

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 17 January: We have been called by Christ to become children of God. How we respond is illustrated in today's readings. There is a seeking which develops into a search that leads to seeing and believing.

Monday 18 January The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today.

Wednesday 20 January: St Fabian, Pope for fourteen years when martyred in 250. **St Sebastian**, an early soldier and martyr.

Thursday 21 January: St Agnes, wealthy and beautiful, was martyred for her virginity in the last persecutions in Rome, in the early fourth century. Patron of engaged couples, gardeners and young girls.

Friday 22 January: St Vincent, deacon of the Church in Saragossa, Spain, who was martyred in 304, in Valencia, after prolonged torture.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18 – 25 January. The theme this year is: “**Abide in my love, and you shall bear much fruit.**” There'll be a time of prayer broadcast from St Pius X Church, Movice, at 1pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week, and the Ecumenical Service will take place there on Friday 22 January, at 7.30pm. All of the services will be broadcast on the parish webcam.

The parish office is now located in what was Fr McGoldrick's house. Normal office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10am – 2pm. During “lockdown” the times may change. If the office door is closed (or if there's no answer on the phone) please call to the parochial house.

The parish of Movice

St Pius X, Movice

St Mary's, Ballybrack

St Columba's, Ballinacrae

St Joseph's Oratory, Shrove

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Catholic Schools' Week 2021 will be celebrated from 24 – 31 January. The theme this year is: Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience. Given that our schools are operating online at present, the parish will mark the week by praying at daily Mass for our Catholic school communities and the other school communities in the parish, using the key words: **Faith, Learning, Love, Resilience and Hope.**

The five key words associated with Catholic Schools' Week this year could be applied not just to our schools, but to our parish community as a whole.

Perhaps we can work together, especially during this time of pandemic, to be seen to be people of **faith, hope and love**, praying with and for one another, albeit remotely most of the time. Why not use modern technology to pray with your friends and relatives whom you can't see face to face or visit as you'd like to? As we pray for the sick, we ask the Lord to help us to listen and **learn** from the medical experts who are doing their best to guide us safely through this time. Please God, our efforts, our **resilience** and our care for ourselves and our neighbour will see us safely through this time.

To launch **CSW2021** in the diocese, Bishop McKeown will celebrate Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, at 10am on Thursday 21 January. The Mass will be broadcast on the Cathedral webcam and on the Cathedral Facebook page.

Mass this week: every morning (except Saturday) at 10am. The Vigil Mass for Sunday will be celebrated at 7pm on Saturday. For the present, our churches are open for private prayer only. Mass may be viewed via the parish webcam.

Baptism: we welcome into God's family **Eva Grace McCormick**, Greencastle.

Sympathy: We offer our sympathy to the family, friends and community of Sr Bridget Gillen, formerly of The Glen, who died in Dublin recently. May she rest in peace.

A prayer for Vocations: That all those initiated by Baptism to be followers of Christ may discern and live out the vocation to which Christ is calling them. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Social Media. The parish of Merville is now on social media. To follow us on Facebook, search for Merville Parish; on Instagram our username is mervilleparish (no spaces). We use these platforms to keep you up to date with parish news, live streams to parish Masses and other services in the church.

The January edition of *The Net* is available to view on the Diocesan website and Facebook page.

Messengers for February may be collected in the porch of the parochial house.

If you'd like to volunteer for any area of parish life and ministry in 2021, please get in touch.

Holy Communion. Last Tuesday, yet again, a considerable number of parishioners came to the church to receive the Eucharist, displaying the fact that there's a huge hunger in many people to receive The Body of Christ. We can only hope and pray that everyone will work together to defeat the Covid-19 pandemic to bring an end to lockdown, and to see life return to normal, albeit a new normal, including the possibility for our people to attend Mass.

Congratulations to the winners of the January Parish Draw.

Prize	Number	Name	Promoter
€700	487	Sean McLaughlin	Frances Lake
€400	449	Michael & Kathleen Farren	Agnes Cavanagh
€250	311	Mary Lou & George McGuinness	Bridget McGhee
€150	699	Patrick Gillespie	Anna Gillespie
€100	668	Rebecca & Laura Ryan	Helen McLaughlin

Thank you for your financial support to the parish in the past week which amounted to €1,350.

Collection envelopes for 2021 which haven't yet been collected will be posted out in the next week, rather than have them sitting in the churches or at the parochial house. We're grateful to those who, although they're unable to attend Mass, are supporting the parish financially by dropping their envelopes or other contributions at the parochial house, or by Direct Debit / Standing Order.

The parish bank details are available to anyone who wishes to use online banking

Ministers of the Word may collect their **2021 Missals** in the sacristy of St Pius X church (before or after Masses) or from the porch of the parish office or the porch of the parochial house.

Preparing for Marriage? *Catholic Engaged Encounter* will host an online Marriage Preparation course on Zoom, on 27/28 March 2021. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for marriage, where you'll discover how you can enrich your future relationship. For information / booking, go to www.marriageencounter.ie or call +4428 2763 8512.

On Wednesday 3 February the parish will be praying, as part of our commitment to the worldwide **Movement of Continuous Prayer for Marriage and Family Life**. In February we're invited to remember all married couples, especially those who may be experiencing any difficulty in their relationship. We pray for peace, healing and reconciliation.