

Errigal Parish News – 21st March 2021

Weekday Masses:

St. Mary's Church: Monday at 7pm. Tuesday through Friday at 10am.

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 -

Vigil of Palm Sunday. Saturday Vigils - 6pm St. Mary's Church. 7.30pm St. Joseph's Church. Sunday – St. Mary's Church 10am. St. Joseph's Church 11.30am.

The following directives apply as before for the foreseeable future. **1.** Wearing of facial coverings unless you are exempt. **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 will return next weekend for Holy Week. Presently it is not recommended that we provide missalettes in the church.

Holy Week – Palm (Passion Sunday): Palms will be blessed at all Masses next weekend. Holy Week beginning next weekend, is most definitely a very sacred time of the year, for it is now that we will commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. These are the days leading up to the great Easter Feast. The Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial is about to come to an end, but Holy Week is extremely important to all Christians.

The greatest focus of the week is the Passion (suffering) and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it. Historical documents tell us that as early as the fourth century the Church celebrated this 'Great Week' with a feeling of profound sanctity. It begins with Palm Sunday which marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The central feature of the service proper to this day, as it was in the earliest times, is the procession/blessing of palm branches. It has added significance this year due to the pandemic, and because there was no active participation in the liturgies of Holy Week last year.

St. Joseph's Church Glenullin: A letter from the St. Joseph's Renovation Committee is in circulation in the Glenullin area of the parish, it is self-explanatory. As stated, responses will be collected after Easter by authorised members of the community. Thank you in anticipation of a favourable response.

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 presently in circulation in the parish. 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: Thank you to those in recent months who continue to contribute to the parish finances by cheque/parish envelopes. Parishioners have found imaginative ways of returning envelopes via the post box at each Parochial House or by post. We thank you for your donations received to date and acknowledge your generosity during these times. All donations are recorded accordingly. (Cheques can be made payable to Parish of Errigal).

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.

Stations of the Cross: Are an ancient part of our Catholic tradition. They help us to enter more fully into the season of Lent. The Stations of the Cross will take place on the first five Sundays of Lent alternating between St. Mary's Church and St. Joseph's Church. **Stations of the Cross - St. Mary's Church next Sunday at 5pm (via the webcam).**

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

St. Joseph's Church – Sunday 28th March at 12noon. A date for St. Mary's Church will be offered after Easter.

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

St. Mary's Church Readers – 27th/28th March

Vigil 6pm. – Paul Mullan.

Sunday 10am. – Carol Ann McLaughlin.

St. Joseph's Church Readers – 27th/28th March

Vigil 7.30pm. – Roisin McGinley.

Sunday 11.30am. – Adrian Cullerton.

Notification of Readers will be facilitated by the Co-Ordinator for Palm Sunday.

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

Everyone welcome.

Dates of Passover and Easter: At the Council of Nicea in 325, the date for Easter was fixed as the Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox. Sunday 4th April 2021 is the Feast of Easter. Eastern Christians calculate the date of Easter according to the Julian calendar, the calendar in general use before the Gregorian reform of 1582. One of the reforms was the removal of ten days from the calendar and this discrepancy between the Julian and the Gregorian calendars results often in a difference in the date for Easter in East and West as they follow the two calendars. This happens in 2021 when the date for Easter for Eastern Christians is Sunday 2nd May.

The feast of Passover is a seven-day feast, beginning at sundown on the evening of 27th March (14 Nisan 5781).

SEASON OF LENT:

Trócaire: Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. Families like Awut and Ajak's in South Sudan need your support now more than ever. Trócaire are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on www.trocaire.org and donations can be made to the Lent campaign in the following ways: 1. By collecting a Trócaire box in the church 2. Online at www.trocaire.org 3. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI) The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Trócaire Boxes: Are available in each of the church porches, you are invited to take one home with you when it is convenient for you to collect one. The Trócaire Bank details for Northern Ireland are: Sorting Code: 93.80.92 Account No: 8822 7020.

Any donation received before 16th May will be doubled by the UK government. We hope to be able to support thousands of people in South Sudan to grow enough food to feed their families.

AWUT'S STORY - Her painful trek to escape violence, hunger, and thirst in South Sudan. Families at times survive on wild fruits and greens. And for Awut, who is a widow caring for her own children and the orphan children of family members who lost their lives, it is even tougher. In war, woman and children often suffer most of all. They try to stay strong. But they lack so many of life's basics. Proper shelter. Food. Access to clean water, healthcare.

