



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion [Year A] (5th April, 2020)



Thought for the Week: "True justice comes about in people's lives when they themselves are just in their decisions; it is expressed in their pursuit of justice for the poor and the weak.

Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness (section 79)

Liturgy Schedule for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum [Year A] (5th April – 12th April)

Saturday 4th April	Facebook Live	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday: Jim McCrory (2 nd)
Sunday 5th April	Facebook Live	11.00am	Mass (Missa Pro Populo)
Palm Sunday [Year A]		3.00pm	Devotions including Rosary
Monday 6th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		12 noon	Angelus and Rosary
		6.30pm	Penitential Service for Children
Tuesday 7th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		12 noon	Angelus and Rosary
		6.30pm	Penitential Service for Teenagers
Wednesday 8th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Mass
		12 noon	Angelus and Rosary
		5.00pm – 6.45pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament with Reflection / Benediction at 6.45pm
		7.30pm	Penitential Service for Adults

Easter Triduum: This year our celebrations of Holy Week will be very different.

For yourselves who are able you can follow the parish ceremonies.

Thursday 9th April	St. Eugene's Cathedral (webcam)	10.00am	Chrism Mass
Holy Thursday	Facebook Live	7.30pm	Mass of Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until 9.00pm with Rosary and Night Prayer
Friday 10th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Morning Prayer and Rosary
Good Friday		3.00pm	Celebration of Lord's Passion and Veneration of Cross in Parish
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 11th April	Facebook Live	10.00am	Morning Prayer and Rosary
Holy Saturday		9.00pm	Easter Vigil Night Prayer and Reflection
Sunday 12th April	Facebook Live	11.00am	Easter Sunday Mass followed by Angelus and Rosary
Resurrection of Lord [Year A]			

Remembering our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Jim McCrory (2nd)** and **Joe McGarvey (12th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time and for those who have died due to the coronavirus.

Anniversary Masses and Names: As mass continues to be celebrated every day from the Parochial House Oratory it is still possible to request a mass for deceased loved ones. They can be offered as the intention for the mass on each day apart from Sunday which is Missa pro Populo (Mass for the People of the Parish). You can also continue to have the names of the deceased prayed for at the weekend masses and included in the Parish Bulletin Online / Facebook and in the restricted number of printed copies. Call Fr. Gallagher on (028) 8164 8474 or leave a note at the Parochial House or in the new letterbox on the side door of the Sacristy facing the road.

Parish Envelopes: Thank you once more to all who have left off their parish envelopes at the three drop off points- Parochial House, Sacristy Letterbox and Broughderg Post Office. I ask that if you intend to make this delivery in the time ahead to do so as part of an essential visit for shopping etc. As this weekend marks the last envelope in your box can you please take note of your envelope number and from next weekend (Easter Sunday) place your contributions into an ordinary envelope and write your envelope number onto it and return as indicated above. If you need to find out your number please contact me by phone, email or Messenger and I will endeavour to get it for you. *Thanks for your continuing generosity to the parish during these tough financial times for families*

Next Week's Readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43 • Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23, R/ v24 • Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9 • Lectionary 1:417 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Closure of Parish Churches and Graveyards: Earlier this week, in line with this weekend's announcement under Emergency Powers used by the Executive our parish churches and graveyards were closed. It was one of the saddest occasions in my entire priesthood to have to enact. This means that our parish churches and graveyards will only be opened in the case of a funeral or burial. This decision will be reviewed by Saturday 18th April, by which time Bishop Donal and others will have made representations on the matter. I know this will mean a further tsunami of sadness will sweep across our lives, however we hope and pray that this is a short-term and temporary measure. May God give us all the strength we need to carry us through these really difficult times. *Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP*

Easter Triduum: The Congregation for Divine Worship in Rome has issued several decrees concerning the celebration of Holy Week in the present situation. The decrees state that certain ceremonies can only take place in a cathedral or church. On Holy Thursday morning the Mass of Chrism will be streamed live from St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry celebrated by Bishop McKeown, our Mass of the Lord's Supper from the Parochial House Oratory will be celebrated without the Washing of the Feet and final Procession with the Blessed Sacrament. The Adoration will take place with the Ciborium/Pyx in the Tabernacle. The Good Friday ceremony will take place with only the celebrant venerating the cross. No Easter Vigil Mass is permitted outside a cathedral or church so a shorter service of Night Prayer will take place in our Oratory.

Check for availability of services on Facebook, parish website, RTÉ TV and radio, EWTN, Radio Maria, elsewhere

Rosary Walk: I will be continuing to walk and pray around the Parish this coming week from 7.00pm as indicated below. This is a solitary walk so please do not attempt to join me as you can understand the need for Social Distancing. Feel free to come to your door or window and give me a wave as many did in solidarity this past week. Thanks to all for the encouragement and prayers. During the walk I will be praying the Rosary continuously for the Physical, Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of the Parish during these difficult and challenging times. An earlier live recording of the Rosary will be available on our Parish Facebook and website pages.

Feel free as a family and individuals to unite yourself with me during that time in this special prayer opportunity

Monday 6th April Greencastle Road/Cashel Road junction(at Coyle's) up the Greencastle Road to its other junction with Cashel Road(near Conways) back around to starting point and left onto Greencastle Road, right onto Aghnamerrigan Road, right onto Aghaboy Road to near parish border, right onto Greencastle Road returning to starting point.

Tuesday 7th April Carnrancy/Greencastle Road junction heading through Muninamale for Glenhull and into Mill Cottages, turning right onto Gorticashel Road, right onto Carnrancy Road

Thought and Prayer for Holy Week: Reflect, today, upon the contrast of emotions from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Ponder the fear, confusion and despair that many would have had as they saw Jesus murdered. Reflect, also, upon this being a divine act by which the Father permitted this grave suffering so as to use it for the greatest good ever known. The Lord gave His life freely and calls you to do the same. Reflect upon the cross in your life. Know that the Lord can use this for good, bringing forth an abundance of mercy through your free embrace as you offer it to Him as a willing sacrifice. Blessed Holy Week! Put your eyes upon the Lord's Cross as well as your own. Lord, when I am tempted to despair, give me hope. Help me to see your presence in all things, even in those things that are most troubling to me. May this Holy Week transform my darkest moments and weakness as I surrender all to You, my God. *Jesus, I trust in You*

Good Friday Veneration of the Cross: Fr. Gallagher will bring a small crucifix on foot for Veneration and a Blessing as follows from 4.15pm, leaving St. Patrick's Church carpark proceeding to Crossroads, Maryville and Sheskinshule View to the 40mph sign and returning to the Church carpark.

Please do not gather, but feel free to come to the door of your home

Trócaire Boxes: As we approach one of the most prayerful weeks of the Church's year, let us thank you again for your ongoing prayers, support and solidarity. It means so much to all of us in Trócaire. 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. Please hold onto your boxes until further notice and we will be in contact about how to return them when it will be safe for people to do so.

If you can, donate over the phone at 0800 912 1200 or online at trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation