

“Lockdown”

Yes, there is fear.

Yes, there is isolation.

Yes, there is panic buying.

Yes, there is sickness.

Yes, there is even death.

But...

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues,

Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world, people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

*Brother Richard Hendrick, OFMCap
March 13th 2020.*

St Peter's Parish Drogheda

Newsletter

www.saintpetersdrogheda.ie

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

Fourth Sunday of Lent

22nd March 2020

Canon Eugene Sweeney PP, VG

Fr. Linos Dube CC

Fr Chrisandus Ambale CM

Canon P. McDonnell

Fr. Barry Matthews CC

Fr. Paul Murphy CC

Deacons: David Durrigan & John Taaffe

St Peter's Church Sacristy

Our Lady of Lourdes Sacristy

St Peter's Parochial House

St Peter's Presbytery

Our Lady of Lourdes Presbytery

041 983 8537

041 983 8239

041 983 1899

041 984 5355

041 983 1973



Masses

St Peter's Church

Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

Sunday 8.00am 11.00am & 12.15pm.

Monday – Friday 8.30am & 10.30am.

Saturday 10.30am



Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Saturday Vigil 7.30pm.

Sunday 9.30am 10.30am & 12noon

Monday - Saturday 10.00am

St Peter's Church Shop

Opening times: 11.00am – 3.00pm

Tuesday - Saturday

The Barbican,

St Peter's Parish Centre

041 980 7416

Message from the Parish Priest

We truly live in extraordinary times. While the world order has been fragile for some time it seems few had envisaged the drama which now plays out. It is a time for faith, hope and love. We continue to trust in the Lord who has not abandoned his people, and pray earnestly for God's intervention in the world. We remain strong in hope that we will be victorious in this trial, and do not succumb to despair, despite any sense of powerlessness. We are challenged in a new way to explore what love means, and while fully honouring social distancing and all other Government and HSE directives and norms, we can reach out to our neighbours, especially the old and the vulnerable. Sometimes a phone call, or something small left on the doorstep, is all that is needed! We are truly indebted to all those in the medical field, and all those others providing essential services at this time. The clergy of the Parish continue to offer Mass for the people of the Parish, and to be available for them. Our Lady intercede for us. St Oliver Plunkett, pray for us.

Eugene Sweeney, PP

Mass on Parish Website and Facebook Page

Recording of Mass celebrated in the Parish available each weekday from 10.30am. Sunday Mass will similarly be available from 7.30pm each Saturday evening, and all day Sunday. The Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal will be included at Mass on Mondays, as usual, and to St Anthony of Padua on Tuesdays. www.saintpetersdrogheda.ie
www.facebook.com/StPetersParishDrogheda

ST PETER'S PARISH, DROGHEDA
COVID-19 / CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ARRANGEMENTS
MARCH 14th – 29th 2020

Cancellation of Masses All weekday and Sunday Masses to Sunday March 29th are cancelled in St Peter's Parish.

Dispensation from Attending Mass In the current emergency situation all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass.

Anniversaries and Month's Mind Masses for both St Peter's and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches will be read out at all recorded Mass as arranged. The Parish will be happy to facilitate families wishing to have names read out a second time at Mass when current restrictions are lifted. New anniversaries may be telephoned to 041 984 5355 (Monday – Saturday, 9.00am -1.00pm).

Church Opening Times Both St Peter's and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches will be open daily from 9.00am to 4.00pm. People are encouraged to visit the churches for private prayer.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily in the main body of St Peter's Church, 9.00am to 3.00pm. Also in Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Sundays only, 9.00am – 3.00pm.

Lenten Sunday Series / 24 Hours for the Lord in the Lourdes Church are suspended until current national restrictions are lifted.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be held during this period in both churches, as already arranged, as will all funerals of those who die during this period. No more than 100 people may be in attendance, however, in accordance with national directives.

St Peter's Church Shop open as usual, Tuesday to Saturday, 11.00am – 3.00pm.

Parish Website and Facebook

www.saintpetersdrogheda.ie www.facebook.com/StPetersParishDrogheda

Parish Envelopes Further to requests, a secure box is in place in both churches at the sanctuary for parish envelopes. It will be emptied each day. Many thanks for your continued financial support of the Parish at this difficult time.

Feast Days this Week

Wednesday 25th March The Annunciation of the Lord

Consecration of Ireland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Archbishop Eamon Martin invites us all to join him after the Angelus on Wednesday 25th March, Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, in the consecration of Ireland and her people to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for protection from the Coronavirus. This will be a short ceremony and will also be held in our own parish by the parish clergy. The recording will be available from 12noon on Wednesday on our parish website and Facebook page.

Deaths

We pray for the recently deceased Christina (Imelda) Reynolds, Liam Leech Terrace, Paul Fitzpatrick, Scarlet Street, Anthony McDonagh, Mell & formerly Moneymore, Frances Walsh, Brookville, Bridie Beatty, Phyllis Leech, Jennie Heeney, John McGrane, Jim Brady, Bernadette Martin, Angela Reynolds. **May they rest in peace. Amen.**

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Drogheda River Rescue Emergency Help Need a bag of coal, milk, bread, collection of medication? The men and women of Drogheda River Rescue are happy to reach out to all those who need help at this time. Tel 089 250 5562.

St Vincent de Paul SVP is available as usual to help Tel 041 983 5914.

Covid-19 / Coronavirus – News, prayers, updates, and resources on the Irish Bishops website, www.catholicbishops.ie.

See also: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IrishCatholicBishops/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CatholicBishops> Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/catholicbishops/>

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.

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary,

you always shine on our path

as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,

who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People,

know what we need,

and we are sure you will provide

so that, as in Cana of Galilee,

we may return to joy and to feasting

after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform to the will of the Father

and to do as we are told by Jesus,

who has taken upon himself our sufferings

and carried our sorrows

to lead us, through the cross,

to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.