

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER



BALLYROAN CHURCHTOWN RATHFARNHAM

PARISH NEWS

Easter 2020



Holy Land



In October there is an opportunity to undertake a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with parishioners from our three parishes led by Fr Martin. The Holy Land has been a place of pilgrimage from the early fourth century. The key catalyst for this was with the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to Christianity in 313. Constantine brought to his new faith concepts of sacred places and sacred buildings. Although he never visited Jerusalem himself, the Emperor instituted an extensive building programme in Palestine and his mother Helena oversaw the 'recovery' of a number of important Christian sites. Great churches were built – on the site of the 're-discovered' tomb of Christ, on the Mount of Olives and in Bethlehem. A 'Holy Land' emerged, creating a new sacred geography which offered an added dimension of spiritual experience.

Pilgrimage was an act of penance in the Middle Ages, proof of devotion but also a holiday. It united rich and poor. While the pilgrim renounced worldly comforts, the shrines that he or she passed shown with precious reliquaries and splendid works of art.

Pilgrimage has also been defined as "a meaningful journey to a place of spiritual significance" and the practice is almost as old as history. In Ireland the pilgrim journey has strong historic resonance with early Christians coming to Clonmacnoise; medieval penitents journeying to Lough Derg and Glendalough, while others visited Skellig Michael or climbed Croagh Patrick.

EASTER MESSAGE

"All shall be well" – Julian of Norwich

As I write, April 3rd, the total number of people so far identified as having contracted the Coronavirus in the Republic of Ireland stands at 3,849 with 402 new cases yesterday and with 98 people deceased and Northern Ireland has 904 cases with 48 deaths. Sadly, by the time you will read this message in the next few days or so, these numbers will likely have soared greatly.

For all of us, this is a time of great stress, anxiety and worry, unparalleled in the life-time of even the oldest of us. Our first thoughts and prayers are very much with all those whose lives have been touched by the virus and particularly the families of all those who have lost loved ones. We recognise, too, that the lives of our entire island are being impacted severely by this pandemic; just consider the loss of so many incomes with job losses, the need to have a virtual shut down of normal life. Our economy, just about getting back into its stride after the last recession, will take a long time to recover.

In the midst of these very difficult days we need to be the people of **HOPE**. The signs of **HOPE** are very evident all around us. Just think for a few moments about the enormous goodwill, good humour and generosity that is being shown by so many right across the spectrum of life; think of the great sense of community and solidarity that is very evident.

Can any good come out of such a plague? (Did we not all think that plagues were only items of history – but not of our time!). For me, at least, the first lesson to be learned from this crisis is how very fragile is our hold on human life itself. We are not masters of all we survey, even if at times we behave as though we are. Secondly, even though we would never ever wish a crisis of such magnitude on the human family, this time is causing many people to pause, to reflect, to re-evaluate life afresh and maybe change some directions.

In a manner of speaking the suffering and death of the Holy Week has come well ahead of time this year with the Coronavirus. At the heart of Holy Week is the person of Jesus Christ who remind us that he came into the world so that we might have life and have it in all its fullness. Throughout our history, our faith in him and His Blessed Mother, have seen our people safely come through many a crisis. We are resilient people. Please God, all will be well.

Please keep safe, follow the guidelines, look out for one another and a blessed Easter to you all.

FR. MARTIN COSGROVE,
*Moderator of the Ballyroan, Churchtown and Rathfarnham
Grouping of Parishes.*

Loreto Primary School, Grange Road, Rathfarnham was the first of 72 schools in the country to open a capsule which had been buried by students 24 years ago.

1995 was the European Nature Conservation Year and Students from Loreto Primary School, Grange Road and Loreto Grammar School Omagh joined together to take part in the Project. It was lovely to have the girls from Omagh in 1996 as the Good Friday Agreement was not signed until two years later. Having students from Northern Ireland back then was important in building bridges.

Both Schools came together in February 1996 to bury copies of letters, photographs, newspaper cuttings, and their views on what life might be like in 2020. The time capsule held predications and a vision for the future from not only the students but other contributors including Cardinal Cathal Daly RIP, Archbishop Eames Armagh, Bishop Eamonn Walsh our area Bishop, Gay Byrne RIP, Lady in Waiting to the Queen, Joe Duffy, Seamus Heaney RIP to name a few. Other contributors were students, staff, parents, past pupils and Loreto Sisters. President Mary Robinson was there in 1996 to help bury the capsule.

