

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 12th April, 2020
Easter Day of the Lord's Resurrection

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
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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.



Dear friends, good evening!

This evening I have the chance to enter your homes in a different way than usual. If you allow me, I would like to have a conversation with you for a few moments, in this time of difficulty and of suffering. I can imagine you with your families, living an unusual life to avoid contagion. I am thinking of the liveliness of children and young people, who cannot go out, attend school, live their lives. I have in my heart all the families, especially those who have a loved one who is sick or who have unfortunately experienced mourning due to the coronavirus or other causes. These days I often think about people who are alone, and for whom it is more difficult to face these moments. Above all I think of the elderly, who are very dear to me.

I cannot forget those who are sick with coronavirus, people who are in hospital. I am aware of the generosity of those who put themselves at risk for the treatment of this pandemic or to guarantee the essential services to society. So many heroes, every day, at every hour! I also remember how many are in financial straits and are worried about work and the future. A thought also goes out to prison inmates, whose pain is compounded by fear of the epidemic, for themselves and their loved ones; I think of the homeless, who do not have a home to protect them.

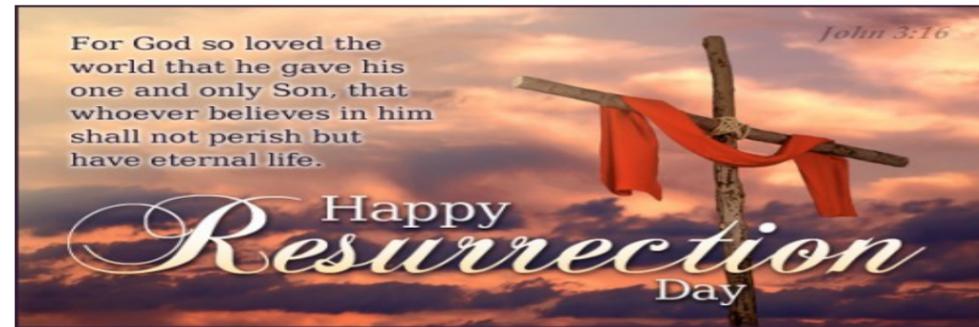
It is a difficult time for everyone. For many, very difficult. The Pope knows this and, with these words, he wants to tell everyone of his closeness and affection. Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighbourhood; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty in Italy and in the world. Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love.

We will celebrate Holy Week in a truly unusual way, which manifests and sums up the message of the Gospel, that of God's boundless love. And in the silence of our cities, the Easter Gospel will resound. The Apostle Paul says: "And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him Who died for them and was raised again" (2 Cor 5:15). In the risen Jesus, life conquered death. This Paschal faith nourishes our hope. I would like to share it with you this evening. It is the hope of a better time, in which we can be better, finally freed from evil and from this pandemic. It is a hope: hope does not disappoint; it is not an illusion, it is a hope. Beside each other, in love and patience, we can prepare a better time in these days. Thank you for allowing me into your homes. Make a gesture of tenderness towards those who suffer, towards children, and towards the elderly. Tell them that the Pope is close and pray, that the Lord will soon deliver us all from evil. And you, pray for me. Have a good dinner.

See you soon!

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 12th April, 2020 will be celebrated in the Private Masses celebrated by the Priests at 10:00am each day

Easter Sunday 12th	10:00 am	Biridie Mullen <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Noeleen Smith; Rosaleen Brunton
Easter Monday 13th	10:00am	
Tuesday 14th	10:00am	
Wednesday 15th	10:00am	
Thursday 16th	10:00am	
Friday 17th	10:00am	
Saturday 18th	10:00am	Joe Kenny <i>First Anniversary</i>
Sunday 19th	10:00am	Stephen Mc Kenna <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Patrick Campbell



"While Masses are suspended, the voice of prayer should not be silent."

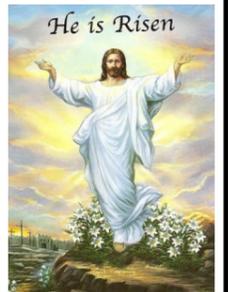
Bishop Tom Deenihan

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

(Pause for silent prayer)

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and thanksgiving be every moment thine! X3



Mass will be celebrated privately each day at 10:00am and will be available via webcam. You can join us by going online to our website live stream. **The Church will be open each day from 11.00am to 4.00pm** so that people can call in to say a prayer or light a candle. **Adoration in the main Church Monday to Friday 11:00am to 12:00noon (as long as we are allowed).** Copies of the parish bulletin will be available in the Church. **The Parish Office will be closed until further notice. For queries please phone 041.9834958.**

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 Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

Third Age Ireland is a national organisation who take care of the elderly. **SeniorLine** is one of their programmes and could be very helpful to you at this time. SeniorLine has been the national, confidential listening service for older people, run by trained older volunteers since 1998. This peer-to-peer helpline for older people receives in excess of 10,000 calls per year. If you are feeling worried, stressed or isolated at this very unnerving time, please feel free to ring this FREEPHONE service anytime between 10am and 10pm on any day of the week on 1800 80 45 91.

HAPPY EASTER

A prayer for those who died...

✠ Margaret (Peggy) Caffrey (née McEvoy), Wheaton Hall
Deirdre Faulkner (née Rooney), Wheaton Hall
Liam Halpin, Slane and late of John St., Drogheda
Jim Mc Cullen, Gormanston
Joan McEvoy (née Fox) Frances Street
Patsy Rice, Ballsgrove.

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. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

Keep safe