

Errigal Parish News – Solemnity of Easter Sunday



St. Mary's Church:

Mass – Tuesday at 7pm and Thursday at 10am.

St. Joseph's Church:

Mass – Monday (Wedding) Wednesday at 7pm.

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Easter 2021

We extend a warm welcome to those who have travelled home to be with family and friends and to those who are visitors among us during these Easter Days.

Thanks: May we express our thanks to all who participated in the ceremonies of Holy Week. We hope they afforded you the opportunity of reflection on the Passion Story and the journey to these days of Resurrection.

‘Alleluia

The Lord is Risen!

Alleluia’

Thanks especially to our sacristans, church cleaners, altar society, flower arrangers those who clean the altar linen – many thanks. We also thank those who read the Word of God (lectors) enhanced the liturgy with music, the Eucharistic Ministers, also the church collectors and counters, stewards/ushers. A special thanks also to those who have contributed in any way to the decoration of each church during Lent and Easter.

Easter Reflection: 'The Hope of The World'

'An empty tomb ... a stone rolled away. Speak of the Saviour who rose Easter Day ... And that was centuries and centuries ago. And we ask today was it so? Did He walk on earth, and live and die? And return to his Father, to dwell on high? We were not there to hear or see. But our hopes and dreams of eternity ... are centred around the Easter Story. When Christ ascended and rose in glory ... And life on earth has not been the same. Regardless of what the sceptics claim ... For, after the Lord was crucified, for even the ones who had scoffed and denied, knew that something had taken place. That nothing could ever remove or erase ... for hope was born in each of our souls. And faith to believe in God's 'master plan', stirred in the hearts to dispel doubts and fear. And that faith has grown with each passing year ... For the hope we have is 'The Easter Story'. For life is robbed of all meaning and glory. Unless we know that he has a 'goal'. And a 'resting place', for our searching soul.

Easter Water: Is available in the container in the porch of each church for the next two weeks.

'Easter Prayer' God give us eyes to see the beauty of the Spring. And to behold Your majesty in every living thing - And may we see in lazy leaves and every budding flower. The hand that rules the universe with gentleness and power - And may this Easter grandeur that Spring lavishly imparts. Awaken faded flowers of faith lying dormant in our hearts. And give us ears to hear, dear God, the Springtime song of birds. With messages more meaningful, than our often-empty words. Telling harried human beings, who are lost in deep despair - 'Be like us and do not worry for God has you in His care'.

Easter: - Paschal Candle: The Flame of the Paschal Candle symbolizes Christ's illuminating light, and His presence in the midst of his people. The Paschal Candle is sometimes referred to as the Easter Candle or the 'Christ Candle'. The term 'Paschal' comes from the word 'Pesach' which in Hebrew means '**Passover**'. The tall white candle in many ways signifies the Divine pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night that led the Israelites in their exodus from slavery in Egypt.

The Easter Vigil takes place after dusk in the darkness of the night the paschal fire is lit and from it the 'Easter Candle' is lit and brought in procession into a darkened church. The candle illuminated represents the 'Risen Christ as the light of the world'. Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th inclusively. Easter is a movable feast decreed from the Council of Nicea (325) which established the Feast of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the vernal equinox. The celebration of Easter is prolonged throughout the Easter Season. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday (this year which falls on the 23rd May) are celebrated as one feast, the 'Great Sunday'.

Easter Resources and Activities: In which parishioners can join online, watch on TV or listen to on radio. These include live Easter broadcasts from the Vatican with Pope Francis, live Mass broadcasts from Knock Shrine, films for Easter, downloadable activities for children, prayers for use in your home, instructions on creating an Easter garden and much more. To view, visit: www.derrydiocese.org/easter

Trócaire Boxes: Please return to the churches in the parish as soon as possible so that the count can take place.

WELCOME RETURN TO A CAUTIOUS GATHERING IN OUR CHURCHES:

Statement by the Northern Bishops announcing that public worship may resume in Northern Ireland from Friday, 26 March 2021.

Date of statement: 17th MARCH 2021

- **Bishops in the North announce a cautious return to public worship for the faithful from 26th March, in time for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter.**
- **Bishops emphasise the need for continued caution and a rigorous application of all mitigations and safeguards required to ensure the safest possible return to public worship in our Churches.**
- **Every person should consider carefully if returning to collective worship is the safe and appropriate step for them, at this time. Families are encouraged to join those celebrating the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus in churches, from the 'domestic church' of their own living rooms, *via* live-streaming.**

- **Bishops, together with other Church leaders, encourage all on Easter Sunday to pray and reflect in a spirit of remembering, solidarity and hope in the context of the current pandemic.**
- **FULL STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE ON THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE – www.derrydiocese.org**

