



Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are all bearing up well as we continue to observe the Covid - 19 restrictions. Once again a word of encouragement to keep doing so. It does make a difference and as Christians who often proclaim our pro life credentials we have a responsibility to do everything to safeguard the lives of others especially the most vulnerable among us. To those faithfully cocooning a special word of thanks. You are a great example of respect and solidarity with your sisters and brothers in the community. As a Church community we have had to let go of so much these days but in a greater sense this letting go is itself a greater witness to the Love of God and a Eucharistic solidarity with so many people. However there are still many aspects of Church life that continue albeit in a new way. Our parish office may be closed but remember that doesn't mean that we are not open! This Sunday's Gospel story is so appropriate in this regard. Closed doors didn't stop Jesus from coming to his fear stricken disciples bringing them Peace and giving them the Holy Spirit to bring God's Gift of Mercy to the world. The risen Christ opened up new paths for them to witness to his resurrection. So too for us - closed doors must not prevent us from welcoming Christ and still witnessing to him. It brings to mind the words of Bishop Farrell at the beginning of this 'lockdown' "Many events have been cancelled because of the Coronavirus. Faith, love, and especially hope, however, are not among them". So our mission continues & don't forget to call us if you need anything even for a chat! This second Sunday of Easter is dedicated to Divine Mercy.

Even though we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy this weekend our commemoration of Good Friday just a short few days ago expresses in a profound way what the Mercy of God is. On the Cross Jesus gave his life for all of us. It was an outpouring of Love and Mercy which brings salvation to all people. As a result of this outpouring of God's Mercy we can never be discouraged by our own sins or the sins of others. The feast of Divine Mercy is truly an invitation to believe that no human being is beyond the Love and Mercy of God. We are called to put this belief into action by being 'Merciful like the Father' which reminds us of the theme of the 'Year of Mercy' instituted by Pope Francis during 2015- 2016. If we really want to be apostles of Divine Mercy we must see all our sisters and brothers on the face of the earth, and indeed all creation as redeemable. God is never found wanting in Mercy. Neither should we be found wanting when it comes to being merciful to others.

The pages of the Gospel draws our attention to the Mercy of God too. In a special way the parables of Jesus such as the story of the 'Prodigal Son' ... (Luke 15:11-32) beautifully describe the unconditional Love and Mercy that is gifted to us. The gospel accounts of the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and the continuation of his mission given him by the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Church give us reassurance that the river of Mercy never runs dry.

In these days of the Covid - 19 pandemic we see many examples of mercy in our world; in hospitals, care centres, community groups, sports clubs, parishes, simple acts of kindness and compassion. Mercy has come to mean observation of the current restrictions & cocooning as a mark of their respect and care for others, putting their needs at the centre. This is a great sign of hope. It shows we are capable of Mercy, that maybe people have taken on board the essence of the message of the Gospel more than we ever thought. For us as Christians acts of mercy and compassion are an expression of thanksgiving for the Mercy we have received. The Church will never be irrelevant or redundant as long as we are willing to proclaim the Gospel of Mercy.



### **Praying for our Dead**

#### **Recently Deceased**

Jimmy Searson  
Marymount, Ferrybank

All who have died from the Covid - 19 pandemic in our country & across the world & we pray for their families and communities

#### **Month's Mind**

Richard (Dick) Doherty  
Christopher Langan  
Jean Drohan

#### **Anniversaries**

Peadar Ahearne  
Ellen & John Sutton  
John & Catherine Foley  
Eily O'Donoghue  
Mary Kate & Sally Condon  
Breda McGee,  
Margaret Ryan  
and her husband Dick

#### **Mass Intentions**

Please note that Masses already booked for Ferrybank & Slieverue will be offered at the normal time of 10am every morning and all will be remembered at our weekend Mass - (only one Mass in our churches each weekend) All of these Masses will be celebrated without a full congregation until further notice.

That Gospel is the Good News that our God is Mercy itself, not a vengeful god or a god who destroys the sinner or brings pandemics on the world, but a God who through Love, poured out on the Cross wants all to be saved and know the Joy of the Gospel. Now is the time to renew our commitment to be missionaries of mercy. Let us acknowledge of our own need of Mercy and our mission to bring it to others.

