

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Concerned that you cannot go to Confession at this time...

Pope Francis recently said 'If you don't find a priest to go to Confession, speak to God. He's your Father. Tell him the truth. "Lord, I did this and this and this. Pardon me." Ask his forgiveness with all your heart, with an act of contrition, and promise him, "Afterward I will go to Confession." You will return to God's grace immediately.' At this time of crisis, the Pope said the Catechism clearly teaches that one can draw near to God's forgiveness, even without a priest at hand.

Not being able to receive Holy Communion in these days
Act of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Facebook Page & Website

Our parish facebook page and website are operational and hopefully they will become a good vehicle for keeping everyone up to date and for living and sharing our faith.

The simplest way of accessing our website is to google Ferrybank and Slieverue parishes and our facebook page is parish of Ferrybank and parish of Slieverue. Keep trying you will find them!

Parish Radio

Unfortunately our parish radio which was a great source of communication gave up the ghost and while it was taken away for repairs we currently have no update on situation. Hopefully it will return.

Keeping in touch with the church locally and throughout the world

If you wish to keep in touch with the various broadcasts of religious ceremonies from the diocese, from other diocese in Ireland and from Rome RTE and other networks will be broadcasting them. Below is a list of programming for Holy Week on local radio and RTE

Diocese of Ossory

Palm Sunday: Mass KCLR @ 9.20 am
 Chrism Mass: Holy Thursday @ 11.00 am - St. Mary's Cathedral webcam @ www.stmaryscathedral.ie

Live broadcast on KCLR from St. Mary's Cathedral

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 8.00pm
 Good Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion @ 3.00pm
 Holy Saturday: Celebration of the Easter Vigil @ 9.00pm.

Live from KCLR Studio

Easter Sunday: Mass @ 9.30 am

National

Palm Sunday 5 April
 11:00 am - 11:50 am Mass on Palm Sunday. Rev. Professor Michael Mullaney. (RTÉ One TV/RTÉ Radio 1).
 5:35 pm - 5:45 pm A Passover Like No Other. Rabbi Zalman (RTÉ One).

Holy Thursday 9 April

4:40 pm - 5:35 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. Father Joe Campbell CC, to celebrate Mass in Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar. (RTÉ One TV and RTÉ Radio 1)

Good Friday 10 April

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday. Live from the Cathedral of Christ the King, Father Derek Darby, in Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar. (RTÉ One TV & RTÉ Radio 1).

Holy Saturday 11 April

10:00 pm - 11:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass. Bishop Tom Deenihan of Meath celebrates Easter Vigil Mass in the Cathedral of Christ the King. (RTÉ Two - RTÉ Radio 1).

Easter Sunday 12 April

10:00 am - 11:00 am Easter Sunday Mass. A Eurovision Mass, Dominican Convent of Saint Jacques (Saint James the Great) in Paris. Translation and commentary are by Fr Thomas McCarthy OP (RTÉ One).
 11:00 am - 11:20 am 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).



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I hope all of you are well and coping ok. These restrictions are not easy for any of us, and especially for those who have to cocoon among us. Yet they are so necessary in the fight to save lives, the lives of the most vulnerable in the community, our parents and grandparents, elderly uncles and aunts neighbours and friends, people with underlying conditions, all who have given so much for us through the years. Let us continue to do what we can to observe the guidelines in a spirit of solidarity with those who are seriously ill, those who have died and their families, those putting everything on the line to assist the sick and the community in general in these days.

As we stand on the threshold of Holy Week 2020 things couldn't be much different for us! Usually at this time of year there would be a certain buzz and maybe a little panic as we busily prepared for the Liturgies celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus. Organising Altar servers, Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist, and those to have their feet washed (yes feet - not hands!) was a central part of the whole operation! Choirs prepared the music, palm was cut, flowers readied for the Altars, new Eucharistic ministers were commissioned, the Cross venerated, the fire kindled, the Easter candle lit, water blessed.

And now this year we have to let go of much of that and many of you will miss coming together on April afternoons and evenings for the 'ceremonies'. The gathering, being together in the flesh, is the hallmark of celebrating our faith as Christians. In these days we are grateful for the technology that allows us to reach many people but ultimately we are not an online community we are flesh and blood people with faith in a flesh and blood God. This week that flesh and blood God known to us as Jesus of Nazareth, our Christ (which means anointed one) invites us to celebrate the giving of his Flesh and Blood for us in a way that we have not done before.

