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This week we celebrated the Funeral Mass of Norrie Halpin, formerly of Cremore Crescent, who passed away peacefully at Anova Nursing Home on 22nd March last. RIP.

We also remember Barbara Henderson, formerly of Wellpark Avenue, who passed away on April 2nd, RIP and both Breda Costello and Maureen O' Brien, whose funerals also took place this week in Ballygall church RIP



Support Services for Older & Vulnerable People:

Dublin City Council Helpline 01-2228555 Email - covidsupport@dublincity.ie
Irish Red Cross 016424600 : hardship2020@redcross.ie
Womens Aid 1800341900 info@womensaid.ie
Mens Aid 01-5394277 Email: hello@mensaid.ie
ISPCC Dublin 016767960 Email: ispcc@ispcc.ie
Alone Support Line Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, 0818 222 024.
Senior Line 1800804591
The Samaritans 116 123 Email: samaritans.org
Pieta House 1800247247
Jigsaw . www.jigsaw.ie

Prayer for a Pandemic by Cameron Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

A number of people have contacted the parish in recent days to request the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession). This is understandable, particularly in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. However, given the present extraordinary circumstances where everyone is obliged to stay at home and 'physical distancing' is mandatory, the Church is unable to provide the celebration of the sacraments in the normal way, including the sacrament of Confession. For the moment, while we might not have the immediate assurance of the Sacrament in the priest's words: "I absolve you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," we do have the assurance of Christ's words: "Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name." If you desire to celebrate the sacrament of Confession, simply pray to God, asking for forgiveness for your sins, and say an Act of Contrition, with the true intention to confess your sins to a priest as soon as you are able, so that you might be healed and fully reconciled. Let us look forward in hope to the time when the present crisis has passed and we can once again resume normal Church life, including the celebration of the sacraments.

Reflection: We are about to enter Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's year, when we focus on the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and its meaning for us Christians, and indeed for all humanity. This year that mystery has particularly resonance for us, as we witness the suffering of many people across the world due to the outbreak of Covid 19.

In discovering with a shock our vulnerability as a species, the fragility of our whole way of life, we contemplate the vulnerable figure of Jesus on the Cross. How does the crucified Christ speak to this moment, to this crisis which affects every country and which has brought life as we know it to a virtual standstill? The loneliness of Christ on the cross was mirrored last week in the spectacle of Pope Francis standing alone in St. Peter's Square giving his Urbi et Orbi blessing. The way of the cross is the way of suffering, but in the life, passion and death of Jesus Christ it is also revealed as the way of love.

We are seeing great suffering: the sick in intensive care units; the loneliness of those who die alone; family members who don't have an opportunity to say goodbye to loved ones; health care workers who treat patients at great personal risk to their own health; people cocooned at home; others who have lost jobs or livelihoods. However, we are also witnessing many signs of compassion, courage, generosity, humanity and patience. We are learning new ways to reach out and be Christ to one another and are called to draw strength from God's love for us. So let us enter this Holy Week in a spirit of prayer, renewing our hope in the Christ who rose from the dead and who leads us through the suffering of this present time towards the new life of Easter.

Out of respect for the government's insistence that we stay at home during the present crisis, parishioners are unable this year to attend the Holy Week ceremonies in person. There is an invitation this year to mark the different days of Holy Week in the home. It is suggested that families place a piece of greenery on their front door on Palm Sunday, that they create a sacred space at home and place a jug, bowl of water and towel in it to mark the symbolic washing of feet on Holy Thursday, place a cross or crucifix in it on Good Friday, and place a lighted candle in a front window of the house on Holy Saturday night.

Children could be encouraged to paint an Easter egg (hardboiled), which could be placed in the sacred space for Easter Sunday.

