

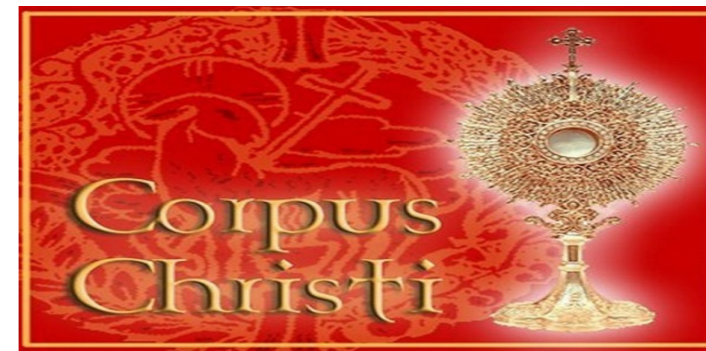
St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 14th June, 2020
Corpus Christi

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
St Mary's Presbytery
Dublin Road ☎ 9834958

St Mary's Parish Centre
24 James Street
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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.



The past few months, ever since the suspension of public Mass on March 12th, have been extremely difficult. Our parishioners have missed Mass, the reception of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Marriages and baptisms have been postponed and the Celebration of First Holy Communion. There is an understandable anxiety to return to normal. It is not normal, the provisions given to us this week by the Bishop's Conference are restrictive. They are necessary to protect public health, reassure our parishioners that it is safe to attend church and to comply with public health advice.

For us as priests the past few months have been difficult. We are ordained to serve others not for ourselves and the sight of an empty church from the altar during Mass and, in some cases, an imagined response has been devastating. The separation of priest from parishioner goes against our practice, our sense of vocation and our spirituality. We have been frustrated at not been able to visit our elderly and those families who have experienced bereavement during the pandemic. Thankfully, we can see hope on the horizon that we will be able to resume our ministry to our parishioners even though some restrictions will remain in place.

The provisions in the guidelines issued this week will prove to be challenging but must be observed by all for an orderly return on June 29th. Social media and broadcast strategies have been a lifeline for our parishioners. And yet, virtual worship is just that. It is less than real. We will need to re-engage and reconnect. There is no substitute for attending Mass and receiving the Blessed Eucharist. Hopefully, these guidelines will provide reassurance that it is safe to do so. For parishioners, particularly those who are cocooning, sick and aged, the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass remains. Indeed, many of our parishioners may wish to attend Mass on a weekday rather than on weekends.

Ministers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will have to sanitise their hands and wear a facemask while distributing Holy Communion (**in the hand only**). Holy Communion will be distributed at the normal time and not at the end of Mass. Keeping the social distance is crucial. Movement within the church will have to be kept to a minimum.

During the past week we have sourced hand sanitisers which must be used on entry to the church. Signage is now at each of our church entrances. Those attending Mass will be required to follow the stewards advice and take a seat in the designated areas. Some seats are unavailable. This means that it may not be possible to sit in your regular seats. Luckily for us our church capacity is such that we will not need to limit the number of people coming to Mass. However not all seats will be in use in order to maintain social distancing.

We will be asking our church collectors to assist with the collection at the point of entry to the church. The distribution of Holy Communion will be facilitated by our stewards. We ask you to be patient and follow their instructions. At the end of Mass parishioners are again asked to follow the instructions of the stewards and go directly to their exit points.

This week we have purchased a pump which will assist us in sanitising the church on a daily basis. Church bulletins should be taken home from the church and not left on the seats. Let us take every precaution that what we do will protect our parishioners and offer every reassurance that it is safe to return to church.

Pope Francis, on the reopening of the churches in Rome, said 'let us proceed carefully'. Pope Francis said that 'while the acute phase of the epidemic is over, it remains necessary to follow the rules in force carefully'.

He told them to follow the rules carefully 'because they are rules that help us to prevent the virus from spreading'. This advice reflects our situation too.

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 14th June, 2020 will be celebrated in Private via webcam at 10:00am each day

Sunday 14th June	10:00am Special Intention
Monday	10:00am Brian Conolly & deceased relatives and friends; Agnes & Thomas Halpin
Tuesday	10:00am Special Intention
Wednesday	10:00am Kathleen Everitt <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Anna Carton & deceased members of the Leech family
Thursday	10:00am John Cahill
Friday	10:00am Tommy Cuningham; Sinead Beakey
Saturday	10:00am Patrick & Anna Mary Marley, Evelyn, Bob & Joanne Bateson, Cillian Marley
Sunday 21st June	10:00am Kathleen Everitt <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Frank Stack



Important Notices

1. Cemetery Sunday has been postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. However on **Sunday June 21st** following the 10:00am Mass, (via livestream) we will recite the prayers for the blessing of the graves in **St Mary's Church**. We will bless the water which the four priests from St Mary's and Holy Family will use to sprinkle on the graves at a later stage. The **Holy Water** will be available in the church afterwards if people would like to collect some to sprinkle on their family graves. Please bring your own bottle and abide by the **social distancing** guidelines when visiting the church. Hand sanitiser is available at the entrances to the church.

The Cemetery will be open all week from 9.00am to 9.00pm to facilitate people who wish to tend to their graves in advance of the blessing. We encourage you to maintain social distancing during your visit. Anyone who would like to make a donation towards the upkeep of the cemetery can do so by clicking on our **donate** button on our website or by placing the assigned envelope in the box at the back of the church.

2. A Donate Button is now available on our parish website for anyone who wishes to make a contribution to the parish.

3. The Parish Office will be closed until further notice. For queries please phone 041.9834958.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, Adoration will take place from 10:30am - 4:30pm. There will be a Holy Hour from 5:00pm - 6:00pm via our website, finishing with Benediction.



A prayer for those who died...

Edward (Eddie) Lennon, Ard Ri, Beamore Rd.
Joe (Dode) Smith, Colpe
Johnny Kierans, Brookville
Eithne Knight (née Smith) Birmingham and
formerly Congress Avenue

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.