

**ST. CRONAN'S PARISH LUSMAGH
PORTUMNA FAITH COMMUNITY AREA**

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Kennedy
057/9151358 and 087/9682116
16th July 2023

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS AND TIMES

Sat. 15th July 8pm	Kieran Donegan and deceased members of the Donegan family.
Sun. 16th July 10am	Kate Birmingham, Anniversary Mass
17th to 20th July (Mon – Thurs)	Mass at 10am celebrated by Fr. Joe Birmingham
Sat. 22nd July, 8pm	Mary and Patrick Whelan, Anniversary Mass

SUN. 23RD JULY NO SUNDAY MORNING MASS

TODAY'S GOSPEL

Christ's description of his audience, that day in Galilee, is unfortunately as true today as it was then. His message of salvation has been preached to a great part of the world's population, but the proportion of those who accept it and live up to it, is about the same today as it was then.

There are millions of men and women today, in what was once Christian Europe, who are like the seed sown on the unplowed path. They refuse to accept the message, they have no thought for their future, they are content to end in the grave after their few years of misery and hardship on this planet.

There are others who see the truth and the consolation of the Christian Gospel, but when it comes to making sacrifices for it, they give up. They are like the seed which fell on rocky ground because the faith had no deep roots in their lives. Others again, and they are legion, are like the seed that fell among the briars and thorns. They accepted the faith and it took root in them, but later on, "the cares of the world and the delight in riches chokes the word and it proves unfruitful," these are our Lord's own words.

The last class of Christians are like the seed sown on good soil, they not only accept Christ and his teaching, but they live up to it, and, come what may, they are faithful to it. These will produce fruit and will earn for themselves eternal happiness. Each one of us can look into our own conscience today and discover to which class we belong.

EMMANUEL HOUSE CLONFERT

A day for the intercession of St. Philomena on Wednesday 9th August, starting at 11am. Blessing with 1st class relic of St. Philomena.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

There will be a wreath laying ceremony for Fr. John Fahy in Abbey churchyard at his graveside on the 19th of July at 8:30pm.

THE SEVEN SORROWS OF OUR LADY

On Good Friday in 1239, near Florence, Italy, Our Blessed Lady appeared to seven holy men, who had renounced everything to devote themselves to a life of prayer and penance. She desired, if they wished to please her, that they meditate often on the sorrows she suffered during the Life, Passion and Death of her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

She asked the seven men to formally institute a religious order dedicated to the remembrance and meditation of the Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Lady. That order became known as the Servants of Mary (or the Order of the Servites) and was instrumental in helping the devotion to flourish throughout the Church.

Since then, popes have encouraged this devotion, generous indulgences have been bestowed on its practices and invocations, and a liturgical feast (15th September) was introduced to commemorate the Sorrows of Our Lady.

1. The Prophecy of Simeon
2. The Flight into Egypt
3. The Three Days of Separation from Jesus in Jerusalem
4. The Meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Way to Calvary
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus
6. The Removal of Christ's Body from the Cross
7. The Burial of Jesus in the Tomb.

St. Alphonsus de Liguori commenting on Our Lady's Sorrows says this:

"The great torments which Mary endured for us – torments that were more than a thousand deaths – deserve both our compassion and our gratitude. If we can make no other return for so much love, at least let us give a few moments each day to consider the greatness of the sufferings by which Mary became the Queen of martyrs; for the sufferings of her great martyrdom exceeded those of all the martyrs; being, in the first place, the longest in point of duration and in the second place, the greatest in point of intensity".