

Statement by Archbishop Eamon Martin on the publication of Research Report on Mother and Baby Homes and Magdalene Laundries in Northern Ireland

The month of January 2021 will go down in history as the time when the people of Ireland - north and south - came face to face with a stark reality of our past which we preferred would remain hushed and hidden – the way we stigmatised and harshly judged many vulnerable pregnant women in crisis and treated them and their children in such a cold and uncaring manner. We made them feel guilty and ashamed.

As a Catholic Church leader in Ireland it is I who now feel embarrassed and guilty over the way in which we in the Church contributed to, and bolstered, that culture of concealment, condemnation, and self-righteousness. For that I am truly sorry and ask the forgiveness of survivors. How did we so obscure the love and mercy and compassion of Christ which is at the very heart of the Gospel? Shame on us.

The persistence and the powerful testimonies of these same courageous survivors has lifted the lid on this dark chapter of our shared history and exposed our hypocrisy to the glaring light.

The important work of Dr McCormick, Professor O'Connell and their team is another step on the journey towards revealing the full truth of our past. I thank them for their Report and encourage everyone to spend time with it, reflecting in particular on the striking oral history section which grounds their research in the testimonies of mothers and their children.

The story of Mother and Baby Homes and Magdalene Laundries in Ireland - north and south - touches the lives of countless families across this island. No doubt it will rekindle troubling memories and raise difficult questions for many of us. However we can all play a part in the journey towards healing and reparation. We can also ensure that lessons are learned for the present and the future. No mother or child today should be made to feel unwelcome, unwanted or unloved. No father today should shirk his responsibilities. No priest or bishop or religious sister or any lay member of the Church today should deny the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus. No family today should shun their child to protect some misguided notion of "respectability" in the parish community. We still have so much to learn and so much work to do.

It is clear from the Research Report that there is scope for further investigation or inquiry into aspects of this complex story. I encourage all in leadership within the Church and State to extend their full cooperation with the work of the independent investigation announced today so that those who have been most impacted can be helped to find hope and peace for the future.

ENDS

- Archbishop Eamon Martin is Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Fr C Byrne Tel (028) 40630206 or 07764941606 or email cbyrne26@icloud.com

ANNIVERSARIES: BALLYMAGHERY, CABRA	
Sat 30th Jan 6.00pm BALLYMAGHERY:	John & Elizabeth Fitzpatrick; Andrew & Winifred McGaw, Kilkeel Road; Martina Devlin & Mark Mooney, Main Street & Spelga Park; Geraldine Larkin, Ardmore Park; Dan, Mary Rose, Susan & Molly Grant, Carculion; Jim McAleenan, Yellow Road; James & Rosaleen Morgan, Ballymaghery
Sun 31st Jan 9.00am CABRA:	James, Brigid, Jimmy, Patrick & Mick Downey, Dromboniff; James & Brigid Downey & Patrick & Jimmy Downey, Dromboniff
Sun 31st Jan 11.30am BALLYMAGHERY:	MM Dan Campbell, Barnmeen; John McEvoy, Warrenpoint; Mickey Morgan, Spelga Park; Seamus & Breige McArdle, Rathfriland; Pat & Maureen Maginn, Rathfriland George Burns, Rathfriland
Mon 1st Feb 9.00am	BALLYMAGHERY:
Tues 2nd Feb 9.00am	BALLYMAGHERY:
Wed 3rd Feb 9.00am	BALLYMAGHERY:
Thur 4th Feb 9.00am	BALLYMAGHERY:
Fri 5th Feb 9.00am	BALLYMAGHERY:
Fri 5th Feb 7.30pm	CABRA:
Sat 6th Feb 6.00pm BALLYMAGHERY:	Lily O'Hagan, Carculion; Bessy & Barney Hugh Brannigan, Spelga Park; Jonnie McAleavey, Leode; Leona McParland, Rostrevor Road
Sun 7th Feb 9.00am	CABRA:
Sun 7th Feb 11.30am BALLYMAGHERY:	Peter & Mary Ann Gribben & John & Lily Gribben, Ballyweely

RECENTLY DECEASED – We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Patsy Reilly, Rathfriland** who was interred recently. May she rest in peace

ST BRIGID of IRELAND
Feast Day: February 1st

Lord, you inspired in St Brigid such wholehearted dedication to your work that she is known as Mary of the Gael: Through her intercession Bless our country, may we follow the example of her life and be united with her and the Virgin Mary in your presence, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Brigid pray for us.

New Webcam Details:- Website: www.clonduffparish.com alternatively www.churchmedia.tv

Clonduff Parish Newsletter

Sunday 31st January 2021
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jesus teaches with authority.

Mark. 1: 14-20



PARISH NOTICE

Following the Diocesan changes and the closer administrative cooperation between the parishes of Mayobridge, Clonduff & Drumgath, **Ann Walsh** who currently works as secretary for Mayobridge Parish has been allocated hours by the Diocese to carry out administrative duties for Drumgath & Clonduff Parishes. She will be based in the parish office in the former Mayobridge Convent. You can now book your anniversaries, baptisms, weddings or any other enquiries by contacting the parish office on **028 30850270** between the hours of 9am – 4pm Monday – Thursday Inc.

Email Clonduff Parish: clonduffparish@dromorediocese.org

PARISH OF CLONDUFF SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Sunday Readings Cycle B – Weekday Readings Cycle 1)

Contact Parish (028) 30850270 or

email clonduffparish@dromorediocese.org



PLEASE NOTE In light of the current situation with the Coronavirus, I will not be visiting the sick and housebound, but if someone wishes to have a visit ring my mobile **07764941606**. Thank you for your understanding as we try to keep safe at this difficult time. *Fr Charles Byrne*

Your continued financial support to Parish life and Parish upkeep is very much appreciated during these anxious and challenging days due to the on-going Coronavirus Pandemic. **Envelopes may be deposited through the Letter Box at the Parochial House, Castlewellan Road on Sunday 9am to 12 noon and Monday 9am to 12noon.** Thanks for your support last week £88.00

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC105046

Diocese of Dromore Safeguarding of Children, young people and vulnerable adults: Dromore Designated Person Patricia Carville 07789917741. A copy of the Dromore Diocese "Safeguarding Policy and Procedures" is available for reference in the Parish Rooms.

Thanks to the stewards and cleaners who are doing a great job enabling us to keep our Churches open over the Christmas Season. Please continue to adhere to social distancing, sanitising and wearing masks at all times.

Readers 30 th – 31 st January	Readers 6 th – 7 th February
6pm: Maria Wilson	6pm: Nuala & Grainne Smith
11.30am: Rosaleen Brannigan	11.30am: Oonagh McAleavey
CABRA READERS	
Sunday 31 st January 9.00am	Helen McAleavey
Sunday 7 th February 9.00am	Kate Woods

RECENTLY BAPTISED

We welcome into our faith community **Alex Gerard Robertson** son of Gerard and Stacey

Baptism Arrangements

Office hours Mon – Thurs 9.00am – 4.00pm (028) 30850270
First Sunday of the Month Ballymaghery 12.30pm
Third Sunday of the Month Cabra 12.30pm

