

**Our Lady of Dolours**, Botanic Avenue, Glasnevin, D09K5R6

**Office:** Mon—Fri, 10.30am—12.30pm

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**Sacristy:** Mon—Sun 8.30am—11.30pm

**Sacristans Colette Sanders and Una Campbell**

**Sacristy Telephone Number: 01 797 9153**

**Email:** ourladyofdoloursparish@gmail.com

**www.glasnevinparish.ie www.facebook.com/**

**ourladyofdoloursglasnevin https://twitter.com/OfDolours**

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#### Our Prayers are asked for

Betty Ross - formerly of Cremore Park  
Daniel Byrne - formerly of Northlands Grove  
Violet Kennedy - formerly of Violet Hill  
whose funerals took place in Our Lady of Dolours this week



#### Months Mind

Noreen (Norrie) Halpin late of Cremore Crescent  
Catherine (Kaye) Corcoran late of River Gardens

#### We also remember those who died this week

Fr. Pat Culhane - former PP Chapelized  
Fr. Ed Grimes CSSP  
William Snowdon  
Kristina Mahoney  
Eric Guiry

**Fr. Paul and Fr. Richard** would like to say a huge thank you to parishioners for the Easter greetings and messages of support and encouragement we have received over the Easter period. We know that many of you feel sustained spiritually by the daily and weekend liturgies and weekly Holy Hour you have been able to participate in being streamed from Ballygall and Iona Road churches and from St. Alphonsus monastery. Others have been able to follow the Holy Week and Easter liturgies from around Ireland or from Rome, courtesy of RTE broadcasts. A big thank you also to our parish team (Colette, Aine and Peter) who were busy in Holy Week getting messages and treats out to cocooning parishioners, which we know were very gratefully received.

#### Support Services for Older & Vulnerable People:

Dublin City Council Helpline 01-2228555 Email [covidsupport@dublincity.ie](mailto:covidsupport@dublincity.ie)

Irish Red Cross 016424600 : [hardship2020@redcross.ie](mailto:hardship2020@redcross.ie)

Womens Aid 1800341900 [info@womensaid.ie](mailto:info@womensaid.ie)

Mens Aid 01-5394277 Email: [hello@mensaid.ie](mailto:hello@mensaid.ie)

ISPCC Dublin 016767960 Email: [ispcc@ispcc.ie](mailto:ispcc@ispcc.ie) Alone Support Line Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, 0818 222 024. Senior Line 1800804591

The Samaritans 116 123 Email: [samaritans.org](mailto:samaritans.org)

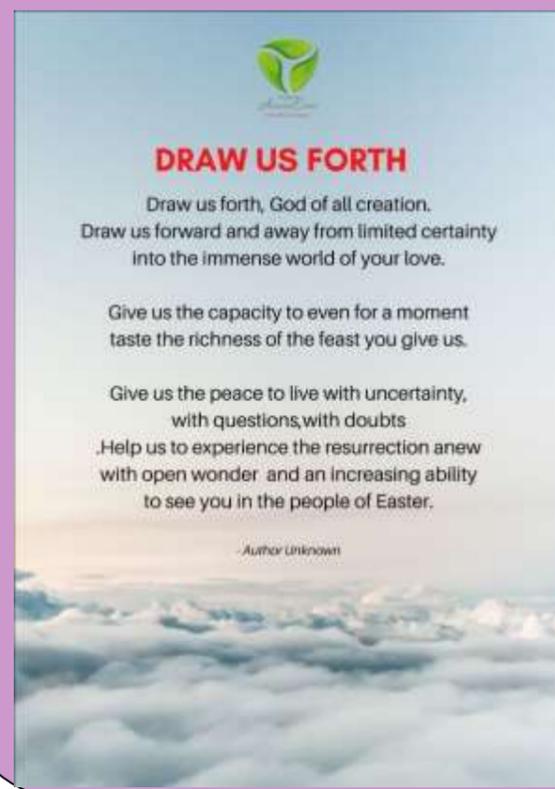
Pieta House 1800247247

Jigsaw . [www.jigsaw.ie](http://www.jigsaw.ie)

**Reflection:** 'It has been an Easter like no other...' is a comment I have heard frequently over the past week. It certainly has. Normally a time when we would be visiting families, most of us stayed behind closed doors. Anyone tempted to make the most of the bank holiday weekend by heading to the country, the mountains or the sea was duly warned that, like the Irish Grand National, it was a non-runner! For people of faith, who would be used to gathering for the ceremonies of Holy Week, drawn in by the drama and the different moods of the various liturgies, there was no gathering. People could follow the ceremonies online or on TV, but we missed seeing and being with one another and enjoying the sense of shared celebration. There is a quietness about Easter this year, itself perhaps a reflection of the national mood.

But perhaps our experience is not that far removed from the first Easter. Resurrection faith is not a fanfare but a slow dawning in the midst of darkness and fear. It is cocooned together in a room with the doors firmly closed to outsiders that the disciples encounter the risen Christ. The death of Christ has completely upended their world. Unsure of how to move forward, they sit there almost paralysed. For the disciples, as for us, awareness of the presence with them of the risen Christ gradually breaks through the doors of bewilderment, uncertainty, loneliness and fear. It breaks through in the gentleness in people's conversation, the concern for the neighbour, the 'little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love', the resilience and creativity of children, the thoughtful prayer for those who are sick and those looking after them, the quiet acceptance of bereaved families when only ten family members are allowed attend the funeral of their deceased loved one, the willing compliance with lockdown restrictions for the sake of a greater good, a new appreciation for what really matters.

'Peace be with you' is Christ's Easter gift to the disciples. May we receive it in our hearts and share it with one another



**Reminder to Parishioners:** Along with Our Weekly Newsletter being available on our website [www.glasnevinparish.ie/](http://www.glasnevinparish.ie/) there is also a 'daily thought' in time of Covid-19 on our Facebook page [https:// www.facebook.com/ ourladyofdoloursglasnevin/](https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofdoloursglasnevin/) A section has been added to the home page menu <https:// www.glasnevinparish.ie/religious-links> with Prayers, Poems and Reflections during COVID-19 which includes the Thoughts for the Day.

A number of people have contacted the parish in recent weeks 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.

#### Mass times for the coming week (Monday 20/4 – Sunday 26/4) accessible by webcam:

Monday - Friday : 10.00am Ballygall  
5.45pm St. Alphonsus Monastery  
Saturday: 6.30pm Ballygall  
Sunday 9.30am St. Alphonsus Monastery  
11.00am Iona Road

Link to Church Webcams: <https://rednuns.com/>  
<https://ballygallparish.ie/index.php/myballygalltv/>  
<https://ionaroadparish.ie/webcam>

For the benefit of parishioners who do not have access to the internet, RTE will air Mass every weekday on TV at 10.30am from St Eunan's and St Columba's Cathedral, Leterkenny, on RTE News Now. RTE News Now can be accessed on Saorview (channel 21), Sky (521), Virgin Media (200), or Eir (517).

As requested by parishioners in the past week below is the text of Fr. Richard's Easter Sunday Homily which can also be accessed at [https:// www.glasnevinparish.ie/religious-links](https://www.glasnevinparish.ie/religious-links)

'It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark..... when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb.'

At the centre of today's Easter Gospel is the silence of an empty tomb. We are gathered in an empty church this morning. Indeed, right around the world Mass is being celebrated in vast empty churches and cathedrals – not least in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, where Pope Francis has cut a lonely yet powerful figure leading the world's faithful in the Holy Week liturgies.

This is an Easter like no other: not only the churches but the streets, shops, restaurants, businesses and places of leisure are all empty. It is as if the world has come to a complete standstill. We find ourselves this Easter morning in a state of suspended animation – which our government has just extended for another three weeks – wondering if we will ever get back to normal life again. What we miss most is the normal social interaction that gives life its joy: seeing people we love, being able to embrace grandchildren. A teacher wrote to me this week: 'I never wanted to be back in school so much before!'

This experience of social and emotional deprivation perhaps helps us identify a little more with the sense of loss of the disciples after the death of Jesus.

'It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark.....'

The disciples are still in the darkness of desolation, fear, self-recrimination and above all sense of abandonment. Mary runs to the other disciples when she discovers the stone guarding the tomb rolled back – not in excitement, but in panic and distress – thinking that somebody has robbed the body of Jesus.

The seemingly trivial detail about one disciple outrunning the other is a hint that people come to resurrection faith in their own time. It cannot be forced. When they arrive at the tomb, what do they find? Nothing, on the face of things. Unlike other Gospel accounts of the resurrection, there is no appearance of the risen Jesus, no voices from heaven, no angels, no earthquakes.....only silence, and a few discarded cloths. Somehow the empty tomb is an image of life pared back to the essentials.

When Peter and the other disciple go into the tomb, it's not what is there that is important but what they see. The central question for us is how a frightened and disillusioned bunch of disciples come to proclaim faith in the resurrection? Somehow the answer is here, at the empty tomb. Resurrection faith, it seems, dawns gradually. It begins with a flicker of recognition: a memory of something said, a sacred moment shared...

Standing there in the empty tomb, the two disciples experience something of the mystery of a life given in love, which leads to a new sense of peace and joy. Their transformation begins from this moment. They went to the tomb looking for a dead body. They come away knowing he is alive within.

Easter invites us to confront our own empty tomb: the empty tomb of our disappointments, our losses; the pain of not being able to be with a loved one sick in hospital, perhaps close to death; but also the empty tomb of our own fears, anxieties, guilt, of our betrayals and weakness, our willingness to forgive someone, our failure to forgive ourselves for not doing more for another; the empty tomb of our shallowness or self-centred focus.

Somehow facing the empty tomb – not running away from it – calls us to move forward in faith, trust, compassion and hope. This strange moment in the world may feel unnatural to us, but we have to ask ourselves: what is its gift? And what is the shape of the 'new normal' we would like to take up when the virus has finally moved away?

I saw Christ risen this week: in the beauty of trees coming to life and the accompanying chorus of birdsong; in the joy and relief in the mother who told me that her adult son has turned his life around; in the nurse who asked me to email her prayers she could say with a patient who was seriously ill and couldn't access a chaplain; in the NGO volunteer I saw on TV distributing food to refugees at a makeshift camp in Calais and who was appalled at the way his fellow human beings were being treated; in the simple beauty of pictures representing Easter which children in the parish posted to us online; in people reaching out to their neighbour.

Christ isn't risen out there. He is risen in us! Our task today as people of faith is not simply to come looking for signs of resurrection and a message of hope. It is to proclaim with our lives that Christ is risen, so that we can offer the people of this generation hope in a God who is faithful, true and caring. As St. Teresa of Avila once said: 'Christ has no body now but yours'. Jesus Christ is risen. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Fr. Richard Sheehy 12/04/2020