It is important as has been achieved previously with safety guidelines, that we open both of our churches at the same time. Hence with the following precautions we shall return to our normal weekend schedule effective from next weekend -

The following directives apply as before for the foreseeable future. **1.** Wearing of facial coverings unless you are except. **2.** Respecting Social Distancing, **3.** Use of sanitizer upon entering and leaving the church. **4.** Limited Numbers in choir and in the Church. (Empty seat in front and behind the seat that is occupied). **5.** Provision of stewards and ushers in and outside the church. **6.** Directions offered by the stewards/ushers to leave the church safely. **NB – The numbers present at funerals and weddings remain unchanged at twenty-five.**

The bulletin is available at the back of the church each weekend. Presently it is not recommended that we provide missalettes in the church.

St. Joseph's Church Glenullin (Renovation Committee): We hope everyone in the area recently received a letter regarding contributions to the parish and specifically to the Renovation Fund, and a form for you to indicate your preferred option for donations. In response to this, parishioners will call to houses around Glenullin the week beginning the 5th April to collect these envelopes. We request that you place your name and details in the sealed envelope provided. We thank you all for your continued support. If the letter has been misplaced further copies are available in the sacristy. **Renovation Committee.**

CLARIFICATION – Apparently there is some difficulty with registering with on-line banking. (Errigal Glenullin: Sort Code - 950346 Account No. 90062596 is the No 1 a/c) Errigal Parish: Sort Code 950689 – Account No. 90083712 is the Renovation a/c). Details as provided in the letter circulated, it would seem the title of the account is where the problem arises. Account titles are in red as stated above.

Parish Collections - Thank you. (In the brackets monthly direct debits and collections for the month for March).

340 boxes of envelopes in circulation. Returns - (Pink 430/White 290)

St. Mary's - Parish: £3,333.00 (£280) Renovation £1933.00 (£55)

St. Joseph's - Parish £3,170.00 (£252) Renovation £2,535.00 (£280)

IMPORTANT NOTICE – It is now mandatory as a directive received from the Department of Health via the Diocesan Office that all Services presently permitted in the church ie (Funerals, Wedding's, and Baptisms) to proceed must be recorded through the medium of 'Track and Trace'. Hence, we now must in advance receive the names and contact telephone numbers of those attending Services in our churches.

Parish Envelopes: The new box of parish collection envelopes are in use from this weekend. In recent years as previously stated a lot of work to update the parish data base has provided the information required for the distribution of envelope boxes, hence the computer will provide the list for distribution upon usage. There are a substantial number of boxes in

circulation in the parish presently un-used, this is the case even prior to Covid-19. Following discussion with the Parish Finance Committee we encourage consideration for those who use envelopes infrequently to consider the use of a standing order, (through this medium you have full control), of the donation at your disposal. Further information is available from the parish website.

Parish Finance: If you wish to contribute to the parish by standing order - forms can be forwarded upon request by sending an email to - errigalparish@gmail.com At the end of each month we shall include in the collection figures the amounts relating to the increase in standing orders, these figures are stated in brackets.

Baptisms: Baptisms will continue in April and we offer the following dates for both churches.

St. Mary's Church – Saturday 17th April at 5pm. St. Joseph's Church – Sunday 25th April at 12.30pm.

NOTE – There are restrictions in place regarding the amount of people who can gather to celebrate the Sacrament.

Baptisms: We welcome into the parish community Evie Marie Downs, 53 Ballygawley Road, Aghadowey and Aoibheann Grace O'Kane, 19 Glenview who were baptised last weekend.

Wedding Joy: We extend our congratulation and good wishes to Shonagh O'Neill and Mark Gormley who were married last weekend.

St. Mary's Church Readers – 10th/11th April
Vigil 6pm. – Aoife Wade.

Sunday 10am. – John Mullan.

Eucharistic Ministers – 10th/11th April

Vigil 6pm. – Irene McIntyre & Don Robinson.

Sunday 10am. - Amanda Ferris & Kate Lagan.

St. Joseph's Church Readers – 10th/11th April

Vigil 7.30pm. – Rachel O'Kane.

Sunday 11.30am. - Lawrence O'Kane.

Eucharistic Ministers – 10th/11th April

Vigil 7.30pm. – Grainne O'Kane & Maria Healy.

Sunday 11.30am. – John Heaney & Nadine McNicholl.

St. Joseph's Church – Rosary & Divine Mercy: Every Wednesday evening at 7pm.
Everyone welcome.

Divine Mercy Novena: Prayed for the nine days from Good Friday (2 April) until the first Saturday of Easter (10 April), leading into Divine Mercy Sunday (11 April). For those who would like to join in the Novena but do not have a copy of it, it can be accessed on: <https://divinemercy.life/the-divine-mercy-novena/>

Sacrament of Initiation Dates 2021: Sacrament of Confirmation (provisional) - will take place in St. Mary's Church on Saturday 5th June at 11am. (Further details will follow).

