THE FUTURE MISSION OF OUR PARISHES

(Extracts from the Pastoral Letter from Mgr. Joseph McGuinness)

'The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.' (**The Joy of the Gospel**, no. 28)

It is my hope that the range of ministries in our Diocese will expand substantially in the future. Already we have seen the first Permanent Deacon ordained for the Diocese. I encourage any men in our Diocese who feel called to this ministry to make contact with their local priest to seek more information and explore whether this may be a possible path of service for them. But this is only one form of ministry among many, and all have their unique value. There may be more men and women who can contribute to the life of our parishes and Diocese in liturgical ministries, as catechists, lay pastoral workers or in youth ministry, or who have skills in safeguarding, management, finance, communications, and so on. The range and quality of the gifts and talents of the people in our parishes, and the generosity shown already by so many, should be a cause of great encouragement and hope for all of us.

Vocations

While we acknowledge the great gift of lay ministry in our Diocese, let us continue to pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood. We need priests because Catholic communities across our diocese need to be nourished by the Eucharist. Without priests we cannot celebrate the Mass. We need priests, because the life of a priest is a positive sign of God's presence in the world and in the community.

Today's world often tries to tell us that the life of a priest is a lonely life. His role is often painted in negative terms. Let me assure you that the priest's life is not lonely. It is joy-filled. Yes, like every life, it has its moments. But the beauty of encountering the Lord in prayer and in the Mass and Sacraments, the joy of bringing pastoral care and accompaniment to all of God's people, the friendship of many men and women, young and old, the support of other clergy and the satisfaction of being of service to people and to God, is simply marvellous. Parents, if your son is considering the call to priesthood, please do not dissuade him. Instead, accompany him. It is the Lord who is calling. Also, I urge any man who is thinking about God's call to him, to please come forward and enter the door that God is opening for you.

The Church's mission is to make Christ known; to make him known to the world by our witness and therefore be missionaries and evangelisers in the Ireland of today. This is therefore a time of great possibilities, where there is a place for everyone. Pope Francis, who visits our country two weeks from now, sums it up well:

I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. (**The Joy of the Gospel**, no. 27)



Priests of the Parish Fr. Dick Mohan. Fr Cathal Deery. To speak to the priest on duty, please phone 085 817 6203

		Weekend Masses
Saturday	7.00pm	Sacred Heart, Clones
Sunday	9.00am	St. Alphonsus, Connons
	10.30am	St. Macartan's, Aghadrumsee
	12.00pm	Sacred Heart, Clones
Masses during the Week:		Monday—Saturday in Sacred Heart Church at 10.00am
		(On days of funerals in Clones, Mass will be at 11.00am)
		Friday in St. Macartan's Church, Aghadrumsee, at 7.00pm

SACRAMENTS AND MINISTRIES

Baptisms are celebrated in Sacred Heart Church on the second Saturday of each month at 4.00pm & on the fourth Sunday at 1.00pm. In St. Macartan's Church, Baptisms are on the third Sunday at 1.30pm.
Anointing of the Sick: Priests are available to celebrate the Sacrament with anyone who is seriously ill.
Confessions: Saturday, after 10.00am Mass.
Adoration: Wednesday, 10.30am - 10.00pm, in Sacred Heart Church. Friday, 9.30am - 6.30pm, in St. Macartan's Church.

St. Alphonsus Sunday 19th August

Reader:	Anne McAdam
Minister of the Eucharist:	Nuala Conlon
Gift Bearers:	Moore & McAdam Family

St. Macartan's Sunday 19th August

Reader :	•	Nuala Quinn
Minister of the Eucha	rist:	Shane Manley

Sacred Heart Church Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th AugustReaders:VigilMarion Love

12.00pmPaul JenkinsMinisters of the Eucharist Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th August:
Vigil
12.00pmJonathan McManus, Biji Sebastian, Mary Courtney
Nora Treanor, Patricia Slowey, Seamus McKiernanAltar Society:Mary Lennon, Bernadette K Appiah, Rita Cooke, Eileen Lendrum

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

Soren Kierkegaard

Blessing of Graves

In light of the fact that from 9th September (and for the immediate future) Clones Parish will have one priest only, it has become necessary to change the dates and times for the Blessing of Graves. The revised schedule is as follows:

Sunday 2nd September:

After 9.00am Mass, graves will be blessed at St. Alphonsus', Connons. After 10.30am Mass, graves will be blessed at St. Macartan's, Aghadrumsee. At 11.00am, there will be a Service of Blessing in the Round Tower Cemetery and afterwards in the Abbey Cemetery.

Sunday 9th September:

After 12.00pm Mass, there will be a Service of Blessing at the St. Louis Sisters' plot. At 2.00pm, there will be a Service of Blessing in the Sacred Heart Cemetery; this will be followed at 3.00pm by a Service in Mt. St. Oliver Cemetery.

Please note: In order to facilitate pedestrians and motorists going to and returning from the cemeteries, An Garda Siochana will operate a one-way traffic system on the Roslea Road from 1.00pm until 4.00pm.

COMMUNITY NEWS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Concern will hold a church-gate collection this weekend 11th & 12th August. Please give what you can.

Bishop Duffy Book Signing. Veritas, Park St., Monaghan, looks forward to welcoming Bishop Joseph Duffy on Thursday, 23rd August, at 10.30am where he will sign copies of his new book *Tiarnach of Clones*. This quality gilt-edged, hardback book is full of fascinating information and detail on this historic Irish Saint. It was published by Clogher Historical Society and costs €25. Everyone is welcome to drop in; refreshments will be served.

Course Vacancies at Monaghan Institute. Health Service Skills, Engineering, Tourism, Hairdressing, and more. Apply on line now at <u>www.monaghaninstitute.ie</u> for full time courses starting in September or contact 047-84900.

Clones Parish Finance Committee will meet at St. Macartan's Church, Aghadrumsee, on Tuesday 14th August at 8.00pm.

St. Joseph's Hall Bingo every Friday night at 9.00pm. Jackpots €9,000 & €10,300.

Aghadrumsee GFC Lotto:	No Winner	(13, 14, 18, 31) Jackpot £6,100.
Clones GFC Lotto:	No Winner	(3, 23, 24, 26) Jackpot €6,400.
Currin GFC Lotto:	No Winner	(4, 10, 16, 20) Jackpot €8,700.