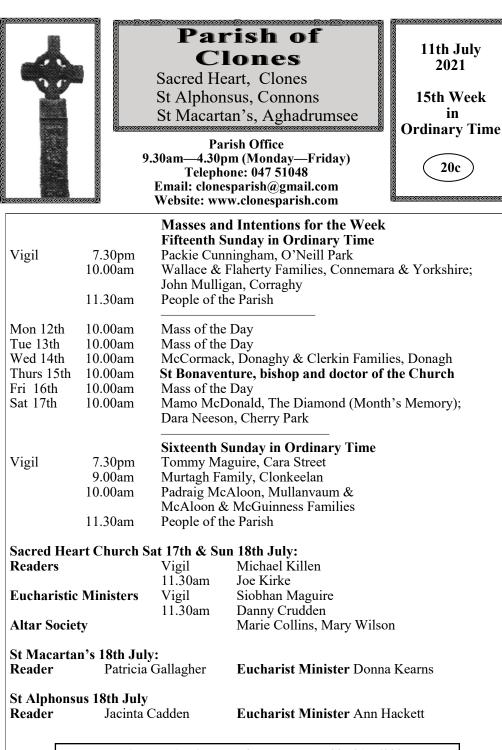
Two phrases come to mind as I read about the disciples heading off on their first mission: 'baptism of fire' and 'to be thrown in at the deep end'. We use these expressions to describe a difficult introduction to a new job or activity, when we are expected to learn as we go and cope with whatever obstacles we face.

In today's Gospel, Jesus sends the Twelve out on their first mission. It is a challenging one and his instructions are brief and very specific: they are to bring nothing but a staff - no food or money - meaning they will have to rely on the hospitality of others for all their needs. They are to stay wherever they are welcomed, rather than move around from house to house, so they can't be choosy about their lodgings. Simplicity is key - no baggage, no luxuries, no distractions, nothing but the task of reaching to people. It might not be plain sailing, but Jesus offers advice for those difficult times too.

It appears their mission of preaching and healing was successful, as we are told the disciples came back eager to fill Jesus in. Imagine the experiences they must have had during this time - the people they met and helped, the generosity of those who welcomed them, the conversations on the road, the chance to share their excitement at everything Jesus was doing. They were certainly thrown into a challenging situation, but they returned with a fresh perspective and strengthened faith. Jesus calls us to step out into the unknown, his words as our guide and his bond with us unbreakable.

'A boat is safe in the harbour, but this is not the purpose of a boat.' (Paulo Coelho)

I believe in God—not in a Catholic God; there is no Catholic God. There is God, and I believe in Jesus Christ, his incarnation. Jesus is my teacher and my pastor, but God, the Father, Abba, is the light and the Creator, This is my Being. (Pope Francis)



Parish Mobile (in case of emergency): 085 817 6203.