



Mass Intentions:

Sat 23rd Jan 8.00pm: Special Intention.
Sun 24th Jan 10.30pm: Special Intention.
Mon 25th Jan 8.00pm: Deceased Family Members of Gerry & Kate Bohan.
Tues 26th Jan 8.00pm: John & Pat Smyth, Newpark.
Wed 27th Jan 8.00pm:
Thurs 28th Jan 8.00pm:
Fri 29th Jan 8.00pm: Special Intention.
Sat 30th Jan 8.00pm: Special Intention.
Sun 31st Jan 10.30am: Special Intention.
Mon 1st Feb 8.00pm: Special Intention. *St. Brigid's Day*
Tues 2nd Feb 8.00pm: *Candlemas day* - Blessing of candles.
Wed 3rd Feb 8.00pm: *Feast of St. Blaise* -

Please note: Mass is now on Webcam – Search for Churchtv.ie ... Then Click on Longford ... then Newtowncashel ... and finally Click on the picture of the Church. Younger family members might like to assist seniors.

Please note: the first two rows of seating are on Webcam.

Anointing of the sick may take place when invited by the family.

Lotto draw held on Monday 18th January. No's drawn 19,22,23&28. No jackpot winner. €30 €5 envelopes to Martin Skelly; €30 to Paddy Walsh ; €20 each to Rolf Schmid and Andrew Donlon. Next weeks draw will be held in the Clubhouse on Monday 25th January at 9pm and the jackpot is €2,000. Thanks for your support.

Irish Catholic: Please place your contribution for 2021 in an envelope with your name and address and drop it in my letterbox. Unfortunately, there is a price increase from €2 to €2.50 from the 4th February. The amount due this year is: €128.00.
(€2 per copy x 4 weeks - January) + (€2.50 per copy x 48 weeks.)

Pioneer Magazine: Please place your contribution for 2021 in an envelope with your name and address and drop it in my letterbox. Unfortunately, there is a price increase this year from €1.55 to €2. The amount due for this year is €22 (€2 x 11 July & Aug 1 copy)

Worship from 12th January 2021: Public worship moves on line. Outside speakers should not be used at this time as organised outdoor gatherings are not allowed at Level 5. Churches may remain open for private prayer.

Sacraments and devotions: All other ceremonies cease for the duration of Level Five including Baptism and the Sacrament of Penance.

Funerals: 10 mourners may attend at a funeral service.

Weddings: With effect from Sunday 3rd January 2021 the number of guests permitted to attend is reduced to 6.

Anointing of the sick may take place when invited by the family and taking all the necessary precautions of hand sanitising, social distancing, face covering and anointing with a cotton bud.

First Friday calls cannot take place under Level 5. - Francis Duffy Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois.

Mass Times & Intentions: Due to the level 5 Covid-19 restrictions there will be no public celebration of Mass for the present. Anniversary Masses which have been booked will be streamed on the Parish Webcam. Because there is no public celebration of Mass, the Sunday Mass may be booked again for streaming until further notice.

Note: During this time of severe restrictions Masses will be streamed on the Parish Webcam at **8pm each evening and at 10.30am on Sundays.**

Reflection:

A priest was deeply concerned over the frequent visits of a poorly clad stranger to his church. What aroused his suspicions was the nature of the visits. The man would come in, stand for a few seconds at the back of the church and then leave. Concerned for his shrine boxes the priest told the sacristan to keep a close eye on him. One day the sacristan accosted him and asked him what he was doing. "Just talking to the Lord," was the reply. "How could you?" said the other. "You're no sooner in than you're out again. Do you call that praying?" Then the stranger replied, "I just look up at The Blessed Tabernacle and I say *'Jesus 'tis Jim'*".

Some time afterwards the priest was visiting one of the wards in the hospital and a nurse told him of a newcomer to the ward and the amazing effect he had on the other patients. No one seemed to know where he was from, no one ever came to see him, but there was something special about him. There was no longer any bad language or salacious jokes, the angelus and rosary were said. He brought a cheerfulness and a sense of hope to the ward that was infectious. All the while, his fellow patients knew that he himself knew that he was dying. When the priest went to his bedside he instantly recognised him as the church visitor whom he had rashly misjudged. Anxious to learn more about him, he asked him about his prayer-life, his joyful serenity and the influence he was exercising on the other patients.

"It's my visitor, Father, came the reply. Knowing that the man had no visitors the priest was about to interject when he continued, "Yes, Father, he comes to me every day and stands there at the foot of the bed. He looks at me and he says, *'Jim - it's Jesus'*".

Moral:

You might say that this is a nice story but just a story nonetheless ... however, I have seen the same pattern played out over so many years attending the sick and dying ... a striking resilience in the face of dreadful odds ... a positivity ... a hopefulness .. even cheerfulness - for those who are faithful to the Lord in their prayer life like Jim in the story. Research backs this up ... so many studies have analysed this phenomenon.

During this covid affliction I have noticed a very interesting development ... the Shrine collection had gone up way - way up. It was always good but since last March when the pandemic began there has been a marked upward curve. This reflects the number of people coming quietly into the Church to say a prayer in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and make an offering to Our Lady or St Joseph for loved ones living and dead ... *Isn't that Jim's story we just listened to? The churches may be curtailed but people have found another way to show their faithfulness to their Saviour. You can also do this by joining us online every evening at 8pm and Sunday at 10.30am or by setting aside time for prayer in your own home.*