AJAK STORY – Ajak is a widowed mother who is moving heaven and earth to provide for her family, despite the poverty and constant threat of violence that surrounds them in Southern Sudan. And she will never forget Awut, who became her friend and lifted her

family up when they had nothing. Even with the two mothers sharing all they have, there is nowhere near enough.

(Testimonies from story told in the Trócaire info contained in the envelope).

PLEASE HELP WAR-WEARY FAMILIES LIKE AJAK AND AWUT'S TO SURVIVE AND TRIVE. GIVE THIS LENT, AND LET YOUR LOVE CONQUER FEAR IN SOUTH SUDAN.

Mini-Lenten Retreat in preparation for Holy Week: In preparation for the Easter Triduum, 'The Hook of Faith' is happy to offer a 'Mini-Lenten Retreat in Preparation for Holy Week' on Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March. The retreat will be held on Zoom and will be led by Fr Billy Swan. Each conference begins at 8pm. The three conferences will anticipate the Triduum and will therefore focus on the Eucharist (Tuesday, 23rd); the Cross and the Mystery of Suffering (Wednesday, 24th); the Resurrection, Joy and Hope (Thursday, 25th). To take part, send an email to: thehookoffaith@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Diocesan Lenten Prayer: Loving Father, to prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your Kingdom to the world Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the quiet of the desert. In these Lenten days, we pray that we will be guided by that same Spirit, to a place of renewal in our heart and mind, so that I will seek opportunities for daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of kindness. With Your help, may we too be truly prepared to share in the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Diocesan and Parish Resources for Lent 2021: Throughout Lent resources and parish events for Lent 2020 will be published on the diocesan website and its social media channels. Each week of Lent I will provide a reflection on the Sunday Gospel. You are encouraged to follow and share these resources in your parish(es) at: **Web:** www.derrydiocese.org **Instagram:** @DioceseOfDerry **Twitter:** @DioceseOfDerry **Facebook:** @derrydiocese

LENT 2021: The diocese is promoting through virtual communication opportunities for discernment during Lent. '**Walking with Jesus along the Via Dolorosa - LENT 2021**'. This five-week programme for Lent includes a Gospel Reading, Reflective Prayer and Scriptural Rosary. In the Season of Lent, it is an opportunity to encourage prayer in the home and a deeper understanding of our faith. In the coming days and throughout Lent more prayer resources and activities will be shared on the diocesan website and the diocesan social media channels. You can follow the resources as they are published at this link: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/categories/lent-2021>

Knock Shrine: To host special online faith discussions during Lent under the title 'Living Christian Faith – Lenten Conversations'. The conversations will explore a different theme each week and guest speakers will discuss some of the important questions we all face in living out our faith. The talks are streamed at 8.30pm each Thursday during Lent at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live or on Facebook @knockshrine.

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

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 provided in the church or alternatively in the Parochial House.

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

First Communion - St. Columba's School Saturday 24th April at 11am. St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's School Saturday 15th May at 11am.

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 March 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.

Preparing for Marriage? Catholic Engaged Encounter: A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 27th-28th March. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. Information/Booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028 276 38512.

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.

Feasts during the Week: Thursday – Annunciation of the Lord: '(Giving her consent to God's word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus. Espousing the divine will for salvation wholeheartedly, without a single sin to restrain her, she gave herself entirely to the person and to the work of her Son; she did so in order to serve the mystery of redemption with him and dependent on him, by God's grace'. (CCC, 494)

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 where 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 8, 10, 24, and 27. J/P £10,000 2nd J/P £10,000. £50 winner Connor & Ronan Bradley.

Granaghan & District Woman's Group Swatragh: Just a wee update for everyone.... we currently have sessions of Baby Yoga and Massage, Demo Cookery, Evening Crochet, Morning Yoga, Evening Yoga, Morning Pilates and Evening Pilates, Morning Tai Chi, our Open Doors club, Paddy Brosnan's Mindfulness and Meditation and our Self-Care Hour sessions all being delivered LIVE via Zoom or Facebook each and every week. Why don't you visit our Facebook Page: Gdwg Swatragh or our Instagram Account @gdwg_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.