Timetable of 2020 Holy Week Ceremonies for Glasnevin Grouping

(All the ceremonies will be broadcast via webcam from Ballygall church www.ballygallparish.ie unless otherwise indicated)

Sat 4th April 6.30pm Vigil for Palm Sunday with blessing of palms

Sun 5th April 11.00am Mass for Palm Sunday with blessing of palms from Iona Road Church www.ionaroadparish.ie

Mon 6th April 10.00am Mass

Tues 7th April 10.00am Mass

Wed 8th April 10.00am Mass
7.30pm Holy Hour

Thurs 9th April 10.00am Morning Prayer
7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Watch and Pray vigil

Fri 10th April 10.00am Morning Prayer
12 noon Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 11th April 10.00am Morning Prayer
7.30pm Celebration of the Easter Vigil

Sun 12th April 11.00am Mass for Easter Sunday from Iona Road church
www.ionaroadparish.ie

If you have a laptop, tablet or smart phone it is very easy to follow Mass via webcam. Just type in or click on the link above, which will direct you to the front page of the parish website. On the Iona Road website click on the webcam button on the left hand of the front page and that will connect you to the church. On the Ballygall website click on the Ballygall TV button at the top of the screen, and that will connect you.

For those without internet access, we have added a section to the newsletter with the times of the ceremonies for Holy Week which will be broadcast on RTE radio and television. Since parishioners are unable to attend the Holy Week ceremonies in person, there is an invitation this year to mark the different days of Holy Week in the home. It is suggested that families place a piece of greenery on their front door on Palm Sunday, that they create a sacred space at home and place a jug, bowl of water and towel in it to mark the symbolic washing of feet on Holy Thursday, place a cross or crucifix in it on Good Friday, and place a lighted candle in a front window of the house on Holy Saturday night.

RTÉ broadcasting output of liturgies during Holy Week 2020

Palm Sunday 5 April

11.00-11.50 *Mass on Palm Sunday.* Rev Professor Michael Mullaney, President of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, celebrates Mass in the Kairos chapel studio, Maynooth, Co Kildare, with music from internationally acclaimed singer, Celine Byrne, accompanied by Ronan Murray. (RTÉ One TV / RTÉ Radio 1 Extra / LW252 / Digital Radio platforms.)

17.35-17.45 *A Passover Like No Other.* Rabbi Zalman Lent and author and motivational speaker, Yanky Fachler, face the challenge of celebrating Pesach, the Passover festival, which traditionally brings Jews together, in a time of isolation, sickness and fear. Rabbi Lent has, himself, had to self-isolate and has learned to preach and connect with his congregation online. They also explore how the story of the first Passover shows that humankind can weather plagues and hardship, if they put their faith in God (RTÉ One).

06.15-06.18 *A Living Word.* Aidan Mathews continues to curate and, in some cases, deliver a daily reflection to start the day.

Holy Thursday 9 April

16.40-17.35 *Mass of the Lord's Supper.* Father Joe Campbell CC, Mullingar, Diocese of Meath, to celebrate Mass in commemoration of the Last Supper and Christ's agony in Gethsemane, from the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar. (RTÉ One TV and RTÉ Radio 1 Extra / LW252 / Digital Radio platforms. The Mass will air on radio at the later time of 19.00.)

Good Friday 10 April

15.00-16.00 *Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday.* Live from the Cathedral of Christ the King, Father Derek Darby commemorates the Passion and death of Christ, observing full health and social distancing protocols. (RTÉ One TV & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252)

22.00-22.30 *The Leap of Faith.* Michael Comyn asks whether and how the Easter story continues to resonate with people in today's Ireland (Radio 1).

Holy Saturday 11 April

2200-2300 *Easter Vigil Mass.* Bishop Tom Deenihan of Meath celebrates the resurrection of Christ, with a vigil Mass in the Cathedral of Christ the King. Beginning with the lighting of the Paschal candle, the liturgy, which signifies the triumph of light over darkness and of life over death (RTÉ Two & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252).

Easter Sunday 12 April

1000-1100 *Easter Sunday Mass.* A Eurovision Mass, previously planned for Metz Cathedral, takes place instead in the Dominican Convent of Saint Jacques (Saint James the Great) in Paris, due to France's COVID-related restrictions on indoor gatherings. Translation and commentary are by Fr Thomas McCarthy OP (RTÉ One & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra).

1100-1120 *Urbi et Orbi: Pope Francis' Easter Message.* Pope Francis will deliver his Easter blessing *To the city and the world* with prayer and encouragement by video link from within the Vatican. Translation and commentary by Fr Thomas McCarthy OP (RTÉ One).