

# DROMAHAIR – KILLARGUE – NEWTOWNMANOR

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**Neighbouring Priests:** Fr Tom McManus, Drumkeeran – 071-9648025; Fr Patsy McDermott, Killenummery – 087-7116685; Fr Oliver Kelly, Manorhamilton – 071-9855042; Fr Samuel Kure, Glencar – 071-9855433.

**Gardaí – Manorhamilton:** 071-9820620; **Samaritans – Sligo:** 071-9142011; **Accord – Sligo:** 071-9145641.

## **Sunday 12th April 2020 – The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday)**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, and on my own behalf, I wish you every blessing at this Easter time. I also extend our good wishes to the parishioners of Drumlease Church of Ireland.

*We want to let you know that we are here with you and for you.* So much has changed in the last few weeks. Our world has become smaller. Our Family lives, our work lives, our parish life has changed so much as well, but our church doors remain open and we are here to serve and help you in whatever way we can.

I, have heard and seen the worry and anxiety of many parishioners, concerned for family members and friends, anxious about their own health, coming to terms with the loss of work and livelihood.

At the same time, I have seen, incredible generosity and strength of spirit from people offering help and assistance. Regularly, I see people going into the church to light a candle and offer a prayer. These too are signs of hope. We need more prayer, not less, in these difficult times.

We have been blessed with lovely weather over the last few weeks. This allows us to appreciate the beauty of nature all around us. I have met many out walking. Some on their own and others with their families. Children on their bikes and loved ones trying to keep up!

These times give us, lots of opportunity to, *reflect on who and what are important* in my life? In this regard, I would like to thank you for your support, kindness and your prayers for me since I came here last September, but more importantly, over the last few weeks.

*Let's continue to play our part.* **To Stay Safe. To wash our hands. To keep our distance. To stay at home.** These choices are not easy-but are necessary. Protection from the virus is in our hands.

Let us also remember those on the 'Front Lines', especially those who work in our hospitals and nursing homes. But also, those who work in our shops, pharmacies etc, those who deliver to our stores, who collect our rubbish, and those who try and make life normal for us in these times. *People, we can easily take for granted.*

*Let's also continue to play our part.* **To pray for each other.** Praying as a family at home, or quietly while out walking or dropping into the Church.

Please also be assured of my prayers, the prayer of the Mass offered for your intentions and also for God's blessing on our parish. With every blessing for Easter to you and your families.

*With warmest wishes.*

**Fr Paul.**

**Recently Deceased:** **Dr James A. Jordan**, Main Street, Dromahair, whose funeral took place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March. **Maura (Molly) Healy (nee Flanagan)**, Dunally, Sligo, & formerly of Corcusconny, Dromahair, whose funeral took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. **James Carey**, Kilmore West, Dublin, father of Karen Finan, Killcoosey, Dromahair, whose funeral took place recently.

**May they Rest in Peace.**

### Family Prayer Cards

Available in all three Churches. There are some lovely prayers and reflections to be used either in the Church, or to take home and pray as a family during these difficult times.

#### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, DROMAHAIR:

1. Mass: No Sunday or Weekday Mass until further notice.

#### CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, NEWTOWNMANOR:

1. Mass: No Sunday or Weekday Mass until further notice.

#### ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, KILLARGUE:

1. Mass: No Saturday (Vigil Mass) or Weekday Mass until further notice.
2. Eucharistic Adoration: Cancelled until further notice.

### Reflection

A few days ago, an Italian priest who is self-isolating and very sadly, lost his brother to Covid- 19 wrote a few lines and he called it *I'm staying at home Lord*.

**Here is some of what he wrote: it may help us as we stay at home too.**

*I'm staying at home, Lord! And I do it responsibly for my own good, for the health of my city, for my loved ones.*

*I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the silence, I pledge to pray, to read, to be useful for small jobs, in order to make our home more beautiful and more welcoming.*

*I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the morning, I thank you for the new day you give me, trying not to spoil it and welcome it with wonder, as a gift and an early Easter surprise.*

*I'm staying at home, Lord! And if the evening makes me sad, I will invoke you like the disciples of Emmaus: stay with us, the evening has arrived and the sun sets.*

*I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the night, in a communion of prayer with the sick, the lonely and all the carers, I will wait for the dawn to sing your mercy again and tell everyone that, **in the storms, you have been my refuge.***

I hope that in these coming weeks, as you stay at home and stay safe and keep watch and pray, that you will find a place for yourself at the foot of the Cross, feeling not lonely or abandoned, but in the presence of the Lord, for he is our anchor, our rudder, our hope.

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**Senior Help Line:** Any caller, concerned about Covid-19, will receive the most up to date guidance as recommended by Government sources. Good health practice is reinforced at all times. Information is updated daily as the situation changes and is available to each of our volunteers at the phones. **SeniorLine is a FREEPHONE service and our older callers can call free between 10am and 10pm every day of the year on 1800-80-45-91**

**A Message from Trocaire:** This time of year, we would usually get back tens of thousands of boxes but that will not be possible this year, at a time when the developing world needs our help the most. Please hold onto your boxes until further notice and they can be returned to your churches when it is safe for people to do so. You can also donate online or over the phone. Online donations can be made at <https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation>

### **Offertory, Dues & Other Collections**

During this period of suspension of weekend Masses, some people mentioned to me about what 'the Irish bishops have asked the faithful to continue their generous contributions to the upkeep of their parish.' In this regard, can I respectfully suggest that parishioners, continue to put their contributions aside in the collection envelopes provided - on an ongoing basis, as circumstances allow, and to bring the envelopes to the church, **but only when Saturday Vigil & Sunday Masses resume.** Thanks for your continuing generosity and understanding. **Fr Paul.**

### **Prayer to Our Lady of Knock**

Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to your people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your Divine Son, remembering His promise, *"Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find"*. Help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to heaven. Fill me with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who live with me. Comfort me when I am sick, lonely or depressed. Teach me how to take part ever more reverently in the Holy Mass. Give me a greater love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray for me now and at the hour of my death. **Amen.**

### **A PRAYER FOR THIS COMING WEEK:**

Dear God, prepare us for this coming week. Bless those who are quarantined; bless those who are complying with stay at home orders and bless those who have to go out to work. Heal those infected with the virus and make their recovery fast and pain free. Give your strength to all the doctors, nurses and care providers who are caring for all infected with virus. Keep them safe and free from exposure. Be with us in our homes as we protect ourselves, and our families.

May we use this time to bond with our loved ones, and may we have your peace and joy each day. Help us to remember that our strength and our joy are found in you. Restore our hope, renew our faith, and remind us that better days are coming. Take away our worries and fears and cover us with your grace and mercy.

May we be blessed this week, as we pray in the name of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **PLEASE KEEP ALL OUR SICK, ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Prayer is a powerful weapon, a strengthening comfort, a genuine act of love, for all in need. To know that others are praying for us is a healing love. To pray **"Walk with them O Lord, through the darkest night and brightest day. Keep them close to you. Give them the strength, courage, faith and hope to come through this time of darkness. Lay your healing hands gently upon them, and if it be your will, grant them healing and recovery. Amen"**.