

Kincasslagh Parish Newsletter, November 29th, 2020

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Schedule of Masses

St. Columba's

Saturday 28th @ 5.30 p.m.

Sunday 29th @ 11.30 a.m.

Monday @ 10.00 a.m.

Tuesday @ 10.00 a.m.

Thursday @ 10.00 a.m.

Friday @ 10.00 a.m.

Saturday 5th @ 5.30 p.m.

Sunday 6th @ 11.30 a.m.

St. Mary's

Wednesday @ 7.00 p.m.

Friday @ 7.00 p.m.

Saturday 5th @ 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 6th @ 10.00 a.m.

shoebox appeal is available to pledge donations on line @ www.teamhope.ie. Your continued support is greatly appreciated to help the less fortunate children abroad this year.

Ecollective Future Proof & Climate Ambassador Training:

Youth interested in local, national & global topics related to Fast Fashion, Health, Wealth, Environment, Food Miles, Awards & Digital Conference. Fantastic experience & great for CV building. Contact 086 8280149 or check FB Rosses NYP

"O LORD, you are our father...we are all the work of your hands..."

How is God trying to mould you?

Is it to be of service to Him as a priest or in the consecrated life?

Speak to your local priest or your Diocesan Vocation's Director, or email the National Vocations Office on info@vocations.ie

FREE Courses for Donegal Women

We work with a lot of employers, they say they are looking for employability & customer service skills mostly.

We now offer FREE employability & customer service courses delivered via zoom, 1-2 hours a week for 4 weeks.

Receive a certificate from the comfort of your home (T+C apply)

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity, spaces are limited. To book your place, call us today: Michelle 086 145 2249

I lived with Fr Ragheed Ganni at the Irish College in Rome from 2002 to 2003. He was one of three postgraduate priests from Iraq. He was very popular, respected and mixed well with everyone. He used to amaze Irish pilgrims who visited the College when he would greet them with some words of Irish that he learned from working at Lough Derg during the summer months. From a troubled part of the world, I admired the clarity of his identity as a Christian and as a priest. He was clear in what he stood for and clear about the price to pay for living the Gospel in a hostile environment.

In March 2003, the war on terror that began as a response to the attacks of 9/11, reached Iraq with

the invasion of the Allied troops. I still have vivid memories of Ragheed in the College TV room as he watched the events unfold on Sky News. The worry etched on his face was there for all his friends to see. He was determined to return to his diocese of Mosul and to be with his people at their time of need.

On arriving in Mosul, he was appointed as parish priest, but shortly after, dark clouds began to gather. He was warned several times by extremists to shut down his parish and send the people away, but he refused. He said: 'As long as the people still come, then how can I send them away? I belong here with them'.

In May 2005, Fr Ragheed spoke at a Eucharistic Congress in Italy to share his experience of living as a Christian under persecution. 2 things stayed with me. Concerning the Eucharist and what it meant for the Christians of Iraq, Ragheed said: **'Mosul Christians are not theologians; some are even illiterate. And yet inside of us for many generations one truth has become embedded: without the Sunday Eucharist we cannot live. For us, the terrorists take life, but the Eucharist gives it back'**. He spoke these words as one of hundreds of people who took their life into their own hands by gathering for Eucharist each Sunday. He also shared on that occasion:

'There are days when I feel frail and full of fear. But when, holding the Eucharist, I say 'Behold the Lamb of God. Behold He who takes away the sin of the world'. Then I feel His strength in me. When I hold the Host in my hands, it is really He who is holding me and all of us'.

He told me about what life was like for him and the Christians of his parish. I was humbled by how much he was suffering to be faithful to Christ and how light was my cross in comparison. I was embarrassed at how much we take our religious freedom for granted in the west when so many of our fellow Christians all over the world are deprived of it.

On 3rd June 2007, Fr. Ragheed Ganni was murdered along with three sub-deacons having celebrated Sunday Eucharist on the feast of the Most Holy Trinity. Having spoken so movingly in Bari in 2005 about the importance of the Eucharist in his life, it was a source of consolation to us that his blood was poured out for his faith having ministered at the altar an hour before, where Christ the priest poured out his blood and gave his body out of love for us all.

The Chaldean Church mourned the death of their beloved son. The Irish College community mourned our beloved brother as did many other

Irish people who knew Ragheed. We were all distraught on hearing about his death. But also, because suddenly, Christian persecution had become real in a way that woke us out of our complacency.

After the death of Ragheed, we realised that praying to the martyrs is one thing. Knowing a martyr is another. For us blessed to know Ragheed, his life and death is a link to a chain of thousands of martyrs from Ireland to Iraq and all around the world. Christianity has been firmly established in Iraq for nearly two thousand years, but from the fourth century to the present day, Christians in countries like Iraq have faced periods of terrible persecution. Ragheed Ganni's life and death connects the Irish Church to the suffering Church of Iraq and the Middle-East.

This deep spiritual connection is visualized in the mosaic in the apse of the chapel in the Irish College in Rome. There Fr Ragheed is pictured carrying a palm branch in the company of Saints Patrick, Brigid, Columbanus, Don Columba Marmion and Oliver Plunkett. I recall giving a tour of the Irish College Chapel to a group of pilgrims who were visiting from Ireland. At the end of the talk, a young man asked me why the other saints had halos around their heads but Fr Ragheed did not. I responded by making a prediction that one day Fr Ragheed will have a halo around him in that mosaic for he will be declared saint and martyr of the Church. In 2018, near the eleventh anniversary of the deaths of Fr. Ragheed and his companions, it was announced that their cause had already been opened at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Our dear friend is now known as 'Fr Ragheed Ganni - Servant of God'. It will be a source of great joy when, in the future, God willing, Ragheed will be beatified and canonized a saint of the Church.

Fr. Billy Swan – Vocations Director

Naomh Mhuire. Please Support! To Play is easy. Go To: <https://game.smartlotto.ie/>

If anyone in the community would like an adult from the club to collect their lotto at a pre arranged time they can contact 087 6684200.

Anniversaries and Masses

John Ferry, Roshine, Saturday 28th

Packie & Sheila Bonner, Meenmore, Sat 29th

Michael McShane, Burtonport and

Marjorie Boyle Burtonport and Edinburgh, Monday

Maureen Breslin Kelly, Clifden and her husband Seán and daughter Eimear, Tuesday

Rita Gormley, Wednesday

Sadie McGarvey, months mind, Thursday

Margaret Joyce O'Donnell, Cruit, Friday

Diana Doherty Cruit and her father Denis,

Saturday 5th Dec

Ann Celine Gallagher, Burtonport, Sunday 6th Dec

Recent Deaths

Bryan Murphy, Keadue, who was created on Tuesday

Sean Ward, the Daimond, Dungloe. Brother of Maire Joe Phil Boyle.

Anniversaries

Michael Dixon, Sheskinarone

Joan McCauley, Arranmore

Charlie Ward, Keadue

John Hughdie Den Gallagher, Tubberkeen

Those who are ill

Please include in your prayers

Peter Sherry, cancer treatment

Joe McCann, ill

Eileen, under the care of specialists

Eamonn Hoare Snr, Graiguenamamanagh

Teamhope Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2020

Due to the current global pandemic ,the