

Rathdowney Parish Newsletter
4th / 5th April 2020
Palm Sunday
Parish Office: 0505-46282.
Email: rathdowney@ossory.ie
Fr. Martin Delaney 086 2444594

Saturday 8.30pm

Sunday 11am Palm Sunday

Nora Ryan, Ossory Terrace
Terry Smeaton, Church Street
Mary Tompkins (nee Mullins)

Masses During the Week - Available on Webcam

Rathdowney

Monday to Wednesday: Mass at 10 am, Rosary at 5.30 pm

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8.30 pm
Adoration and Holy Hour from 10 to 11 pm

Good Friday: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3 pm
Stations of the Cross at 9 pm

Masses Next Weekend

Holy Saturday Night: Easter Vigil at 9 pm

Easter Sunday Mass at 11 am

Harry Wynne, Months Mind
Karl Quigley Hayes
Colm Morgan & family, England & Coolkerry
Paddy Ryan, Daly Terrace

Monday 13th April: Mass at 10 am

Anthony McKelvey Months Mind

Recent Deaths:

Darragh Fennell, Ballyroan & Portlaoise
Sr. Catherine O'Brien formerly Cuan Bhríde
Sean Hogan, Luton, England and late of Borrisokane

Anniversaries:

Thomas (Tommie) Gorman, The Square

Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies from Holy Trinity
Church Rathdowney 2020 via Webcam
www.rathdowneyparish.ie

Four Ideas to celebrate Holy Week and Easter at Home

It is perhaps becoming an all too familiar phrase but certainly this Holy week and Easter will be 'like no other'. In Rathdowney parish we will be celebrating Holy Week and Easter from the church in the best way that we can and within the limitations placed upon us in these challenging times. I welcome all of our parishioners and those beyond our parish borders to join us for any or all of these broadcast liturgies.

Please log on to our website www.rathdowneyparish.ie and tap on to the webcam.

I would also like to suggest four ideas for you to celebrate Holy week and Easter at home.

Palm Sunday. Normally we would bless Palm Branches at Mass and people take them home and place them over a picture or a cross as a blessing of protection for their family, home or farm during the year. This year I suggest that before Sunday, pick a green branch, any green branch, while you are out on your 2km walk or just from your back garden and on Saturday night or Sunday morning put the branch on your front door or front entrance to celebrate Palm Sunday. Despite the Social distancing we can be connected in faith during this holiest time of year. At Mass on Saturday night (8.30pm) and on Sunday morning (11am) I will be blessing all those branches wherever they are located. If possible and appropriate drop a green branch at the door of a neighbour or someone who may not be in a position to go out. Call or text them to let them what you have and done why!!

Holy Thursday. At the Last Supper Jesus washed the Disciples' feet to show that nobody is above serving their neighbour. At Mass every Holy Thursday we wash the feet of twelve people who in some way serve our community. In these weeks we have seen extraordinary service provided by our healthcare workers and all the other frontline personnel who are keeping our essential services running. By our constant washing of hands we are not just protecting ourselves we are also protecting and serving our neighbours. Within our homes we are the recipients of so many simple acts of love and service. This year on Holy Thursday I suggest you place a basin of water and a towel out on a table as a focus for the day and a reminder of service received and given. If appropriate and you feel comfortable doing it maybe at some point during the day a washing of each other's feet could happen, parents for children, children for parents, spouses or partners for each other.

Good Friday. The Cross is at the centre of the commemoration of Good Friday. When we gather to reverence the cross on Good Friday everyone is equal, nobody is excluded. This year I suggest that on Good Friday take down a cross that may be hanging on a wall, you may have one in a box never opened and if you don't have one why not try to make one, the rougher and simpler the better. Place that cross prominently in your home and at some point during the day (ie when you may be following the ceremony on TV or our webcam) reverence and venerate the cross.

Holy Saturday Night/Easter Sunday Morning: Light is the most powerful symbol of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, the paschal fire, the paschal candle, the sunrise at dawn. We will be lighting the new Paschal Candle at the Easter Vigil in the church on Holy Saturday Night but I also suggest that each household light a candle, any candle and perhaps as many do on Christmas Eve place the candle safely in a window. This is a great Irish Christmas tradition to lighting the way for Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. This Easter that candle in the window is a signal to all that Jesus has risen from the dead and that He is with us in this time of trial and challenge.

A Blessing of Healing Hands for all our Healthcare workers



*Yours are the hands full of experience and skill.
Yours are the hands reaching out with compassion,
Taking time to show care, swiftly taking action.*

Yours are the hands gently touching your patients.

You touch families, too.

Yours are the hands that show you care.

You lift the hearts of those who suffer.

Your hands celebrate the joy of healing.

Your hands bless all they touch with the spirit of compassion,

Thank you for sharing your abundance and gifts,

For touching lives and lifting spirits.

Blessings and thanks for the many works of your hands.