

15th March 2020 **Dungiven Parish Bulletin** No 1523
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SOLEMNITY OF ST. PATRICK – Tues. 17th March. *This is a Holy Day of Obligation.*
St. Patrick's: Tues. 7.00 am. 9.00 am. (*Irish Mass readings also in English*) & 11.30 am.
St. Matthew's: Tues. 10.15 am.
Imm. Conception: Mon. Vigil at 7.15 pm.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St. Patrick's: Mon. 10.00 am.

Please Note! From Wednesday 18th March all Masses are cancelled.

CONFESSIONS – Details later.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Details later.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL – Open as usual. There will be no lighters available to light candle please bring a lighter or matches with you.

BAPTISMS: March: Sat. 28th. April: Sun. 5th, Sat. 11th, 18th & 25th. (*Sun. at 12.15 pm. and 4.30 pm. on a Sat.) Drumsmurn & Gortnaghey by arrangement.*

PREPARE FOR BAPTISM PROGRAMME - Will take place on Wed. 18th March. at 7.30 pm. in the Committee Room.

LENTEN PROGRAMME

Today Sunday (15th March) with a *Sacramental Anointing Service* in St. Patrick's Church at 5.00 pm.



BAPTISM - We welcome into our Christian Community – Emily Rose Ferris, Magheramore Rd., Conor Emmett O'Kane, O'Cathain's Pl., Cliona Frances McAteer, Terrydoo Rd.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY - This week our link for St. Patrick is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOqWT2tk9Js>

DAY OF PRAYER & REFLECTION - For Eucharist Ministers & Readers due to take place on **Sat. 4th April, has been cancelled**

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: £2,500
Thank you to all who contributed.
Please Note: There is an envelope in your box for Tues. 17th March for Clerical Education and Ongoing Formation.

OFFERTORY GIFT ENVELOPES – Are ready for delivery, if you deliver the envelopes in your area and wish to collect them, please call at the office.

DERRY DIOCESAN TRUST - Banagher Parish. Part Time Housekeeper. Permanent Contract. This is a part time position with the hours stipulated below: 10 hours per week – Mon. & Wed. 4.00 - 7.00 pm. & Sat. 11.00 am. - 3.00 pm. For application contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis St., Derry, BT48 9AP, Tel: 028 7126 2302 or email: payroll@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's Ho., St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis St., Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to payroll@derrydiocese.org no later than 5.00 pm on Wednesday 25th March 2020.

BENEDY CENTRE – Jim & Eileen (NIAPA) in the centre to fill in the SFP forms on Mon. 23rd March @ 7.30 pm. **CSR** One Day Training course on Sat. 21st March & Sat. 4th April. Tel: Mary on 777 43737 or 0784 330 5959.

GLENSHANE HOUSE - OCN L3 course starts Tues. 24th March 6.30 - 9.00 pm. (12 weeks). To register Tel: 777 42494 or call into office.

KEVIN LYNCH H. C. - *Lotto No's: 11, 15, 23 & 28.* Lucky Dip: Wendy Toner.

WHIST DRIVE - In St. Peter's Hall (today) Sun. 15th March at 8.00 pm.

Pastoral Statement from Bishop of Derry

The Coronavirus has created a lot of worry for many people. Matters are further complicated in this diocese by different approaches taken by the Irish and UK governments.

As a Church in this cross-border diocese, we have two key pastoral priorities at this time.

Firstly, we wish to take all measures within our control to minimise the spread of the virus.

Secondly, and equally importantly, we want to offer widespread pastoral support and encouragement, rather than merely adding to fear.

A. Precautionary measures

1. Parishioners, clergy and pastoral staff should avoid being with others in public places if they show symptoms of illness, as identified by public health authorities.
2. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed until further notice. The normal routine of weekend Masses is suspended.
3. Parish Confirmation ceremonies are being suspended until further notice.
4. Further guidance will be given at a later date regarding arrangements for First Communion.
5. Funeral ceremonies will be made available for all the deceased, in accordance with public health requirements. However, these should take place for immediate family members and not more than 100 people.
6. Marriage ceremonies will continue to be celebrated. However, those in attendance should be fewer than 100.
7. Baptisms will continue to be celebrated, again with no more than 100 present in the Church. The celebrant will take all appropriate measures to mitigate the possibility of virus transmission, in accordance with public health advice.

B. Pastoral response

1. Because of the widespread fear and uncertainty, this is a time when intense spiritual and pastoral care is essential.

2. Priests should continue to celebrate weekend Masses privately, remembering, in particular, all of those who are most affected by the virus as well as the dedicated services of health care workers and carers.
3. Churches should remain open and promote a prayerful environment through
 - a. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
 - b. Ample opportunities for parishioners to pray, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or seek spiritual counsel.
 - c. Access to ample supply of Holy Water for those who wish to take it for personal use. However, Holy Water should not be present in the holy water fonts
4. Those who are unable to attend weekend Masses in their parish are encouraged to mark Sunday as well as they can by participating in Masses which are transmitted by radio, television or webcams. A list of churches in this diocese with webcams will be available on www.derrydiocese.org.
5. Parishes are encouraged to maximise the use of devices such as webcams to develop and publicise a range of prayer moments during each day. These may include
 - a. The Rosary
 - b. Divine Mercy Chaplet
 - c. The Prayer of the Church (cf eg www.universalis.com)
 - d. Prayerful reflection on the weekday or Sunday readings.
 - e. Stations of the Cross
6. People should seek and create circumstances where people can pray together in family units and with friends. This may involve some of those under 5 above as well as other devotions of choice.

This advice will be reviewed daily in the light of public health advice from the relevant statutory authorities.

+ Donal McKeown

Bishop of Derry