

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 4th April, 2021
Easter Day of the Lord's Resurrection

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
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Hospital Visitation: is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.

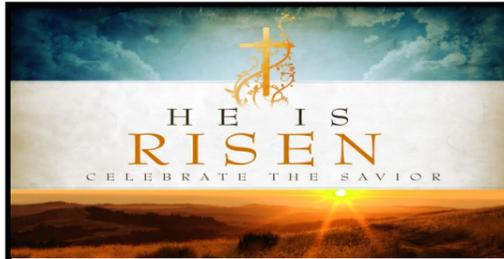


HAPPY EASTER

EASTER SUNDAY 4th APRIL

Mass at 10:00am

Holy Water will be available for collection after Mass



'Lent 2021 has been a difficult challenge for all of us as the restrictions imposed on us meant that we couldn't come together in person. However we have tried via our webcam to encourage each other to journey together towards the celebration of the most important season in our Christian tradition. We joined in prayer with one another and also with Jesus as he moved towards his passion, death and resurrection.

The past twelve months have been very difficult for all of us. We have had to make many sacrifices, miss out on key moments and celebrations for the benefit of all. Covid 19 has taught us many lessons, for some of us it has made us value more those people and things that are important to us. For some of us it has allowed us to take a breath and realise we need to slow down. At the start of Lent we prayed that our journey through Lent would help to reenergise and refocus ourselves during the harshness of the level five lockdown.

This last Holy Week we waited in darkness for the light that will break into the world just as the sun starts to fade and we remembered that things often are not as they appear. Like the disciples broken by what seemed like defeat on the cross, we too are often broken by our own failures. We waited like Peter to be set free. "God's love for us is revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who shared our human condition, with all its joys and sorrows. As his disciples today, we can have confidence in his promise to be with us always, even to the end of time". As we prayed during the Easter Triduum we were conscious that Jesus walks the way of the cross with us and we journeyed in hope towards the joy of sharing in his Resurrection which, one way or another, we celebrate together on Easter Sunday morning.

Easter takes place at a time of year which is filled with hopefulness. We have longer evenings and nature is bursting with hope and the promise of new life. And the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead brings that hope to a new level of reality. Far from the resurrection being simply a metaphor that religious people use for natural renewal, it is the yearly renewal of the Earth in Spring which is an anticipation of the resurrection; a sign pointing to something greater than itself. Optimism is cheerful. Facing reality is healthy. But hope is essential. The hope coming as a life lived in view of the dawn of Resurrection.

As Pope Francis puts it: "Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force."

Easter is a yearly invitation to lift up our hearts and keep on hoping against hope, contemplating in hope whatever signs of the resurrection we find around us, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant. We each have our own resurrection world opening up in, through and around us.

Covid is still with us this Easter. And though it is still night, morning is coming. Hope saves. Let us look out for the seeds of the new world being born out of Covid.

In the words of Pope Francis this week "Along the daily way of the cross, we meet the faces of so many brothers and sisters in difficulty: let us not pass by, let us allow our hearts to be moved with compassion, and let us draw near"

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." St John Paul II

On behalf of all of us here in St Mary's we thank you for your prayers and support. May the Risen Jesus fill your hearts and home with many blessings. God bless you all.



Fr. Pat Corcoran is celebrating his Golden Jubilee today

Fifty Years of Missionary Service ... with your prayer and support!

Father Pat Corcoran, from **Saint Mary's Villas**, was born and raised among us. Educated by the Sisters of Mercy and Saint Joseph's Christian Brother Schools, Pat went on, in **1963**, to pursue his studies for the priesthood with Saint Patrick's Missionary Society, **Kiltegan, County Wicklow**.

Father Pat was ordained to the priesthood, in **Kiltegan**, on **Easter Sunday 1971**, and presided over his **First Mass** here at Saint Mary's on **Easter Monday**. Today, Saint Patrick's Parish, **Ikot Ansa, Calabar**, and the extended community, are joyfully celebrating Father Pat's **50th Anniversary of Ordination**, and his lifetime of missionary service in **Nigeria**.

In **February 2020** Father Pat retired as **Parish Priest** of Saint Patrick's Parish handing over the responsibility to Father Cletus Udo, a **Nigerian** Saint Patrick's missionary. Shortly, God willing, Pat plans to retire home to **Drogheda**.

Pat is ever grateful for the grace of priesthood, and for the privilege and blessing of seeing tremendous growth and challenge in the young church of **Nigeria** ... all of it made possible by the continued **prayer** and **support** of so many, particularly the clergy and people of his **home parish** of **Saint Mary's!**

On behalf of Fr. Phil, Fr. Ciprian, St. Mary's Parishoners and the Corcoran family we wish Fr. Pat a healthy and happy retirement and look forward to his return to Drogheda shortly.

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 4th April, 2021

Sunday 4th April	10:00am	Peggy Caffrey <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Tommy Mc Cormack <i>First Anniversary</i> ; John & Bridget Cooney; Mary & Frank Smith & deceased family members; Catherine & Leo Fuller & deceased family members; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Annie & Elizabeth Aspell; Kathleen & Brendan Mc Dermott Margaret Morgan
Monday	10:00am	Clare Mulhall
Tuesday	10:00am	Mary Gleeson <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Brendan Hand; Patrick & Bridie Maguire, Mary Flynn & deceased members of the Mc Cann family
Wednesday	10:00am	Katheen & James Cahill & their son Jim; Freddie Tiernan
Thursday	10:00am	Holy Souls
Friday	10:00am	Pat Mc Entee; Sonny Murphy
Saturday	10:00am	Frank Murphy; Thomas, Paddy & Patrick (Jnr) Reilly, Kelly & Plunket families Tommy Cunningham & deceased family members, Agnes Holohan & family, Pete Brown & Frances McNeill
Sunday 11th April	10:00am	Derek Gavin <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Margaret (Georgie) Tuite <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Robert Bromley; May & Thomas Farrelly & deceased family members; Bill & Kathleen Reynolds & deceased family members, Patrick & Louise McKenna & deceased family members

A prayer for those who died...



We pray for everyone who has died in the past year

May they rest in peace

Supporting Our Parish:

Parishioners can leave their envelopes or a donation to the parish in the boxes at the back of the church or you can now use the **donate** button facility on our website. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks. Keep safe and well.