### The Celebration of Funerals

As we reflect on Divine Mercy we recall that one of the works of mercy has always been to bury the dead. Unfortunately in these days the nature of our funerals has changed. Due to the Covid - 19 restrictions families are unable to gather as they would have traditionally done with extended family and friends. Since the restrictions have come into place funerals have been celebrated in Ferrybank and Slieverue in accordance with HSE regulations endorsed by the Diocese of Ossory and will continue to be until restrictions are lifted. The current regulations allow for the each family who request a Catholic funeral to have a funeral Mass and burial for their loved one including those who die from the virus. There is no need for the deceased to be brought straight to the cemetery from the hospital or funeral home for burial, as has happened in some situations. However Funeral Masses and burials are restricted to ten people & social distancing is always required. These restrictions particularly on numbers attending can be very traumatic for families, yet they are there and we must respect them in the interest of the lives of others. It is important to pay tribute and to compliment all the families who have celebrated funerals in our parishes recently and observed all the restrictions faithfully. Your cooperation at such a difficult time for you is a wonderful example of solidarity and care for the community even as you grieve. Thank You. A word of thanks to our local undertakers & gravediggers who are looking after families with such sensitivity and care at this time also. It is painful to have to observe these restrictions but we do so in the hope that one day soon we will be able to bid farewell to our loved ones as we have always been able to do. May all our dead rest in peace.

### Respecting our Cemetery and our Dead



Ferrybank Parish is blessed to have such a beautiful parish cemetery where families lay their dead to rest and where they can come to spend time and remember them. The condition of the cemetery is testament to the wonderful work of past priests, parishioners and those who maintain it. Unfortunately in recent times a carelessness has set in as some dump flowers and wreaths and other items

indiscriminately. The cemetery has also witnessed some anti social behaviour in recent times and there is a constant fear that this might result in injury to a young person or to damage to graves. People have also been walking dogs in the cemetery while failing to respect graves and clean up after their animals. Security of the cemetery is constantly under review and measures may have to be taken to ensure that the graves of your loved ones are kept safe and that young people do not come to harm as a result of anti social behaviour or gatherings in the cemetery. In the near future updated regulations governing the cemetery will be published.

### ACCORD HELP LINE

Accord has established a support phone line to help relationships during the COVID 19 crisis. If you need to speak to an experienced couple and relationship counsellor during these times of unprecedented stress and pressure on family life. Contact 01 5313331. Lines are open from 9.00 am to 8.00 pm Monday to Friday. All calls charged at local rates

### Ferrybank Parish & Slieverue Parish



Priest: Very Rev. Kieran O'Shea  
Tel. 051-832773  
Parish Office 05830813,

Email  
ferrybank@ossory.ie  
slieverue@ossory.ie

Website  
www.ferrybankparish.com

Ferrybank Gardaí 051 830240  
Vincent de Paul Society: Mob. 087-6256876



### Support Line for Older People

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). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

### The Ossory Times

The Easter Edition is now available online. Please go to our Parish website for Ferrybank and Slieverue or to [www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie)

### Website & Facebook page

Please go to our parish website and facebook page for more information

During the past week we 'attempted' to live stream our Holy Week Liturgies! Thank you to all who joined us. We are still learning but thankful for all the gadgetry!

Please keep our senior parishioners up to date with our news

Our next live stream will be from Ferrybank on Saturday 18th April at 7.30 pm

[www.ferrybankparish.com](http://www.ferrybankparish.com)

### Safeguarding Our Children

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are:

#### Ferrybank

Breda Freyne & Jerry Hughes.

#### Slieverue

Mary Kenny

If you, or anyone you know, has a safeguarding concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to Statutory Authorities contact the Gardaí or Túsla An Garda Síochána 1800 555 222. Túsla Child and Family Agency, Waterford 051-842827. The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Mr Cathal Cullen, 087 100 0232.- email [dlp@ossory.ie](mailto:dlp@ossory.ie)



### Daily Mass on RTE

In response to Covid-19 related restrictions on public gatherings, **RTE will air Mass every weekday at 10.30 a.m. on RTE News Now.**