

Mass Intentions Sunday 27th December

St. Mary's—on webcam

12 Noon: Mahony Family (remembrance)
Owen Roche (A)
Joseph Fisher (A)



UPDATED COVID RESTRICTIONS

Due to Covid restrictions our Churches will be closed for Public Masses after our Christmas Day Masses until further notice.

Worship will move online from Sat. 26th.

Mass in St. Mary's Church at 10.15am Monday-Saturday and 12 noon on Sunday can be viewed at www.enniskerryparish.ie.

Churches are open for Private Prayer each day 11.00am—4pm. Please sanitise your hands on entry and exit.

Further to the Government announcement yesterday, regarding the move to Level 5, the following Religious Service restrictions apply:

Religious Services:

Funerals

With effect from the 24th December 2020 up to 10 mourners can attend

Weddings

Up to and including 2nd January 2020, up to 25 guests can attend a wedding ceremony and reception, whether indoors or outdoors

With effect from 3 January 2020, up to 6 guests are permitted to attend a wedding ceremony and reception, whether indoors or outdoors

Christmas Masses are booked up in St. Mary's but are available

on webcam at

www.enniskerryparish.ie

Christmas Eve:

Family Mass 6pm

Vigil Mass: 9pm

Christmas Day 10am and 12 noon.

If you have not booked a seat for above please do not congregate in Church grounds.

St Patrick's Church, Curtlestown

Please click on the link below to share in the celebration of Christmas in a special pre-recorded Christmas Carol and Prayer Service in St. Patrick's Church, Curtlestown.

[http://bit.ly/
CurtlestownChristmasPrayerService](http://bit.ly/CurtlestownChristmasPrayerService)

It is also available to watch on the Parish Website www.enniskerryparish.ie

Envelopes for 1st and 2nd collections are available at the entrance of the Church.

If you wish to activate a Standing Order for these collections please take a form as you exit.

*Parochial House, Enniskerry, 01 2863506, Presbytery, Kilmacanogue 01 2741951,
Parish Office, Enniskerry 01 2760030, Mon-Fri 10am-1pm. From Mond. 4th Jan
Parish Office, Kilmacanogue 01 2021882 Mon-Fri 10am-1pm—from Mond 4th Jan*

PARISH PRAYER

Lord God, we ask you to bless our Parish. Help us to know you in a deeper way. Help us to sincerely live in imitation of Jesus, your Son, with the Power of your Spirit in our hearts.

Bless all families in our Parish, especially families that are experiencing difficulties; bless all the children and young people in our parish; bless the old, the lonely and the sick, at home and in hospital, bless those who grieve, those who despair of life and all who suffer pain and hurt.

Bring the grace of healing, peace and hope to all hearts and through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary, to whom our parish is dedicated, may your love be upon us as we place all our trust in you.

We ask your blessing too, Lord God, through our Lady, on our Parish Community that we may become a place of hospitality, love, welcome and support for all.

We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus the Lord, Amen. Mary, Mother of Jesus, bring all our lives to the heart of Jesus, your Son, that through you, we may know his love and peace. Amen..

ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD ENVELOPES are available at the Entrance Porch in St. Mary's. If you wish to take an envelope and list family or friends who are deceased and who you would like to have prayed for at 10.15am Mass on our webcam (www.enniskerry.ie) on the First Friday of each month please complete and return through the Parish Office.

Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8.00am – 8.00pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Women's Refuge—If you are experiencing difficulties at home during this lockdown please contact Women's Refuge at 01—8670701.

Fr. Bernard, Fr Hyacinth and the **Parish Offices**
are available to you should you need to make contact.
Other Groups such as **Al Alon** (01) 878 3624, **AA** 087 255 1361
Simon Community (01) 671 5551, **Women's Refuge** (01) 8670701
St Vincent de Paul 01 884 8200 are also available to listen to.
Please do not feel alone at any time.

