

Mass Intentions for February

Sunday 7 February: Tommy, Patrick and Annie Dunning and deceased family members, Buggane

Ellen Buegling

Sunday 14 March: Hugh Roche, Togher

Sunday 21 February:

Sunday 28 February: Johnny Hynes and deceased members of the Hynes family, Curnaboll

Sunday 7 March: Bridie and Martin Shine, Drumlosh

Sunday 14 March: Pat Burns, 38 Cedarwood Drive, Monksland

The following dates are free if you wish to have a Mass offered

21 February. 21, 28 March. 11, 25 April, 2, 9 May, 20, 27 June, 11, 25 July

Contact Catherine at the Drum office 0906437125

Altar Society: Bridie Shine, Maura Shine

Rural Transport

The Clonown bus is still running. Just a reminder that it arrives in Oldtown at 10.30 am every Friday

The newsletter is also available on Facebook

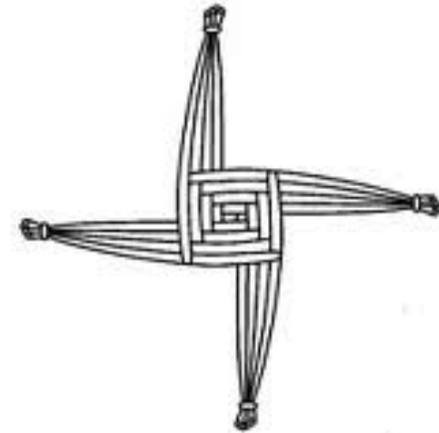
To contact Clonark Garda Station phone 09064 37102

CLONOWN NEWSLETTER

Facebook: Clonown Heritage

Email: clonownnews@gmail.com

February 2021



Feast of St Brigid 1 February

Beginning of Spring

Bright days ahead

School Report

This month we were all at home. We are doing maths, phonics and SPHE classes by zoom with our teachers. It is nice to see our friends online as we haven't seen them in a while. We are also doing online music lessons with our teacher Cian. We learn the fiddle, banjo and the mandolin. The school sent us postcards and we have been sending them to our family and friends, as it is nice to keep in contact. The first of February was St Brigid's Day. We normally make crosses at school, but this year we made them at home. It is good to keep active and we love to play at the playground in Clonown. The flowers are starting to show and hopefully the weather will get better soon. Hopefully, we can go back to school soon, as we all miss our teachers and friends.

Eva, 5th class.

St Brigid's Window

Spring starts on the first of February, the feast of St Brigid. There is a beautiful stained glass window depicting St Brigid in Clonown Church. It is one of three that were commissioned from the Harry Clarke studio in Dublin, a world renowned stained glass studio, for a church in Kilmurray, near Castlereagh. When a new church was being built in Kilmurray in 1965, these windows were removed from the old church. Fr Healy, who was curate in Clonown, and who had an eye for works of art, obtained three of the windows and had them fitted in Clonown church when it was being built. The window depicts St Brigid and incidents from her life. She is holding a St Brigid's cross and there is an inset of an oak leaf, reminding us of where she built her church in Kildare (the church of the oak tree) and an inset of this church. There are vivid blues, reds and yellows. Perhaps when you visit the church next time you could take a close look at the window and all its intricate designs. We are indeed privileged to have three windows of such artistic merit in our church.

New Baby Boy

Congratulations to Shane and Róisín Gavin on the birth of their baby boy, Conor

Athlone Seed Potatoes

Some of the younger generation may not be aware of the fact that there was a thriving seed potato industry in Clonown. Older people will remember a time when whole families were able to earn a living from the production of potatoes on their land and potatoes from Clonown were exported to several countries. Gearóid O'Brien is researching this industry and will write a number of articles about it in the Westmeath Independent over the next few weeks.

Go Fund Me for Clonown Community Park

The committee members of Clonown Community Park have worked hard over the past number of years raising funds for the upkeep of the park, which is a great facility for Clonown and surrounding areas. Due to Covid it was not possible to hold functions and because of loss of income, funds must be raised to pay for insurance, electricity and general upkeep and maintenance. Since March 2020 people have come to realise how invaluable the walking track, playing field and children's playground are to the community. A Go Fund Me page has been set up online where people can donate to the maintenance fund. If you do not wish to donate online you can give your donation to Paul Curley or Ann Dunning. Every donation will be greatly appreciated.

Centenary of the Death of James Tormey

On 2 February 1921, during the War of Independence, James Tormey and a number of Volunteers went to Creggane, Cornafulla to lay an ambush on a number of RIC policemen in order to disarm them and take ammunition that they were carrying. Unknown to them the policemen were closely followed by a number of Black and Tans and soldiers. They were outnumbered and in an exchange of shots James Tormey was killed. In secret, the Volunteers brought his body from Bigley's field, where he died, through Clonown and across the river to Clonmacnoise where he was buried. Later his body was brought to his home place, Mount Temple, for reburial. Tormey is remembered as a hero who died for Irish freedom. A monument to him still stands in Bigley's field in Cornafulla.