So how can we celebrate our faith in these days? First of all let us remember that celebrating our faith is not totally dependent of having a Church building or even a priest! Many Catholics in the world don't see a priest from one end of the year to the other or at all and many don't have the luxury of a church building either, yet these communities are full of faith. They realise that through their Baptism they are members of the global family of the Church and they know that they share in the priesthood of Christ in their different ways of life through that Baptism.

We are now asked to live our faith in a similar way until a new 'normal' emerges. In the absence of being able to go to a 'church' or have a priest present, our own homes our own kitchens, our rooms, our cars, our hospitals, nursing homes, our shops, essential places of work, become our sacred space our altar on which we can offer the reality of our lives to God through prayer each and every day. The priest and congregation might just be you alone or you may have your life's partner or a houseful of children and teenagers! Whatever your situation you are the Church and we continue to be in communion with one another.

So during the coming week and for as long as the current situation prevails let your day be your Mass. Take time to sit down to light a candle (safely!). Offer a prayer of thanks for what you have, and perhaps reflect on one of Sr Patsy's little reflections in this newsletter for each day. Offer your present situation to the Lord, offer your family life, your cares, your worries and fears, your hopes and dreams, your joys and sorrows, the suffering of so many people in the world and pray that as the Lord transforms the bread and wine at Mass into the Body and Blood of His Son Jesus Christ, he will also transform you offering into signs of Love and mercy in the lives of all the people and situations you have offered to him.

Celebrate the mercy of God especially if there are difficult moments or times when tempers flare or relationships get tested by asking for forgiveness and the strength to forgive others.

Celebrate Holy Thursday by praying before you begin your meals. Remember what the Lord did at the last supper. Give thanks for the Eucharist, the Mass which has nourished you for this difficult time and will again. Wash the feet of others by simple acts of care and love, maybe making a phone call, writing that letter or



sending that card that you had put on the long finger. Simply 'wash each others feet & love one another' by praying for all people and reaching out in very ordinary but profound ways. Celebrate Good Friday by placing a crucifix in a central place in your home with a candle. If there are younger people they could make a list of all the people who are carrying crosses now and place it near the cross.

On Easter Saturday night perhaps you could find some flowers and place them near the cross and invite all at home to bless themselves with holy water or ordinary water as a sign of renewing your commitment to your faith and baptism.

Do by all means join in the celebrations on TV and online locally but remember you are the Church and the Church is not closed for business, it continues its mission through you and all of us. Wherever the Baptised pray and witness to the Joy of the Gospel the life giving death and resurrection of Jesus continues to be celebrated and bears fruit.

I wish you all a blessed and safe Holy Week and a Joy filled Easter.

Fr Kieran



Reflections for each day of Holy Week

Thank you to Sr Patsy has prepared the following short reflections for our journey though every day of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday

We all have poignant memories of a special day or week. This is the beginning of Holy Week and what a week it is going to be. Today Jesus goes riding on a donkey surrounded by a procession of many people singing Hosanna and waving palms. Perhaps the children were trying to whack one another with the palm branches...they were children! What was in Jesus` heart and mind? What were the people really thinking about? What is in my heart and mind today? Talk with Jesus about it.

Monday

Today we hear of Jesus` visit with Lazarus and his sisters. Martha is busy while Mary anoints Jesus` feet with a costly ointment.

How am I going to help Jesus today...pray more, love more, forgive and ask for forgiveness, help the poor? Sit quietly for a while and talk with Jesus about it. He will lead us to do something new or to continue with the good we are doing.

Tuesday

Today St John writes about Judas` betrayal and Peter` promise to be faithful. Jesus knew them so well. Have I ever let anyone down or not kept a promise? Jesus knows each of us so well too and loves us individually. When we love someone we tell them. Today remember to tell Jesus you love him....tell him often and listen to his response.