First Communion – is postponed until September upon advice Bishop McKeown has received in recent days.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Following enquires regarding the reception of this Sacrament (Confession) provision can be accommodated respecting social distancing and wearing a facial mask, by arrangement either in the space proved in the church or alternatively in the Parochial House.

Stamp Boxes: There is a box at the back of each church for the collection of used stamps for the missions.

Sacraments of Initiation: MyFaith.ie is a parish-based programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It releases new modules every two weeks or so as the children and their families prepare for the Sacraments. Each module begins with a short lesson - for parents - on the content of that module before the next item, a taught lesson for the children. The programme is highly interactive, and learning is reinforced through challenges, quizzes and interactive games which are scored but can be repeated indefinitely. This is offered to parents/guardians as a format of instruction during the pandemic.

Face Coverings/Numbers at Services: We request the wearing of face coverings as they are now mandatory upon entering and leaving the church. Some people are exempt from the wearing of face coverings, even in situations which would otherwise be mandatory. Please continue to observe social distancing, to use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving each of our churches.

Diocesan Paper 'The Net': The April edition of 'The Net' is now available online, on the parish website. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles, and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read 'The Net', on the diocesan or parish website, at your convenience. To forward items of our parish or faith activities - email: editorthenet15@gmail.com or ring/text 07809292852.

Preparing for Marriage? - Accord Derry: Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme - (limited to 15 couples per course). Booking now online at www.accordni.com. Course Dates July 6th/7th August 10th/11th Sept 14th/15th Oct 12th/13th Nov 9th/10th Dec 7th/8th.

Anniversary Masses: Anniversary Masses/Month's Mind Masses either to be booked or to be added to the weekend list, need to be recorded in the Anniversary Book in each sacristy. As is the custom previously established, the requested Masses can take place during the week or at the weekend, when the date is available. It is advisable were possible to book well in advance in the case of anniversaries. **In the case of a booked Anniversary Mass please inquire of the sacristan before the Mass begins that the Mass is offered for the intention you request.**

Derry Diocesan Society (DDS): In each of the parishes of the diocese Mass is offered alternating in each parish (list at the back of each church) for deceased and living members who are registered in the society. The deceased members registered are remembered in the anniversary list for three consecutive weekends each quarter (three months). Registration is £20 and can be given to a sacristan or Fr. Crowley - please ensure name and address of the person to be enrolled, and whether it is for a living or deceased member.

Prayer for our Parish in Challenging Times: God of love, we the people of the Parish of Errigal, turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as a people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

Healing God - Bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and loved ones. We pray especially with those who are isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Generous and Merciful God: Fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear!

God of Strength: Accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical and nursing professions and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of their communities. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

Ballerin GAA Lotto: There was no winner of the Lotto the No's were 1, 4, 8, and 15. J/P £10,000 2nd J/P £10,000. 3rd J/P £1700 (approx.) £50 winner Shirlee Mullan (online winner).

Granaghan & District Woman's Group Swatragh: We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy but above all, safe Easter. Our Self-Care Hour sessions with Dr Anne and our Open Doors Club will continue after Easter via Zoom. You are welcome to visit our Facebook Page: Gdwtg Swatragh or our Instagram Account @gdwtg-swatragh for more information.

Church Safeguarding: If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact: Noel O'Donnell, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, 71362475, mobile 07596500793 or Celine McKenna, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, 71362475, mobile 07707311358 or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services.

An Easter Prayer for Peace: Our Father, up in heaven, hear this Easter prayer. May the people of all nations, be united in thy care. For earth's peace and our salvation, can come only by thy grace. And not through bombs and missiles, and our quest for outer space ... For until we all recognise that 'the battle is the Lord's'. And peace on earth cannot be won, with strategy and swords. We will go on vainly fighting, as we have in ages past. Finding only empty victories and a peace that cannot last ... But we're grown so rich and mighty, and so arrogantly strong. We no longer ask in humbleness - 'God, show us where we're wrong' ... We have come to trust completely in the power of man-made things. Unmindful of God's mighty power, and that he is, 'King of Kings' ... We have turned our eyes from him, to go our selfish way. And money, power, and pleasure, are the gods we serve today ... And the good green earth God give us, to peacefully enjoy. Through greed and fear and hatred, we are seeking to destroy ... Oh, Father, up in heaven, stir and awake our sleeping souls. Renew our faith and life us up and give us higher goals. And grant us heavenly guidance, as Easter comes again. For, more than guided missiles, all the world needs is guided people to lead in your name.