

# Quin Clooney Maghera Parish Notes

## December 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

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Masses:		Anniversaries:	Eucharistic Ministers:	Readers:
Sat. Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Clooney 7.00pm	Vera O’Brien, Corbally. Ann, PJ, Paul & Mackie Keogh, Carrahan.	Mary O’Connor	Mary O’Connor
Sun. Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	Maghera 9.30am	James Corbett, Maghera.	Mary Whelan	Elaine Corbett
Sun. Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Quin 11.00am	Mai, Jack & Tom Leyden, Ballyhannon. Timmy Scanlan, Quin Gardens.	Kay O’Shaughnessy & Pauline Clune	Aideen Flynn
Mon. - Weds. Dec 21 <sup>st</sup> –23 <sup>rd</sup>	Quin 10.00am	Christmas Intentions		
Sat. Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Clooney 7.00pm		Bridie McNamara	Orla Considine
Sun. Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Maghera 9.30am	Pa Murphy, Derhalla.	Eileen Daly	Elaine Corbett
Sun. Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Quin 11.00am	Elizabeth & Michael Hogan, Knappogue.	Mary Clune & Jimmy Maher	Carol O’Neill

**Rest in Peace:** John French, Drumellen, Kilmurry.

**Daily Mass:** (Quin) Mon - Weds: 10:00am. **No morning Mass Thurs 24th Dec.**

**On-line Donations to Parish:** In these times of Government lockdown and restrictions on attendances at public masses, many people who are unable to attend church services are interested in contributing to the support of their parish or their priests. Sincere thanks to all our parishioners who have contributed during this time. It is now possible to make a contribution by credit or debit card directly to your parish using the Diocesan Website – [www.killaloe-diocese.ie](http://www.killaloe-diocese.ie). The full contribution as received by the Diocesan website will be fully paid to your parish. Simply go to the Diocesan Website and click on the red “Donate to your Parish” button on the top of the page. You will be invited to select your parish and the parish fund you wish to contribute to. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Lotto Draw 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020.** Jackpot €4,200. Numbers drawn: 3; 13; 20; 23, No winner. €40 winners: Jimmy Corry, Galway; Martin Clune, Crohill; Donal O’Brien, Westmalling; Cathal Egan, Knocknagoug; Shane McNamara, Dun na Manach. Tickets available online– purchase cut– off time 5.00pm. Tickets now also available in Crowes, Quin Post Office, and Clooney Stores– purchases cut– off time 1.00pm. Next week’s draw Online 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Jackpot: €4,400. Christmas Draw in Wednesday– draw for 9 prizes if jackpot not one. For all up–to–date news you can follow us on Facebook, Twitter or visit [www.clooneyquinga.ie](http://www.clooneyquinga.ie). We thank you for your continued support, Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur dtacaíocht leanúnach.

**Weekly Contributions:** Amount Collected from Dec.10th-Dec.16th-€1334. Contributions can be left in the box at the front door of Churches or dropped off at the Parish Office during this time of restrictions. The Parish Council continues to thank all who leave contributions to the Parish Office at this time. Your generosity is much appreciated.

**Priests' Christmas Collection:** A sincere thank you to all who subscribed to the Christmas Priests' Collection last weekend. If you were away or forgot you can drop the special white envelope with yellow top in your box of envelopes in the box at the front door of Churches or drop it off to the Parish Office anytime. We thank you for your generosity to this collection throughout the year.

### **Christmas Message 2020**

Dear Parishioners of Quin Clooney, Maghera,

This has been a difficult and stressful year for many of us. It has been particularly painful because the pandemic has kept us away from our loved ones. The Parish during the course of the year has suffered a number of sad losses. Many are mourning the loss of a loved one whether it was because of the pandemic or other reasons. The fact that people were not able to console one another in person makes that grief more intense. If there is one thing this pandemic has taught us, it is the value of relationships, the value of being together in person, the value of touch.

Due to restrictions the sick and housebound were not visited as much as I would have liked. The good community spirit, however, that is within the Parish, kept many in touch with conversations through a window, telephone calls, shopping and helping with basic necessities. We think too at this time of the many that are not able to return home this Christmas because of the pandemic.

At Christmas we rejoice in the belief that God loved us so much that He sent His only Son in the form of a child to walk with us on our journey through life. In the past year we have had to social distance from one another but we celebrate at Christmas a God who does not keep His distance from us. He is very close to us during this pandemic because Christmas celebrates how God became man in Jesus Christ and how He wanted to break that barrier of distance by becoming one of us. Jesus came as a light to the world and He penetrates the darkness of this present time. Jesus Christ is God Himself stooping down to us, opening His arms to us, and embracing us with love. Christmas teaches us that God wants nothing more than to love us and to be loved by us in return.

Truly God is with us this Christmas. May the peace and joy of the New Born Child touch the heart of each one of us this Christmas. Let us rejoice! God loves us. God gives us salvation in His Son. Christ is born for us! Let us rejoice and delight in that love.

*Fr. Tom*

### **Christmas Masses 2020**

The Parish of Quin, Clooney, Maghera will have Seven Christmas Masses this year. In previous years there were Five. In previous times our Churches could hold maximum numbers. In this Coronavirus world, however, things are very different but every effort is being made to ensure as many people as possible can attend as safely as possible – with Masses planned for December 24, 25, 26 and 27 that will count as Christmas Mass. Since Masses have been allowed to go ahead in recent weeks, Ushers have been on the door to try ensure that numbers haven't been broken. Mass goers are required to wear a mask in the Church and to use hand sanitiser at designated entry and exit areas. Please observe social distancing between yourselves and members of other households or families.

For the reception of Holy Communion, please make a single file line for the reception of Holy Communion and please keep several pews between yourself and the person in front of you before and after receiving the Body of Christ. Please follow the direction of the Ushers. We encourage everyone to receive Holy Communion in the hand at this time. The whole element of personal responsibility is very important, the same as with people going into restaurants or anywhere else. We owe it to each other to be as careful as we can. Government and NPHEP guidelines ask that people do not congregate inside or outside Churches. Once our Churches are full to capacity the following notice will go up on the door: " Due to Social Distancing Restrictions we have now reached CAPACITY for this Mass. We apologise & Hope you understand".

**Christmas Mass Times are as follows:**

**Christmas Eve: St. Mary's, Quin 5pm & 9pm, St. John XXIII, Clooney 7pm & 11pm.**

**Christmas Day: St. Mary's, Quin 8am & 11am. St. Stephen's Maghera: 9.30am**