Wednesday

Spying and betraying are the themes of today. What is a spy? In War films we often see spies in action. They can't be trusted and always do things "behind closed doors" as the saying is. Jesus knew who would betray him but he didn't Name Judas in front of the others. Whom do we protect or trust. TRUST begins with a T and ends with one. If the first one is missing we end up with RUST. How am I making this Holy Week?

Holy Thursday

The party and what a party! It was a Jewish festival to remember and celebrate the Passover. Jesus chose this special day to give us a different Food...Himself in the Eucharist. Before that he washed the apostles` feet. Many countries have the custom of removing shoes when entering a house or of servants washing the feet of visitors. Jesus was the Servant at this celebration. How and whom do I serve? Do I serve with love or through force of habit? Its so easily done.

Good Friday

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.....Jesus gave Himself to us in the Eucharist...Jesus died on the Cross. We all benefit from Jesus` dying on the Cross... But Jesus was Crucified because he would NOT Compromise on his Understanding of His Father. Think about it. We adore Jesus crucified. A question is : "Who is God the Father for me? or What is My name for God today?"

Holy Saturday

This is the QUIET DAY. ALL DAY. Can you remember this day being Quiet? No radios on..no t.v. ...quiet around the house. Where and How can I be Quiet in body and mind? Sit and meet Jesus there....Don't speak...just be quiet. THEN the GLORIOUS EASTER VIGIL. Jesus said "destroy this temple and I will raise it up on the third day." Now we begin to CELEBRATE WITH JOY AND THANKSGIVING JESUS IS RISEN! REJOICE! ALLELUIA! In Merseyside, Liverpool, people go down to the beach at 7 a.m. and write in Large letters in the sand for all to see REJOICE ! JESUS IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED...ALLELUIA. How am I going to celebrate that Jesus loves me and is Risen?

Holy Week Schedule for Ferrybank and Slieverue

Our holy Week Liturgies will be held without the participation of congregations. They will be live streamed on our facebook page and videos of the celebrations will be posted on our website.



Palm Sunday 5th April

Mass & blessing of Palms will take place in Slieverue at 10 am - live streamed

Tuesday of Holy Week 7th April

Adoration and Prayer of Repentance from Slieverue 7-8 pm - live streamed

Thursday of Holy Week - 9th April

Chrism Mass live streamed on St Mary's Cathedral Kilkenny Website

Celebration of Mass of the Lord's Supper from Slieverue at 7.30 pm - live streamed

Good Friday

Way of the Cross from Slieverue 12 noon - live streamed

Celebration of the Lord's Passion from Ferrybank 3 pm - live streamed

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil from Ferrybank 7.30 pm - live streamed

Easter Sunday

Mass of the Resurrection 10 am from Slieverue - live streamed

Praying for those who have died

Recently Deceased

Edward (Eddie) Keane, Abbey Park
Noel Cuffe, Newtown, Ballymore,
Co. Westmeath and Cunningham's Bar,
Ballymore

Month's Mind

Sarah (Sadie) Hartley

Anniversaries

Ferrybank...

Paudie Moore, Gerry & Maura Cunningham and their son Gary, Elsie McEvoy, Kathleen Meehan
Lukas Dauksas, Tom Power and his parents Martin & Mary Power, Eibhlín O'Neill, Vincent Ryan, Gerard Ryan
Jane Larkin, Joe Walsh, Gaulsmills, Teresa Hearn, Margaret Doyle (1st anniv.)

Slieverue...

William & Margaret Harding and their son John Harding, John Roche, Alice Walsh and her daughter Marcella Walsh

Mass Requests

Masses already arranged and requested for Ferrybank & Slieverue will be offered at the normal time of 10am every morning and on Sunday at 10am. All of these Masses will be celebrated behind closed doors at the present time.

PARISH OFFICE

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT THIS TIME BUT WE ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU.

CONTACT 051 830813

FR KIERAN CAN BE CONTACTED AT 086 8272828

We also remember in our Masses and Prayers during Holy Week deceased family members, neighbours and friends of our parishioners. & all who have died as a result of the Covid - 19 virus. We pray for families who are bereaved at this time & who have to hold the funerals of their loved ones in restricted circumstances.

Alone 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.

Local Authority Helplines for Older people

Kilkenny County Council 1800 500 000 / Waterford City and County Council 1800 250 185