

# *Rahan Parish*

**KILLINA, MUCKLAGH and THE ISLAND**

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**Parish Secretary Suzanne. At the Parish Office Call in or ring 05793 21892. Wednesdays 9.30am-5.30pm**

**Parish Website Address: [www.rahanparish.ie](http://www.rahanparish.ie); Parish Email Address: [rahanparish@gmail.com](mailto:rahanparish@gmail.com)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to embrace the wilderness. The past year has given us experience of wilderness as our world battles a pandemic. Many people are afraid, isolated, alone, and uncertain of what the future will bring. Humanity is adrift in what seems like a desert moment. However, wilderness can bring opportunity. It can bring a time for deep reflection, where we take stock of what is most important to us, a chance to let go of things that are really not important and focus on where we are being called to be. During this past year, what opportunity did this wilderness offer you?

## **Rahan Parish Webcam Mass: on [rahanparish.ie](http://rahanparish.ie)**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 11.00am: Parish Mass and Intentions**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 11.00am: Parish Mass**

Many thanks to one and all for your great support. Although the office is closed to the public, masses for the Webcam Masses and anyone who needs to get a certificate of any kind can be booked through the office on Wednesdays with Suzanne on 057 9321892 and also text or ring Fr. Martin on 087 9774828.

<b>Development 14<sup>th</sup> February:</b>	<b>Parish of Rahan €319.00</b>
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**Adoration: Mucklagh:** Continues as usual on Thursdays until further notice from 2.00pm-6.00pm. All are very welcome

**Adoration: Killina:** On Mondays from 3.00pm-10.00pm. All are very welcome

**In Memory:** Please remember in your prayers the repose of the souls of **Maura Stones (nee Bracken)**, Kilcoursey, Clara (mother of Tommy, Ballybrumcullen) who died on the 13<sup>th</sup> February. Her funeral took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> February in St. Brigid's Church, Clara followed by burial in the Monastery Cemetery, Clara, **Rose Scully (nee Monaghan)**, Arden View, Tullamore (wife of Brendan) who died on the 15<sup>th</sup> February. Her funeral took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> February in St. Colmcille's Church, Durrow followed by burial in the adjoining cemetery and **Margaret Kelly (nee Casey)**, Brocca, Road Mucklagh who died on the 17<sup>th</sup> February. Her funeral took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> February in St. Colman's Church, Mucklagh followed by burial in the adjoining Old Cemetery. May they rest in peace

**Trocaire Boxes:** Are now available in the three churches. Many thanks for your great generosity in supporting the wonderful work of Trocaire

<b><u>Candlemas/February Offerings:</u></b> Will be taken up for the next few weekends. Please use the special envelope in your box for this. If you use another envelope please write your name and address on it so it can be recorded to your envelope number. They can be handed into the parochial houses. As always Thank You for your support and generosity
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<b>Diocese of Meath Safeguarding Website: <a href="http://www.meathsafeguarding.ie">www.meathsafeguarding.ie</a></b>
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**COVID-19 Support Line for Older People:** ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

**Mucklagh Community Centre: Lotto: 16/02/2021.** The Numbers drawn were 13, 16, 24 & 30. No Jackpot Winners. No Match 3 winners. Next Draw Tuesday 23/02/2021. Next Week Jackpot is €6,800 Match 3 is €600

**Annual Tickets are now on sale, €100 for 52 draws.** Tickets can be purchased from Daybreak Mucklagh, Centra Fingerboard, Mucklagh Community Centre or any of our promoters. Why not give a **Birthday or Thank You present** of Mucklagh Community Centre Local Lotto. €100 for 52 draws, €50 for 26 draws & €20 for 10 draws. The Lotto supports the running of Mucklagh Community Centre. All support is greatly appreciated. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Mucklagh Community Centre 057 93 56886, 086 836 4523 or [email: adminmcc@mucklagh.ie](mailto:adminmcc@mucklagh.ie). Postal Service available. Thank You for your Continued Support. The Lotto Team.

**Mucklagh Community Centre Meals on Wheels:** Mucklagh Community Centre has teamed up with KDA for meals on Wheels. Hot Dinners with a dessert are delivered three times per week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Cost is €5 per meal. For more information ring 086 836 4523 or 057 93 56885

**Virtual Dance Classes:** Mucklagh Community Centre is running Free Virtual Dance Classes for Children from 8 to 14 years in February. Next class is Tuesday 16 February, 10-11am. A variety of music genres and moves to be covered. Limited number of places. Booking is essential. To book your place email [adminmcc@mucklagh.ie](mailto:adminmcc@mucklagh.ie). For more information, please ring 057 93 56886 or 086 836 4523.

**Zoom Pilates Classes:** Pilates classes for intermediates are taking place through Zoom on Wednesday mornings. Booking is essential. To book your place email [adminmcc@mucklagh.ie](mailto:adminmcc@mucklagh.ie). For more information, please ring 057 93 56886 or 086 836 4523.

**Shamrock's Lotto: Lotto:** The Shamrock's lotto numbers drawn this week were 4, 5, 28, 29. There was no jackpot winner nor match 3 winners. Next week's draw takes place on February 22nd to win or share a jackpot of €15,000 and €400 for a match 3. Thank you for playing our lotto this week.

**Membership:** A reminder that membership for the coming year is now available for purchase and can be done so through the Clubforce app.

**Fundraiser:** Our Senior Footballers and Senior Hurlers are organising a fundraiser, where entrants pick the winner of each major sports competition in 2021. Please contact any member of our Football or Hurling panels for more information.

**Sympathies:** Our deepest sympathies to the Scully and Monaghan family on the passing of Rose Scully. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

**Gospel reflection for first Sunday of Lent, Year A:** Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts, and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into 'the wilderness' and grappling with the mysteries of life, as well as a time of preparation for Easter. Today's liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus' 'forty-day' experience in the wilderness. Jesus is 'filled with the Holy Spirit' and, like so many human beings before and since, is 'led by the Spirit' into the wilderness of life to be 'tested' there. ('Tested' is a more accurate translation of the Greek than 'tempted'). Forty is a symbolic number in Israel's story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God. The wilderness is ever so real and at the same time symbolic. In Israel's story, it is the place of testing for God's people: 'Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart' (Deut 8:2). In Matthew's account, the 'devil' is the 'tester' or 'tempter', the instrument of God's testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus' relationship to God: 'If you are the son of God...' The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God's empire or the empire 'of the heavens' rather than the way of the brutal Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed 'of God'. Most people of faith would agree that being 'of God' right now has more than a little to do with the way we relate to earth's human and other-than-human inhabitants, the value we ascribe to earth's precious resources, and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of those resources. In this context, Lent and wilderness take on a whole new meaning.