

Nenagh Parish News

Sunday 30 October 2022

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Mass Times

St Mary of the Rosary

Weekend Masses:

Lay-Led Liturgy with
Holy Communion | Saturday 10am
Saturday Vigil Mass | 6.15pm
Sunday 8am | 12 noon | 6pm

Weekday Masses

8am | 11am

Adoration | Weekdays 5-7pm

Parish Radio: 106.2FM

St John the Baptist, Tyone

Saturday | 7.30pm

Sunday | 10.30am

The heroic sacrifice of the Discalced Carmelites of Compiègne

In November 1792, a small group of Discalced Carmelite nuns of Compiègne began reciting a prayer every day, offering themselves for the salvation of France. Their prayer was answered.

Flipping through the annals of history, there are moments when women religious entered into the course of human events. One case is the Carmelite Martyrs of Compiègne. Many have heard of them, but may not know that their sacrifice may have helped bring the Reign of Terror to an end. It all began with a dream. In 1693, a 29-year-old disabled lay woman boarding in the Carmel of Compiègne dreamt of Jesus escorted by His mother, St Teresa of Avila, and two other Carmelites connected with the monastery. After receiving personal instructions about her own vocation, she then beheld a vision in which a number of Carmelites were being chosen "to follow the Lamb". Fast forward to 1786. Mother Teresa of St. Augustine, newly-elected prioress of the same monastery, found an account of this vision Sr Elisabeth Baptiste had received prior to taking her vows as a Carmelite. Mother Teresa sensed the dream was a prophecy regarding her own community.

Defiance in the face of Terror

A few years later, France was plunged into the French Revolution, then the Reign of Terror. In February 1790, the provisional suspension of religious vows was definitively ratified. On August 4, the Carmelite community's possessions were inventoried. A day later, each of the nuns was interviewed and given the chance to renounce her vows. To the chagrin of the Revolutionary Directors assigned with the task, every single nun expressed her firm conviction to remain faithful to her vows until death. On Easter 1792, two days after the wearing of the religious habit became illegal on April 6, the dream was shared with other members of the community. Things then began to move quickly. By August, all women's monasteries were ordered closed and evacuated; the sequestering of their goods soon followed. The 20 Carmelites of Compiègne evacuated their monastery on September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Through the help of friends, they found shelter in four different locations and were able to acquire one set of civilian clothing. They could not afford to purchase a change of clothing, and their request for funds from the government to do so went unanswered.

Prayer for the salvation of France

Not too long after, Mother Teresa of St Augustine shared with the four oldest choir sisters with whom she lived a proposal to invite the entire community to offer their lives for the salvation of France, in imitation of St Teresa of Avila who reformed Carmel for that express intention. She understandably met with immediate resistance. After all, who in their right mind would voluntarily submit themselves to instant decapitation by the newly inaugurated guillotine? Remarkably, however, within the space of a few hours, the two senior nuns begged their Prioress' forgiveness for their lack of courage. This opened the way for Mother Teresa to propose an act of self-offering to the other members of the community. As of November 27, each nun daily recited an act of self-offering for the salvation of France written by the prioress. Eventually, an intention was added for the release of those who had been arrested and that fewer people would be guillotined.

Life of consecration

On June 21, 1794, soldiers searched the nuns' living quarters. The next day, they were arrested on evidence that turned up during the search that was used as proof that they continued to live a life of consecration, and that their sympathies lay with the monarchy. The now 16-member Carmelite community found themselves imprisoned in a former Visitation convent along with 17 English Benedictines. On July 12, as their only sets of civilian clothes were soaking, the mayor of Compiègne, accompanied by soldiers, burst into the convent, completely surprised to see them dressed in their habits. But their departure to Paris to undergo trial could not be delayed. On July 17 the 16 Carmelite nuns, along with 24 other prisoners, were found guilty of being "enemies of the People", among other charges, and sentenced to death. Each of the nuns now prepared themselves for the fulfilment of the prophetic dream. They would soon be following the Lamb.

Sacrifice and end to Reign of Terror

That evening, the nuns' voices singing the Divine Office floated through the streets of Paris as they were paraded toward the executioner's block. The executioner also allowed the nuns to complete the prayers for the dying, which included the singing of the Te Deum. After the subsequent singing of the Veni Creator Spiritus, and the renewal of their vows, the nuns went one by one to the scaffold, received a final blessing from their Prioress, kissed a statuette of Our Lady, and followed the sacrificial Lamb. Ten days later, Robespierre was arrested and executed the next day, leaving little doubt that the Lord accepted their act of sacrificial offering of their lives. The Martyrs of Compiègne were beatified by Pope Pius X in 1909. A process for equipollent canonization is under way.

This Week We Offer A Special Prayer For...

Those Experiencing Bias and Prejudice

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your ministry
you were approached by people
of many different nations and cultures.
You listened to their cry for help,
treated them with love and compassion,
and brought them healing and wholeness.

In our own time may we provide
to all those who are suffer
the help that they need
and the care that they require.

May we respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit
to dream of a world made new
where the poor are not forgotten
but are given the opportunity
to live and flourish
with good health and equal prospects.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

NOTICE BOARD

Weekly Collection

Last Week's collection - **€3,007**

Thanks, as always for your generosity.

**Pharmacy on Duty Slattery's
Parish Office Opening Hours**

Mon-Fri | 9am-5pm

Closed Bank Holiday Monday

Those We Remember | Sat 29 - Sun 6 Nov

St Mary of the Rosary

Sun 30th 12noon	PJ Kennedy (A) Bridget Mitchell (A) Tommy Hourigan (A) Theresa & Annie Fahy (As)
Sun 30th 6pm	James White (A)
Fri 4th 11am	Denis Collins & David Foley (As)
Sat 5th 6.15pm	Kathleen O'Brien (1st A)
Sun 6th 12noon	Pat Mc Loughlin (A) Mary Greed (A) Jimmy Hayes (A) Mary Kennedy & Brian Roache (As) Jim Carroll & Elizabeth O'Sullivan (As)
Sun 6th 6pm	Colm Walsh (A) Mary Morgan (A) Stan Henry (A)
Sat 29th 7.30pm	St John the Baptist Patricia Walsh (MM) Aidan O'Brien (A) Timothy & Bridget Kelly & their son Timmy (As)
Sat 5th 7.30pm	Peter Doyle (A) Sean & Mary Minogue (As)

Our Faithful Departed

Jimmy McLoughlin, late of Silver Street, passed away in Ashtead, Surrey. Funeral arrangements later.

May He Rest In Peace. Amen

Readers | 5 - 6 November 2022

6.15pm	Conor Reidy
7.30pm	Patricia Ryan
8.00am	Sandra Farrell
10.30am	Patricia Fitzgerald
12noon	Paddy Rohan

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Our annual Service of Remembrance takes place in St. Mary of the Rosary church on Monday 7 November @ 7pm. All are welcome.

St. John the Baptist Church Renovation Fund

Christmas Draw 2022

1st Prize: **HAMPER - Value €300**

2nd Prize: **€100 Voucher**

3rd Prize: **€100 Voucher**

**Draw to be held in St John the Baptist Church, Tyone on Wednesday 21 December at 7.30pm. Tickets €2 or 3 for €5
Tickets and cards available from Parish Office, Parish Shop or any member of Finance Committee. Permit granted.**