REFLECTIONS OF ARCHBISHOP DIARMUID MARTIN ON THE CURRENT COVID 19 SITUATION

19 December 2020

A difficult year is drawing to a close, while the future is marked by increasing uncertainty. Just one year ago, none of us could have imagined what was about to unfold. We remember in our prayers those who have died from the Coronavirus and their families and friends. We remember those in our care homes who have experienced isolation. We remember families that will be unable to come together to celebrate Christmas. We remember those who have lost their jobs and those whose livelihood remains precarious.

We also thank God for the way in which people have responded to the challenge of the virus. The response of front line workers has been supported by the genuinely mature response of the Irish people. Our Church has responded to a challenge that could not have been foreseen. After the initial closure of Churches for public worship, parishes put huge effort into preparing Church buildings so that they would be safely prepared for reopening. The level of preparedness that parishes have shown was such that Churches were reopened for worship some weeks ahead of the time initially foreseen.

Masses were celebrated on-line and parishes were able to provide access to a wide range of liturgies and prayer services, often with strong support from lay men and women in the parish community. Parishes stood by the bereaved in situations that were extremely trying for those who could only have limited numbers at funerals. A wide range of other pastoral services was provided. First communions and Confirmations were celebrated in a different way to the past and I have heard unanimous praise for the simplicity and prayerfulness of these smaller ceremonies.

As the year went on, despite being themselves in difficult financial situations, people quietly and generously responded with financial support for their priests and parishes. We are grateful to them.

Now we face the future. We are happy that many restrictions have been lifted as we prepare for Christmas. At the same time, we are acutely aware that the virus has a life of its own and infections can dramatically increase as soon as contacts become easier. We cannot remain unconcerned as each day the number of new infections in Ireland is increasing. Numerous European countries have already announced new and really dramatic curtailments and at times for periods of up to four or five months. Vaccines are on the way, but it would be unrealistic to think that their full effects will take place for many months.

At this moment, it would be unwise for parishes to be fixing dates of First Communions or Confirmations anywhere within the first months of the coming year. Fixing times and having to change them has caused real disappointment for many families.

The nature of the virus is such that we all have a responsibility to ensure that the simple measures of handwashing, wearing of facemasks and social distancing continue with the same level of strictness in application. Any increased movement within society brings with it serious risks for public health. Our parishes have to be extremely careful to ensure that respect for public health norms remains strictly in place during the Christmas season. If we keep on our guard, then we will have contributed greatly to the protection of people and social interaction. If we were to relax and become unthinking, we could find ourselves responsible for allowing religious services to become a vehicle for transmission and lead to a future lock-down on public worship.

For the coming Christmas season, we should be urging people not to take risks. Numbers wishing to attend Mass, especially on Christmas night and Christmas Day, will be well above the capacity of many of our Churches. We should encourage people not to gather in numbers beyond what is approved. The vulnerable should be strongly encouraged not to come to Church. Indeed, people should be encouraged to discern whether it is opportune or not for them to come to Mass on Christmas day. It may well be more appropriate for them to follow Mass on-line as a family and perhaps at some stage in the day make a brief prayerful visit to the Crib, to permit children to experience the mystery of the birth of Jesus. Churches should provide the ample possibility for people to attend Mass at some time within the twelve days of Christmas

All of us involved in Church ministry, clergy and laity alike, should also be attentive to look after themselves. One priest wrote to me noting that if any one of us were to catch the virus, how many others would we be putting at risk and self-isolation. When you look at the attention that doctors and others are taking to ensure safety in access to them personally and to their premises, we should be equally attentive. Distancing ourselves from people is not within our DNA as priests. However, we have a duty of care for the people to whom we minister and with whom we have constant close contact such as sacristans and parish secretaries.

Priests are not immune to the personal challenges all are facing. These months have been hard. We have had to face loneliness, stress and frustration and these affect our mental health. I am very much aware of how my own ministry has been negatively affected by my age, uncertainty, and inability to travel. We all need restfulness and spiritual uplift. We need to share and experience solidarity with one another. I hope and pray that despite a very busy schedule, each of us will find moments over the Christmas season when we can be touched by the mystery of the Divine Child who became human and gave Himself out of love for us so, that we could experience and share that special peace that abiding in His love brings.