31st January 2020 was a wonderful day of celebration and anticipation as the capsule was opened. Thankfully all enclosures survived in wonderful condition. There was also a tape with interviews. The Class of 1996 interviewed Teachers, our organist Ms Marie Cruise and our former parish Priest Fr. Joe Hanlon RIP.

Past pupils from both schools attended on the day and were welcomed by the Student Council and entertained by the Fourth Classes with a song Forever Loreto and a Loreto Rap. We all processed out to the burial site of the Capsule cheered on by the 500 Present Pupils.

As part of the Celebrations there was a prayer service. Candles were lit in memory of Deborah Denby RIP, past-pupil of the Class of 1996 from Loreto Grange Road and parishioner of Rathfarnham, who had died. Another candle was lit for Sheryl Heaney RIP, past-pupil of the Class of 1996 from P8 Loreto Omagh and her sister Tara who had died. A third candle was lit in memory of all past teachers, parents and pupils of Loreto.

It was truly a wonderful celebration and walk down memory lane and a wonderful feeling of "once a Loreto girl always a Loreto girl".

Hurricane Ciara

On Saturday night, February 8th the strong winds of hurricane Ciara visited Rathfarnham and in particular the parish house on Willbrook Road. The wind caused the majestic Monkey Puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) to crash on Fr. Martin's side of the house and caused considerable damage to the upper portion of the house both outside and inside. Thankfully while there were several people in the house at the time nobody was injured.



Some initial work to repair the exposed part of the roof has already been done, but all the internal repairs and redecoration remains to be done post Coronavirus. The cost is substantial, but I guess that is one of the reasons why we take out insurance.

It has left a mess and some inconvenience but in the light of the crisis we are living with at this time it is a relatively minor matter. Finally, may I say a very special thank you to those parishioners who came to my aid that evening and the following days to help make the house habitable again.

Fr. MARTIN COSGROVE

Good Shephard National School, Churchtown Trip to Glendalough – February 2020

Children who are preparing for their Confirmation this year visited the beautiful surroundings of Glendalough, Co. Wicklow to take part in a pilgrimage around the monastic settlement of St. Kevin. We followed in the footsteps of those who used this area as a place of worship long ago. We saw the amazing structures that still stand, such as the cathedral, the round tower and the cemetery. The children took the time to reflect on their lives, on their personal journey and on their hopes for the future thanks to our wonderful guides Ruth and Collette. We also experienced the visitor centre where many artefacts from the area are kept.



MASS MEDIA



Fr. Martin Cosgrove says
Mass in the empty
Church of the Annunciation in
Rathfarnham,
Dublin,
as Masses are streamed over
the internet due to Covid-19.

**The Irish Times
March 31st 2020**

Photograph: Aidan Crawley/EPA



The bi-annual India Immersion Project



The bi-annual India Immersion Project sends pupils from Coláiste Éanna to Calcutta to volunteer in the city with a number of organisations and to immerse themselves in Indian culture. We are so proud of all our young men who fundraised, travelled and made a difference for the people they met. Alex and Sean share their story. Full details of the trip can be found on the handouts in Ballyroan Church.

Ceremony of Light with our children and families preparing for Confirmation



Children from Loreto Girls school and
St Mary's boys school with their parents

The lighted candles are symbols of the faith that parents pass on to their children. At baptism they took the light of faith from the paschal candle on behalf of their infant children. Now as Confirmation approaches and the last step that our young people take in becoming fully members of the Christian community. They will take responsibility for their own faith relationship with our loving God.

Children from Ballyroan Boys School
with their parents.



Children from Scoil Naomh Pdraig
with their parents.



