

# St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 17th May, 2020  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Fr Phil Gaffney PP  
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC  
St Mary's Presbytery  
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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.



At this critical moment, marked by the global health emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have rediscovered the fundamental importance of the role being played by nurses and midwives. Every day we witness the testimony of courage and sacrifice of healthcare workers, and nurses in particular, who, with professionalism, self-sacrifice, and a sense of responsibility and love for neighbour, assist people affected by the virus, even to the point of putting their own health at risk. Sadly, this can be seen in the high number of healthcare workers who have died as a result of their faithful service. I pray for them – the Lord knows each of them by name – and for all the victims of this epidemic. Nurses have historically played a central role in health care. Every day, in their contact with the sick, they experience the trauma caused by suffering in people's lives. They are men and women who have chosen to say "yes" to a very special vocation: that of being good Samaritans who are concerned for the life and suffering of others. They are guardians and preservers of life, who, even as they administer necessary treatments, offer courage, hope and trust.

You – and here I think too of midwives – are close to people at crucial moments in their existence – birth and death, disease and healing – helping them deal with traumatic situations. Sometimes you find yourself at their side as they are dying, giving comfort and relief in their last moments. Because of your dedication, you are among the "saints next door". You are an image of the Church as a "field hospital" that continues to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ, who drew near to and healed people with all kinds of sickness and who stooped down to wash the feet of his disciples. Thank you for your service to humanity!

In many countries, the pandemic has also brought to light a number of deficiencies in the provision of health care. For this reason, I would ask leaders of nations throughout the world to invest in health care as the primary common good, by strengthening its systems and employing greater numbers of nurses, so as to ensure adequate care to everyone, with respect for the dignity of each person.

I would like to say a special word to midwives who assist women in their pregnancies and help them give birth to their children. Your work is among the most noble of professions, for it is directly dedicated to the service of life and of motherhood. In the Bible, the names of two heroic midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, are immortalized in the Book of Exodus. Today, too, the heavenly Father looks to you with gratitude.

Dear nurses, dear midwives, may this annual celebration highlight the dignity of your work for the benefit of the health of society as a whole. With the assurance of my prayers for you, your families and those for whom you care, I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.

Rome, from Saint John Lateran, 12 May

## Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 17th May, 2020 will be celebrated in Private via webcam at 10:00am each day

<b>Sunday 17th May</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Margaret (Georgie) Tuite <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Brian Duff <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Hugh Hanley <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Maureen Gaffney
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Denis Mc Quillan
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	May & P.J. Costello
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Brendan Mc Cullough
<b>Sunday 24th May</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Special Intention

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

You are  
my friends!  
Remain  
in my  
Love!



O Mary,

You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.



Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*



**As yesterday was to have been your First Communion day, we are remembering you, your parents, families and teachers this weekend. We do not know when your big day will be celebrated. We hope you will continue to prepare by praying each day and join in Sunday Mass through the webcam or Television.**

**We are keeping all of you in our prayers.**



## Important Notices

- 1. Cemetery Sunday** has been postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. We hope to reschedule later in the year.
- 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.

## A prayer for those who died...



**Elizabeth (Betty) Smith (née Boyle),** Bettystown & Crufty  
**Alice Tully (née Woods),** Corporation Cottages  
**Andy McDonald,** Rathmullen Park & Marian Park  
*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.**