

Our Lady of Dolours, Botanic Avenue, Glasnevin, D09K5R6

Office: Mon—Fri, 10.30am—12.30pm Secretary

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Mass Intentions

Please be assured that any mass intentions which have been booked will now be prayed for privately by the priests of the parish or via the webcam masses. As soon as congregational masses resume, we will reschedule any of these intentions if families so wish.



In Our Lady of Dolours, regular parish meetings are cancelled until further notice, and Baptisms are postponed for the time being. However, we remain available to assist parishioners at all times, and parish offices can be contacted during normal office hours by telephone (01/8379445) or email (ourladyofdoloursparish@gmail.com). The parish will continue to stay in touch with the housebound through regular phone contact. Please contact the parish if you are concerned about anyone.

A special **Holy Hour**, including Eucharistic adoration, music and reflections, led by priests or lay ministers from the Glasnevin Grouping, will be broadcast **each Wednesday evening** at 7.30pm from Ballygall church via the webcam (www.ballygallparish.ie)

Despite the grouping Churches being open for daily prayer, we appreciate that not all our parishioners may be in a position to call in. Therefore today the **Parish Team** will light all the candles at **Our Lady Of Dolours statue**, for the intentions of everyone, and perhaps your own candles lighting in your homes can be a part of this vision. We invite you to share with us in this image of light and hope. We ask also that you remember us too in your prayers.

Bless this candle,
And let it always remind us
That You are our light in darkness,
Our protector in danger,
And Our saving Lord at all times.



The clergy of the **Glasnevin Grouping** have decided that in the interest of the health and safety of parishioners, parish staff and volunteers and clergy, we are no longer in a position to provide the public celebration of Mass in our churches at weekends or on weekdays. Mass will be celebrated each weekday morning behind closed doors in Ballygall church, and each evening in St. Alphonsus Monastery. Parishioners can participate in either of these Masses from home via the webcam at 10.00am in Ballygall (www.ballygallparish.ie) and at 5.45pm in St. Alphonsus Monastery (www.rednuns.com).

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

At weekends, parishioners can follow Mass from their home on the webcam from Ballygall (www.ballygallparish.ie) on Saturday at 6.30pm, St. Alphonsus Monastery (www.rednuns.com) on Sunday at 9.30am and Iona Road (www.ionaroadparish.ie) on Sunday at 11.00am. Alternatively they can follow Mass on RTE radio or television.

Recommended resources for praying at home, including an online Lenten retreat, include <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> and: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/index.php>. Prayer resources from the Catholic Communications Office include resources from the Diocesan Liturgy Office <https://www.dublindiocese.ie/prayer-resources-for-use-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Reflection: This Sunday we are half way through our Lenten journey and we truly find ourselves in a social and spiritual desert. Social, economic and cultural life in our country has virtually ground to a halt in a way we could not have anticipated just a few short weeks ago. An invisible threat to our health and that of our loved ones, in the form of Covid 19, has suddenly disrupted our way of life. Each day brings reports of rising numbers of people infected with the virus, and with them come further restrictions on our normal life of working, meeting, gathering and socialising. Many of our parishioners, perhaps our own friends or family members, have lost their jobs, businesses or livelihoods in the past week alone. Other people are faced with the prospect of not seeing loved ones for a lengthy period of time because of either restrictions on travel or the need to self-isolate. We are living with an uncertainty which is unfamiliar and are feeling a new fragility.

At the very time when people rightly look to their Church for guidance, support, and for the comfort and strength which comes with gathering to pray as a faith community, and particularly to celebrate Eucharist, we find ourselves obliged to **suspend temporarily** the public celebration of Mass in the churches in our Glasnevin Grouping. The decision was not taken lightly, but as people of faith we have to play our part in slowing the transmission of the virus by not encouraging people to gather together, and to act for the greater good of everyone. This does not mean that we cannot pray or participate in the Eucharist, but we have to become accustomed to doing it differently. As indicated in our notices, Mass will continue to be celebrated in our Grouping each weekday morning and at weekends, and parishioners can participate via the webcam. Our churches remain open throughout the day, so that people may come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament and make the Stations of the Cross. We can also pray at home alone or with family members, remembering in particular, and perhaps lighting a candle for, those who are sick and those who are looking after them

A crisis is a time when people discover their inner resources. Most people have adapted very well and in a very short time to the new restrictions on our lives: keeping a physical distance from one another, remembering not to shake hands or embrace, limiting our movements. Many are welcoming the opportunity to spend a bit more time with loved ones at home. We have been impressed with the number of parishioners who spontaneously contacted the parish during the week to volunteer their services in delivering food or shopping to those who are housebound. St. Patrick rediscovered his faith at the most testing time of his life. Lent is an invitation to renew our faith in the God who journeys with us, especially at times when the way forward seems unclear.

A Coronavirus Prayer (adapted from the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin) *Loving and healing God*, we, your people turn to you in prayer, confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts. *Generous God*, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families. May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace. Comfort their family and friends. Strengthen and protect all doctors, nurses and others who are caring for the sick. Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance that they may make good decisions. We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead, in so many fields of life, for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe *O God of creation and life*, we place ourselves in your protection. May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow. Amen

A Message from Pope Francis

“Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street. When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party. Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other. We think about when it will be all a memory but normality will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift. We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious. Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter. We will go back to laughing together. Strength and courage.”

ALONE COVID-19 Helpline

ALONE has launched 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)** in Ireland. Professional staff will be available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line will be open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024, and hours may be extended to meet the demand.



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