+Diarmuid Martin
Archbishop of Dublin
December 19th 2020

St. Vincent de Paul

Every year, your local Conference of St. Vincent de Paul has one collection only in December, replacing the SHARE collection, usually on the nearest Sunday to December 8th. This year however, due to Covid 19, this collection has been moved to Sunday December 13th, but, due to severe restrictions on the numbers attending each Mass, our collection will almost be non-existent. Therefore we are appealing to you directly to help us. There are several ways to do this, we have a web link as follows:

svp.ie/immaculateheartofmaryenniskerry or please call 0818 176 176 or you can forward your donation direct to our bank account: BOF11E2D, IBAN IE17 BOFI 9010 3614 1342 53.

Also at the back of the Church are blue addressed envelopes for donating to us.

We appeal to you most strongly to be as generous as possible and assure you that all donations received support your local Conference. We thank you for all your wonderful support in the past and wish you a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

The Meals on Wheels service operates in Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue and delivers hot meals every Tuesday and Thursday to older people in their homes. It's an opportunity to connect with the community and provide a hot meal and social contact call to older people in the area. We are looking for volunteer drivers who can give up 2 or 3 hours twice a month to facilitate this much needed service.

Interested volunteers may contact Maoiliosa Kelly on 086 832 2466 for further information.

Crosscare Advent Appeals

A simple way communities can support each other

Crosscare Appeal for Support this Christmas as food collections cancelled

Crosscare is appealing to people to support them on line this Advent as they will be unable to hold their annual Parish Food Collection for those most in need. Every December, Crosscare collected thousands of pounds worth of non-perishable foods to restock their foodbanks and support their community cafés.

This year, due to Covid 19 restrictions Crosscare will not be able to launch a food collection in the Diocese of Dublin as usual. However, in order to ensure they have adequate supplies, they are asking people to support them by making a donation on line to ensure families struggling to cope can have food on the table this Christmas. **We are appealing to parishes to encourage those parishioners who would ordinarily have supported food drives and the unwanted gifts appeal to go on line and make a donation www.crosscare.ie**

Irish Cancer Society are looking for volunteers to drive patients to and from their chemotherapy treatments. Drivers with a free weekday availability and who can commit to driving twice a month.

Please email Gail at gflinter@irishcancer.ie or call 01 2310 566 for an application form. Due to the impact of the Coronavirus we are seeking drivers under the age of 70 years.

Please be aware that there are **CCTV** cameras in the Car Park (as well as the Church). This is to enhance the safety of all who use the carpark and to assist in the prevention of antisocial behaviour and ensuring that people are social distancing as is essential outside the Church.

TROCAIRE

This Christmas, Trócaire will deliver life-saving support to thousands of families across the developing world. As well as supporting people living through conflict and natural disasters, Trócaire has launched a special appeal to support families who have not been able to grow food or earn money due to Covid-19. Please consider supporting this vital work this Christmas. You can purchase one of 17 special gifts for families, or else make a general donation to the Trócaire Christmas Appeal. Trócaire's Christmas Gifts range allows you to buy goats, chickens, water and many more vital items. This year, there is a special Quarantine Care Kit Gift. By buying this gift you are providing vital daily care to families who have to isolate due to Covid-19. Please visit trocaire.org to make a donation or buy a gift. (Photos for websites can be downloaded from here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmLCKCGq>)

Fr. Thomas O'Dwyer & his Church

at Enniskerry

By Michael Seery

This book reports on the background to the construction of St. Mary's Church at Enniskerry, and the priest who drove the project to successful completion. Drawing from sources in newspaper archives, folklore, estate archives, maps and valuation records, the story of this single Church in Enniskerry is a useful case study on how to explore the history of many other rural churches built around Ireland in the nineteenth century

Copies of the book at £5 each are available in the Parish Office, Spar Enniskerry, the Village Store and the Post Office.

The Jesuits who have served this Parish for 100 years will no longer be available to celebrate Masses in our Parish. We thank them very sincerely and hope to have a proper Farewell Ceremony at Easter.

This will mean that over the coming few months we will have to look at the distribution of Masses in our Churches.

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.