

# DUNMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Dunmore – Garrafrauns - Kiltевна

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

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**Parish Office Closed**  
Please ring Fr. Fergal 093-38124  
Deadline for Newsletter is **Friday 10am**

## EASTER BLESSINGS.....ALLELUIA!



What a surprise it was, to discover an unexpected guest in the alcove of one of the stain glass windows in the gallery in Dunmore Church: a blackbird preparing a nest for her young, who one day they will hatch and fly. At least the blackbird's song will be heard on Easter Sunday! Her presence reminds us that the mystery of the Resurrection is too great to be contained within the walls of our Churches; it breaks open into our lives and is echoed in the heart of nature. Please God we can live that mystery well this Easter even if we must live it within the confines of our own home.

On Easter Sunday at 12 pm bells will ring out from in religious communities of all denominations to remind us of the Easter message: Light will overcome the darkness! Hope will overcome despair! Life will overcome death! Community will bring us all together and bring us through this! The love of our God, our Father, the sacrifice of our brother Jesus, the living breath of the spirit within us will bring us all through these testing times. It's ironic that people are not in their churches to celebrate this Easter, like in penal times, but for different reasons; but it won't change our spirit.

Thank you for participating in Holy Week through your prayerful presence in your own homes. Let's continue to pray with and for one another. Have a candle ready to light at 12 pm and join with us for our broadcast Mass on Easter Sunday. Let's ask God for the courage and strength we need each today and for the generosity and love to be the Christ like, Christian Community in action this Easter.

Easter Blessings to you and your families.

**Fr. Fergal**

### BROADCAST FROM DUNMORE PARISH - 108 FM WEBCAM

[www.dunmoreparish.com](http://www.dunmoreparish.com) and click image of Church

**Holy Saturday 8 pm**

**Easter Sunday 11:30 am**

*Blessed Holy Water available in all Churches*

*We ask that you fill your own bottles*

**Weekday Masses 10 am**

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR COMING WEEK

Kathleen Walsh, Killooney

Johnny Murphy, 1<sup>ST</sup> Anniversary and son John.

Martin and Mamie Murphy, Curragh West, Children and Grandchildren

Thomas, James and Pdraig Burke, Cloondalgan

Jimmy Diskin Corohan

### We pray also for:-

Aine Hennelly Cahill, Roundfort and Dublin RIP ,  
Sister of Maire Walsh, Castle Street, Dunmore

**PASTORAL LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE  
FOR EASTER 2020.**

My brothers and sisters the “*peace of Jesus Christ be with you*”. All around us we see the hope, joy and new life of Spring as growth is taking place, trees beginning to bud forth and birds are singing and busy building their nests. Yet, in the midst of all this we endeavour to cope with the chilling challenge of Covid-19 and its consequences of death, disruption and disillusionment. We are living through a very traumatic time not just for Ireland but for the whole world. The results will be far-reaching in terms of physical, psychological, emotional health and the economic situation.

Not being able to visit with our family and friends at Easter time is a huge sacrifice. Thanks to modern technology and social media, however, we can still keep in touch with our loved ones and ensure that those who are isolated will be remembered and assured that we are thinking of them. This microscopic virus has effectively shut down the world in many respects, yet this challenge brings out the best in people and has awakened in us the need for connectivity and community. We witness the goodness, generosity, and gentleness being exercised in a very powerful, profound and personal way. This becomes abundantly evident in the way people responsibly accept the restrictions for the good of all. This has impinged on Church goers who cannot attend Mass, on families where funerals are restricted, on weddings and baptisms.

At times it is very difficult to see above and beyond the immediate situation, particularly if it is painful and life-threatening. As a people of hope we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These days our faith acknowledges that the execution of Jesus must have plunged so many of his disciples into despair. Nobody knew what was to come next or even if there would be a future. The hopes of the earliest disciples of Jesus seemed to run aground on Calvary and be buried with him in the Tomb. All of us who have lost loved ones will know the experience of the day after the burial when time seems to stand still. Similarly for the disciples on Holy Saturday; nobody knew how long the Saturday would last. Saturday, that in-between-day of doubt and despair when time stands still. That Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday was about abandonment, disappointment and disillusionment. At times we feel that Holy Saturday is being re-presented now for us as we cope with the challenge of Covid-19 which leads us to a re-evaluation of what is important in our society.

The events of the Middle East 2000 years ago provide us with a perspective on our present situation. Social distancing, closed doors and fear stalk the streets and the thoroughfares of cities across our world. The followers of Jesus were forced to meet in fear behind locked doors. It was to this situation that Jesus came into their midst with the words “*peace be with you*”. This Easter we ponder the contradiction between death and risen life. We realise that our own faith is being tried and tested in the present situation. When the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples He carried the wounds of suffering, pain and death as He had been executed on the Friday. These continue to be the marks of the risen life. Prior to the onslaught of the coronavirus we prided ourselves on the progress which humanity had made in various areas. We boasted of our independence and control. Perhaps now, we are beginning to recognise our fragility and vulnerability, that we are not self-reliant and that we depend on God. And the God in whom we believe does not abandon us.

St. John reminds us that Jesus “*breathed on them*”, performing a kind of artificial respiration on his faltering followers. He said, “*receive the Holy Spirit*”. We remember and we pray for those on ventilators in I.C.U. units and those at the frontline who are ministering to them. We take responsibility in the present and actively pursue the means of containing the virus and finding a cure for it. At the same time, in hope, we look to a new future. However, the future will have to include and make provision for the concrete memories of the corona virus with which we cope today.

Our faith in Christ’s rising from the dead enables us to embrace the present situation and at the same time opens us to new possibilities. Already we witness signs of hope in the goodness, generosity, altruism, sensitivity towards and support for others.

May the risen Christ bless us with the peace that will enable us to recognise that the Lord is journeying with us as we cope with this new challenge

Yours sincerely,

**+Michael Neary**

**Archbishop of Tuam**

**GALILEE SPIRITUALITY CENTRE** - Although our doors are currently closed, our prayer community extends far beyond our walls. We invite you to join us (virtually) on Thursdays, 9.00-9.30pm for prayer for all affected by the COVID19 outbreak and for all who care for them. Please let us know you are with us in spirit by getting in touch [info@galilee.ie](mailto:info@galilee.ie) or 071-966-4101 and let us know any particular prayer needs. If you would like to send a photo of your prayer space or candle please do so on our Facebook or Twitter accounts or by email. Pass on the word to your family and friends and we will join together in prayer, hope and love.

**TROCAIRE AND EASTER COLLECTION** – If appropriate to you now, donations can be dropped into the letterbox in the Presbytery.