

**IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON
LITURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)**

As bishops we present the following directions in the light of current public health authority advice in Ireland, north and south, aware that these might have to change at very short notice.

While acknowledging that the following directives will involve sacrifice for all, we encourage a positive engagement in order that the most vulnerable amongst us can be protected and so that the coronavirus can be contained.

Hand Hygiene

- It is important that hand sanitiser is provided at each entrance of the church.
- Holy water fonts should remain empty at this time.
- The Sign of Peace is not to be expressed by hand shaking.
- Having received Holy Communion, and before and after distributing, the priest and ministers should sanitise their hands.
- Priests are asked to provide an alternative to the practice of passing collection baskets through the congregation. The faithful are asked to continue their generous contributions to the upkeep of their parish.

Receiving Holy Communion in the hand

We ask that Holy Communion be received in the hand until the current crisis has passed.

The Sacrament of Baptism

During this time the celebrant will sign the child with the Cross without touching. Where there is more than one child being baptised, a single jug of fresh water will be blessed and used. The anointing with the Holy Oils will be administered by the use of cotton buds. Baptisms may be celebrated on condition that the attendance in church does not exceed 100 people..

The Sacrament of Confirmation

All Confirmations are postponed until further notice.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Church weddings may be celebrated on condition that the attendance in the church does not exceed 100 people.

Funerals

The community of faith will always seek to surround the funerals and burials of its deceased members with love and respect. However, even now it is clear that people with underlying conditions, and who are vulnerable, should not attend funerals. For the same reason, when sympathising, people should not shake hands. Attendance at funeral services and Masses should be limited to close relatives and must not exceed 100 attendees within the church building. The Church will always stand with the bereaved and do its best to ensure a Christian burial for those who request it.

Reviewing this information

We ask everyone to continue to follow the guidance of the public health authorities north and south. As the situation evolves, Church-specific information will be updated and published on local diocesan website, on the website of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference www.catholicbishops.ie and on their related digital media platforms. The Provisions of the 'Pastoral Statement' will have effect from Wednesday 18 March 2020.

In view of the above, it has been decided to postpone the Parish Mission.

The motivation for these new restrictive measures is a sense of care for the common good and especially for those most vulnerable. Each Christian community should be acutely aware of the responsibility to care for those who are most at risk. For example, even where it may not be appropriate to visit the elderly, a simple telephone call to enquire about their needs could mean so much to them.

Anniversaries

Gertie Deeney, Lawrence Brolly, Philomena Campbell, John Tierney, Willie John McClarey, Geraldine McWilliams, Minnie Boucher, Charlie McCartney, Felix O'Neill, Teresa O'Doherty, Rose Burns, Grace McGlinchey, Patrick & Martha Clarke, Patsy Baird, Mary Pordon, Peggy Heaney, Norman & Annie Clarke, Sadie & Tommy Quigley, Jane Jordon, John Leslie Kelly, Anne McGurk, Bridget Henry, Eddie Hunt, Kathleen Devine, Celine Docherty, Geraldine Bradley, Anne Woods, Bridget Melarkey, Kay, Mary, Philip & Maggie McLaughlin, Patsy McKeever, Leona Woods

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Baptisms

We welcome into the parish community through the Sacrament of Baptism:
Declan Jude Paul Gallagher

PRAYER FOR OUR PROTECTION

Extract from Saint Patrick's Breastplate

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.**

This is an occasion for all of us - especially in families - to pray more intensely for each other and especially for those who have succumbed to the illness. We should pray also for those at the frontlines - especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers, including clergy - that the Lord will protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all.

COLLECTION FOR SUNDAY 8 MARCH Town Churches £3,601.62 Ballykelly £741.00

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Tuesday 17 March is St Patrick's Day and is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses are as follows:

Christ the King Church Monday (Vigil) 6.00 pm
Tuesday 10.00 am
St Finlough's Church Monday (Vigil) 7.30 pm
St Mary's Church Tuesday 10.00 am

CARMELITE RETREAT CENTRE, TERMONBACCA Senior Citizens Day Retreat: Thursday 19 March. Cost £15. **Silent Weekend Retreat for Ladies:** 3 - 5 April. Cost £60. **Silent Retreat for Men:** 24 - 26 April. Cost £60.

THORNHILL MINISTRIES Praying Lent: Meditation, Exposition, Mid-Day Prayer. Thursdays 19, 26 March & 2 April (10.30 am - 12.45 pm) Suggested Donation: £10. **The Two Popes:** Explore the film with Fr Paschal McDonnell on Monday 16 March 10.30 am - 2.45 pm. Suggested donation £10. **Let's Talk Church Music:** This is for those directly involved in Church Music. Saturday 21 March 10.00 am - 11.30 am in Thornhill House. Please confirm attendance no later than Thursday 19 March. For more information contact 028 71 35 1233 or thornhillministries@derrydiocese.org.

LENTEN RETREAT DAY in SMA Retreat Centre, Dromantine on Saturday 28 March. 9.30 am - 5.00 pm. Cost £25 includes lunch. To book email: sma.dromantine@sma.ie or Tel: 028 30 821964.

TEMPORARY PIONEER PLEDGE FOR LENT If anyone is interested in taking a temporary Pioneer Pledge for the 6 weeks of Lent, please contact Mairead McNulty on 07718364666 or go online at www.pioneerassociation.ie.

A THANK YOU LETTER FROM LOURDES HOSPITALITE 'Mgr McCanny and parishioners of Limavady, many thanks for your generous donation to Lourdes Hospitalite.'

THE MARIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND Study in Fatima 2021. Consider taking 4 weeks to study and learn about the theology of Our Lady with some of the world experts. Earn a certificate or diploma. Contact: The Priory-Beechmount, Kilgarvan, Cobh, Co Cork. Tel: 00353 87 2525075 ore email: scvlx@gmail.com

RADIO MARIA IRELAND Daily Mass will be aired at 10.00 am each day. Radio Maria Ireland is to be found on television - Saorview, Channel 210 and Freeview, by downloading our free app for mobile devices - "Radio Maria Ireland", streaming on www.radiomaria.ie or via phone: 00353 1 437 3277.

CHURCHES RESTORATION FUND Next draw on **Monday 30 March at 8.00 pm** in St Mary's School. Collection times are: **10.30 am - 11.00 am** in the Parish Office and **6.00 pm - 8.00 pm** in St Mary's School.

PLEASE REMEMBER ST VINCENT DE PAUL RED BOX Helpline No: 07512360388