Easter 2020 Schedule –

Please note: All Masses/Services will be broadcast on the related Churches webcam with no congregation present.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BALLYROAN

Holy Thursday:	7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday:	12pm Stations of the Cross 3pm The Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday:	7pm Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday:	10am Mass

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, CHURCHTOWN

Palm Sunday April 5th:	12 noon Mass
Monday April 6th:	11-5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Web Only)
Tuesday April 7th:	10am Mass 11-5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Web Only)
Wednesday April 8th:	10am Mass 11-5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Web Only)
Holy Thursday April 9th:	10am Morning Prayer 7.15pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday April 10th:	10am Morning Prayer 3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday April 11th:	10am Morning Prayer 7.15pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday April 12th:	12 noon Mass

CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION, RATHFARNHAM

Monday 6 April:	10am Mass
Tuesday 7 April:	10am Mass 7.30pm Celebration of Reconciliation in Holy Week
Wednesday 8 April:	10am Mass
Holy Thursday:	7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Please Note: There will be no Watch & Pray.
Good Friday:	Please Note: The Ecumenical Walk for Justice and the Taizé Prayer around the Cross have been cancelled due to Government guidelines. 12pm Child Friendly Stations of the Cross 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday:	Please Note: Confession has been cancelled due to Government guidelines. 9pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday:	Please Note: The Sunrise Celebration has been cancelled due to Government guidelines. 10.45am Mass
Easter Monday:	11am Mass

From Tuesday 14th April – Mass times resume as normal.

Easter on RTÉ Television and Radio

HOLY THURSDAY 9 APRIL

4.40pm-5.35pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Father Ray Kelly, Parish Priest of Oldcastle & Moylagh, Diocese of Meath, to celebrate Mass in commemoration of the Last Supper and Christ's agony in Gethsemane, from the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar. (RTÉ One TV and RTÉ Radio 1 Extra / LW252 / Digital Radio platforms. The Mass will air on radio at the later time of 7pm).

GOOD FRIDAY 10 APRIL

3pm-4pm

Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday

Live from the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar, Diocese of Meath, Father Derek Darby commemorates the Passion and Death of Christ, observing full health and social distancing protocols. (RTÉ One TV & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252).

HOLY SATURDAY 11 APRIL

10pm-11pm

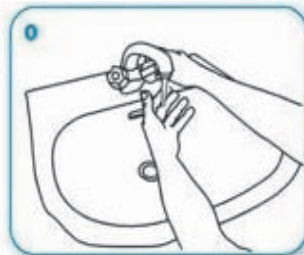
Easter Vigil Mass

Bishop Tom Deenihan of Meath celebrates the Resurrection of Christ, with a vigil Mass in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar. Beginning with the lighting of the Paschal candle, the liturgy, which signifies the triumph of light over darkness and of life over death (RTÉ Two & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252).

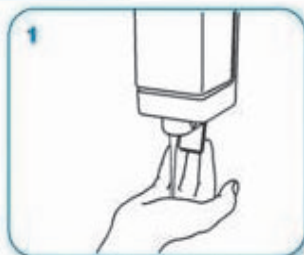
How to handwash Catholic Style!



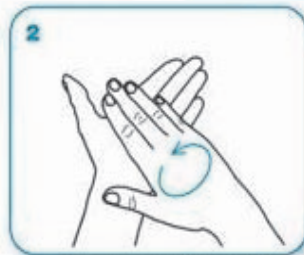
30-45 second wash time



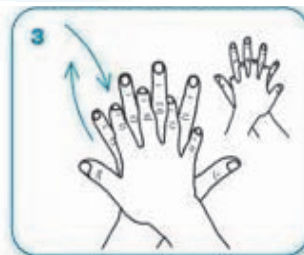
I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.



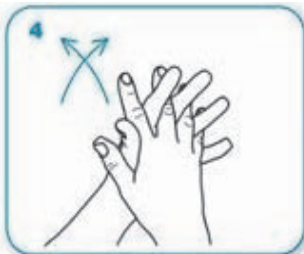
and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord,



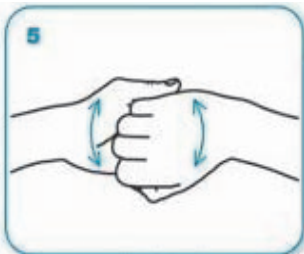
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,



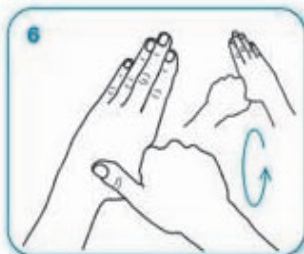
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;



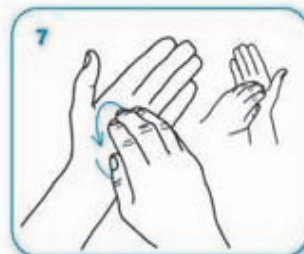
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose
again from the dead;



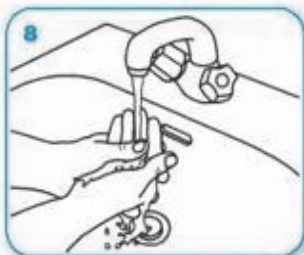
He ascended into heaven,



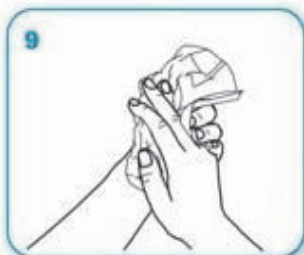
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;



from there He will come to
judge the living and the dead.



I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,



the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,



the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.



Amen.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

Useful Spiritual Resources (particularly at a time when many of us are self-isolating, and public Mass is not available for larger groups).

Sacred Space is a free APP developed by the Jesuits based on the spirituality of Ignatius Loyola, which emphasises seeing God in all things. The APP guides you through a prayer session in six stages.

Universalis is an APP that costs a few euros but is well worth it. It provides all the readings for Mass, the liturgy of the hours/ morning and evening prayers of the Church, and information about all the feast days.

Spirit Radio is an Irish Christian radio station 89.9fm and has some excellent interviews and uplifting music, & podcasts www.spiritradio.ie

MASS ON TV

In response to Covid-19-related restrictions on public gatherings, RTÉ will air Mass every weekday at 10.30am on RTÉ News Now and on Sunday at 11am on RTÉ One. RTÉ News Now can be accessed on Saorview (channel 21), Sky (521), Virgin Media (200), Eir (517) as well as via the RTÉ Player, the RTÉ News Now app and via RTÉ.ie/news.

Fr Gerard W. Hughes SJ:

God of Surprises: In Hughes' own words 'this book has only one purpose – to suggest some ways of detecting the hidden treasure in what you may consider a most unlikely field, yourself.' A bestselling book that has been described as one of the great books of spiritual guidance.

Fr Finbarr Lynch SJ:

When You Pray: The book had its beginnings in a series of ten-minute talks on prayer for those attending spiritual retreats.

To keep up to date with the latest on religious life you can visit the following websites or twitter accounts.

Pope Francis

@pontifex on Twitter

www.dublindiocese.ie

@DublinDiocese on Twitter

www.catholicbishops.ie/

@CatholicBishops on Twitter

Prayer in time of Pandemic

Prayer in time of Pandemic

Loving and healing God,
we, the people of Ireland turn to you in prayer,
confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment.
We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection.
May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.

Generous God,
fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old,
that we may look after one another in these challenging days.
Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families.
May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace.
Comfort their family and friends.
Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick
and all who work in our medical facilities.
Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance
that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people.
We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days
ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all.
Bless them and keep them safe.

O God of creation and life,
we place ourselves in your protection.
May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and in the days ahead.

Family Prayer in time of Pandemic

Lord Jesus Christ,
you travelled through towns
and villages "curing every
disease and illness."

At your command the sick
were made well again.

Come to our aid now, in the
midst of the global spread of
this virus, that we may
experience your healing love.

Lord, healer of all, stay by our
side in this time of uncertainty
and give us your peace.

In your mercy Lord, hear our
prayer.

Prayer for 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,
Please come spiritually into
my heart.

I embrace you now, as if you
were already there and I
unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be
separated from you.

Amen

Prayer for those affected by the virus

*(adapted from the catholic
Bishops of England and Wales)*

Merciful God,
come to the help of your
people.

Be our shelter in this time
of peril and strengthen the
bonds of our community.

Bring healing to all who
suffer the ravages of
disease and assist those
whose skill and art can put
an end to this affliction.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.