

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 31st May, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

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.



Pentecost Message from Archbishop Eamon to Priests, Religious and Faithful

This weekend we celebrate Pentecost – the great feast of the Holy Spirit and the “birthday” of the Christian Church. I find it sad and disappointing that we have now come the whole way through the Easter season and we are still unable to gather physically for Mass and the sacraments. We have all been making great sacrifices to protect health and life and to support the Common Good. But we miss meeting up as a parish community. Thankfully our sacrifices are bearing fruit and the number of deaths and ICU admissions from Covid-19 is continuing to decline.

I want to thank you for the work you are doing at local level to plan for the full “re-opening” of parish life and worship. Please work closely with your priests so that your parish stands ready to respond quickly when the public health authorities tell us it is safe to begin gathering together again for Mass inside our churches.

Thanks also for your response to my call for ideas and questions to help draft a National Framework Document to maximize consistency across the dioceses and parishes of Ireland. At the Standing Committee of the Bishops' Conference yesterday (meeting for the first time over video call) the Bishops agreed to refine this framework further to include a helpful checklist for parish priests and Covid-19 Parish Support Teams on physical distancing and hygiene. This will help you evaluate progress made to date and guide any necessary improvements in practice within your parish.

The Framework Document will also offer guidance on a number of important liturgical issues which many of you have been enquiring about e.g. the distribution and reception of Holy Communion; advice for con-celebrants, deacons, altar servers; best practice for extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and others who assist at Mass. At the forthcoming Episcopal Conference meeting in early June the Bishops will consider extending the current suspension of the Sunday obligation, the Sign of Peace and use of Holy Water fonts. We will also discuss the celebration of Baptism, Marriage and the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of any ongoing restrictions. It is hoped that the National Framework Document will help guide our ongoing preparations at parish and diocesan level. It will also support our continuing engagement with government and public health authorities – north and south – in making a case for the early resumption of the public celebration of Mass and the Sacraments in a measured and safe way.

God bless you and your families this Pentecost weekend. Please Stay safe. And pray safe!

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 31st May, 2020 will be celebrated in Private via webcam at 10:00am each day

Sunday 31st May	10:00am	Mary Ann Prendergast & deceased relatives & friends; Robert Tiernan
Monday	10:00am	Special Intention
Tuesday	10:00am	Special Intention
Wednesday	10:00am	Special Intention
Thursday	10:00am	Nan Reid
Friday 5th June	10:00am	First Friday - Mass for All on the Parish List of the Dead
Saturday	10:00am	Special Intention
Sunday 7th June	10:00am	Catherine Fanning <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Betty Smith <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Maureen Gaffney <i>Month's Memory</i> ; John & Mary Murray & John Murray Jnr., Deceased members of the Murray & Stafford families, Kevin Rodgers & Willie Ryan



Trócaire Boxes 2020

This time of year, we would usually get back tens of thousands of boxes but that will not be possible this year, at a time when the developing world needs our help the most. If you can, please donate online at www.trocaire.org or over the phone (1850 408 408).

Only where it is not possible to donate online are you asked to hold onto your boxes until further notice and Trócaire will be in contact about how to return them when it will be safe for people to do so.

Coronavirus, Church and You

DCU's Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education (Director, Dr. Gareth Byrne) has an important online survey recently made available. The Covid-19 pandemic has obviously had a profound effect on Church. As we pass the most severe period of lockdown, it seems a good time to assess how clergy and churchgoers have responded to the experience, and what they think the future might hold. The views of priests, religious and lay people are all welcome. To have your say go to:

<https://www.dcu.ie/materdei-centre-for-catholic-education/news/2020/May/Coronavirus-Church-You-Survey.shtml>

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.

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home for one reason or another, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses and partners grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience, the beauty of all You have created and continue learning. Amen.



A prayer for those who died...



*Ita O'Brien (Née O'Brien), Ballsgrove
Sr Mel Brady, MMM, Drogheda & Longford
Cecilia Mc Govern, Coolfore, Monasterboice
Catherine Farrell, U.S.A.*

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.