

Thought for the week

PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS



O Mary you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. 'Protectress of the Roman people', you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as a Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the father and to do what Jesus tell us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;
do not despise our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from every danger.
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER



Fourth Sunday of Easter

3rd. May

PARISH CENTRE

Opening hours from: Closed for the moment.

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Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone. Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist



Pope prays for funeral directors

'What they do is something very painful and sad. They are touched closely by the pain of this pandemic'

Pope prays for those who are sad

'Because they are alone or because they do not know what to expect in the future'.

Contribution to Parish

These are very challenging times for all of us spiritually, emotionally and financially. While we are having no public mass, the parish is not receiving any income from the normal church collections. We still have a lot of bills that need to be paid. We would suggest that each weekend you would use your weekly envelope, keep it in a safe place in your house and when restrictions are eased, we will organise some way of collecting these envelopes. Stay safe and mind yourselves.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

I am very aware that we are entering the 'high season' for First Holy Communion ceremonies. I am also conscious that 39 out of our 56 parishes have not yet celebrated Confirmation. In honesty it is difficult to see a huge change post the current restrictions, which expire on May 5th. With that in mind, as First Holy Communion ceremonies are already diaried for the weekends of May, I suggest they, like Confirmation ceremonies are now postponed until we get further guidance regarding large public gatherings. I want to thank our Principals and teachers for the great work they do in helping prepare our young people for the sacraments, work done in cooperation with the local parish and the families of the young people. I also thank Maeve Mahon, our Coordinator for Primary Education. This is a hugely regretful decision but it is important that while the ceremonies may be postponed, the preparation continues. In early May resources will be sent out by email from Maeve for parishes and for schools and available to families and the wider community on the kandle website.

This poem from Pam Ayers summarises what some of us are feeling during this lockdown.

I'm normally a social girl I love to meet my mates but lately with the virus here We can't go out the gates. You see, we are the 'oldies' now We need to stay inside If they haven't seen us for a while, they'll think we've upped and died. They'll never know the things we did Before we got this old There wasn't any Facebook So not everything was told. We may seem sweet old ladies, who would never be uncouth. But we grew up in the 60s - If you only knew the truth! There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll the pill and miniskirts We smoked, we drank, we partied and were quite outrageous flirts. Then we settled down, got married and turned into someone's mum, somebody's wife, then nana, who on earth did we become? We didn't mind the change of pace Because our lives were full but to bury us before we're dead Is like a red rag to a bull! So here you find me stuck inside for 4 weeks, maybe more I finally found myself again Then I had to close the door! It didn't really bother me I'd while away the hour I'd bake for all the family But I've got no flaming flour! Now Netflix is just wonderful I like a gutsy thriller I'm swooning over Idris or some random sexy killer. At least I've got a stash of booze for when I'm being idle There's wine and whiskey, even gin If I'm feeling suicidal! So, let's all drink to lockdown to recovery and health and hope this awful virus Doesn't decimate our wealth. We'll all get through the crisis and be back to join our mates Just hoping I'm not far too wide to fit through the flaming gates!

COVID-19 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.