

## Mass Intentions for February

**Friday 2 February:** Paddy Joe and Rose Dunning, Newtown

**Sunday 4 February:**

**Sunday 11 February:** Hugh Roche, Togher

**Sunday 18 February:** Johnnie Hynes and deceased family members

**Sunday 25 February:**

**Sunday 4 March:** Bridie and Martin Shine, Drumlosh

**Sunday 11 March:** Willie and Kathleen Ward, Curnaboll

### Altar Servers

**4 February:** Eoin, Cian

**11 February:** Ella, Sarah

**18 February:** Rachel, Ave

**25 February:** Áine, Emma, Rebecca

**4 March:** Eoin, Cian

**11 March:** Ella, Sarah

**Reader:** Niamh Molloy

**Altar Society:** Bridie Shine, Maura Shine

### Ministers of the Eucharist

**11/18 February:** Peadar Molloy

**25 Feb/4 March:** Mary Naughton

**11/18 March:** Ann Golden

To arrange a Mass you must contact the office in Drum. The Drum office is open Monday to Thursday from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm. Phone Catherine at 09064 37125

# CLONOWN NEWSLETTER

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## February 2018

**Ash Wednesday**

**14 February**

**Mass at 8 pm**

### **First Holy Communion**

The children who will be making their First Holy Communion this year have begun their preparation in the church. They are following the programme *Do this in memory of me*. Part of this programme involves taking an active part in the Mass. Anthony Dalton, Eva Dalton, Ryan Malone and Joseph O'Neill did the readings, the Prayers of the Faithful and the Communion reflection with great confidence. Well done to the children, their parents and their teachers.

### **Blessing of Throats**

The Feast of St Blaise takes place on 3 February. It is traditional to have throats blessed at this time as people believe that this blessing will protect them from serious throat infections. Fr Martin will bless throats in Clonown after Mass on Sunday 18 February.

### **Old Wreaths**

People are asked, when removing old wreaths and other items from graves, to take them home. Please do not discard them in corners or over the wall.

### **School Report**

This month we had Finn O'Hara, the potter. We made lots of things with the clay. The senior room took part in a workshop with Matthew the mathematician. We learned about the Fibonacci series and how the numbers are found everywhere in nature. The senior room also took part in the schools climate action week. We did something every day for a week. On Monday we collected litter around the school. On Tuesday we reduced electricity (no lights, white boards or computers) On Wednesday we planted sunflowers. On Thursday we brought in clothes that we did not want and gave them to a charity. On Friday we went for a walk to the local football pitch. We had a great month – Ella Nally and Aoife Shanahan.

### **Keep Fit Classes**

The Keep Fit classes for both men and women are continuing in the community centre on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm. This would be great preparation for the annual run which will take place in April.

### **Internet Safety Course**

There will be a talk on internet safety for parents in the community centre on Thursday 22 February at 8 pm. There has been a lot of talk on the media recently on the importance of parents being aware of the dangers that could face children when they go online. Parents should find this talk very useful.

### **St Brigid**

St Brigid's day marks the beginning of Spring. According to folklore, Clonown has a special connection with St Brigid. It is said that she visited a well in Clonown and left the imprint of her foot and a key on stones beside it. She then drank from it and blessed it. This well is still in existence near the church. At one time people gathered here to pray and held a pattern, but this tradition died out some time during the nineteenth century. The Ordnance Survey map of 1839 shows the position of the well with a path leading to it from the main road. This path no longer exists.

### **The Local Bus**

Willie Moore, who has been running the rural bus service to Athlone for the past twelve years will no longer be doing so. People using the bus greatly appreciate all Willie has done over the years. He never missed a day during that time and always went out of his way to accommodate the people. It seems very unfair that, having given such a service over the years, he was not considered for the renewal of his contract by the powers that be in Dublin, where the decision was made.

### **Condition of Roads**

Potholes are appearing again on the roads. The condition of the roads is bad enough now but will become much worse when the flood water recedes. If you wish to contact the County Council regarding the roads please phone 09064 92161.

### **Brian Colleran RIP**

Our deepest sympathy to Kieran, John Joe and Eugene Shine on the death of their uncle, Brian Colleran, Ballinasloe.

