

Parish of Monasterboice (Mainistir Bhuithe)

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A; 22nd March 2020

Parish Priest: **Fr. Paddy Rushe**

T: 086 880 7470

E: monasterboiceparish2018@gmail.com

W: www.monasterboiceparish.com

Twitter: @MonasterboiceP

Also check our Facebook Page

Pastoral Area: Along with Termonfechin, Clogherhead, and Togher, our Parish is part of the St. Colmcille's Pastoral Area: Contact numbers; **Fr Paul Byrne** 982 2121; **Fr Martin McVeigh** 982 2224; **Monsignor Jim Carroll** 98 89335

Parish Office Hours: Tuesdays from 2.30pm - 5.30pm in the Parochial House, Hamlinstown (A92 RT66); Ann McEvoy (087 648 6809) will be the key person for the issuing of certificates, booking of Masses, Baptisms, and so on.

Masses: Please visit www.termonfechinparish.ie FOR MASS FROM OUR LOCAL PRIESTS

Sunday 22nd at 11am; Paul Byrne; **Monday 23rd at 930am;** Jim Carroll; **Tuesday 24th at 9.30am;** Paul Byrne; **Wednesday 25th at 9.30am;** Paddy Rushe; **Thursday 26th at 9.30am;** Martin McVeigh; **Friday 27th at 9.30am;** Jim Carroll; Mass is televised each day, several times a day, from EWTN, available on Sky 588, also on RTE News Now at 10.30am, daily.

A Message from Fr. Paddy who wishes to express his solidarity with all our parishioners at this time, especially praying for all those affected by and suffering from the virus. We remember the people on the front line of healthcare, and all those who continue to work in providing essential services. Our prayers especially go to those who are feeling fearful, anxious, and worried particularly the most vulnerable who now face the prospect of several weeks, if not months, at home. It would be so easy to despair, become despondent, and let the negative feelings win out. But, as Christians, even during Lent, we are called to see hope in the face of disaster, light in the middle of the darkness, and resurrection when all seems to have died. Fr. Paddy is available to assist in any way, but is very conscious of taking the appropriate precautions with regard to social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, etc. But if you feel he can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch. In relation to updates in the coming weeks, please subscribe to our Facebook Page, our Twitter Feed, and our new Parish website; www.monasterboiceparish.com

Anniversaries: Due to the situation, anyone who has anniversaries or other remembrances booked, please contact the Parish office to re-schedule. Fr. Paddy can offer Mass for intentions when he celebrates the Mass via the internet, in Termonfechin on Wednesday next. Please contact him directly.

Our Churches will be opened during daylight hours throughout the week; parishioners are able to drop in & pause for a moment of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Thanks to Kathleen and Teresa for their assistance.

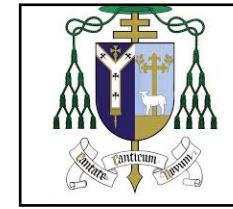
Bulletins: Will be printed as usual each week, and distributed to both Churches, as well as Tenure Stores and Mulroy's Shop (with thanks to the shop owners);

Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Mother Day: Wishing all our mums a very Happy Mother's Day this Sunday. While you may not get to celebrate the way you wanted, it's important to mark the day anyhow. Thanks for all you do - not all superheroes wear capes, some are mums too! Blessing on all our mums who are in heaven as well.

Mullary Cemetery Draw:

Weekly Collection: Due to Mass being cancelled, there was no collection last weekend. We are aware that many people will be suffering financial hardship at this time, and if there is any way the Church might be of assistance, please come and speak with Fr. Paddy, or any member of the Finance Committee. We are asking parishioners not to leave envelopes in the Church, or at the Parochial House. But if people want to switch their envelope to an online donation at this time, these are the parish details; BIC: AIBKIE2D and IBAN: IE68 AIBK 9320 9421 7710 85; Please make sure you give your Envelope Number or Family Name as a Reference. Thank you for your financial support of the Parish.



Coping with the Coronavirus Emergency in our Parishes and Diocese

Bulletin from Archbishop Eamon
COVID-19 – 27 March



Dear brothers and sisters, I am very grateful for the way in which you are all responding to the current Coronavirus situation which is presenting unprecedented challenges for all of us in Church and society.

It is most important that we continue to accompany each other during these difficult times and do our best to maintain pastoral contact. Many have already been making ample use of social media, webcams etc; I think it is important to keep the Parish Bulletin going in some format so that you can keep essential communication lines open.

Parishioners will be wanting us to pray with and for them so I encourage church buildings to be kept open where possible and allow people to visit, light a candle, participate in adoration etc. People are already instinctively keeping safe spaces between them and this should be encouraged via notices etc. Please continue to share webcam links etc. with each other and also let parishioners know that **RTE is broadcasting Mass every day at 10.30 a.m. on RTE News Now.**

Sadly, it seems we are soon moving into a more difficult and painful period, with serious illness and death likely to be occurring within our parishes due to the pandemic. Restrictions on movement and gathering may become more stringent. **The restrictions which we have already put in place are motivated by a sense of care for the common good and especially for those most vulnerable. We aim to minimise the movement of vulnerable people, including many of our faithful and most devoted parishioners – and our clergy! This is to protect them from the worst of this virus and to minimise the number of serious illnesses and fatalities.** At the same time we want to reach out in Christian compassion and generosity of spirit to as many parishioners as possible through prayer and pastoral action.

The public celebration of Mass in the diocese is suspended. I encourage Priests to continue offering your Mass every day in private for your people and to continue to fulfil the intentions and anniversaries that you are asked to remember. **In the current emergency situation, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass.**

On 25 March after the Angelus at noon, please join me in the Consecration of Ireland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for protection from the Coronavirus. We should all pray earnestly for one another and for those who are contracting the virus and for those who are caring for them at home or in hospital.

I expect that following advice from the public health authorities that we may not be able to maintain the current practice of small gatherings for funeral Masses etc. **We should be preparing ourselves for the likelihood that only committal services at the graveside will be possible at some point in the future.** Meanwhile, funeral gatherings in Church are for close family members only and that strictly no more than one hundred people should gather at any one time, and also to refrain from shaking hands or other physical contact as a means of expressing sympathy. The same applies to baptisms and weddings – these should be strictly for close relatives or guests only in the church. Remember that there are protocols in these Sacramental moments to protect our parishioners.

It is important to stay in touch with sick parishioners although it will not be possible to do this in most cases when people are in hospital or self-isolating with the virus; it is therefore important not to put yourself, or the sick parishioner, in any increased danger. In so far as possible, for the safety of the patient and the carer, all care must be without direct physical contact. **All visits should be for a maximum of five minutes.** You may be able to replace a visit with a telephone call and a prayer over the phone.

All parishes should ensure the following:

- Parishes are familiar with, and follow, all official public health authority guidance;
- Staff, volunteers and parishioners are informed & asked to respect/follow all official public health authority guidance;
- Public guidance is followed to ensure parishes have safe workplaces and work practices to protect our employees, volunteers and parishioners.

The current restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will of course have significant implications for the financial activities of our parishes. **Therefore, parishes should review budgets** to consider where prudent reductions can be made in recurrent expenditure. **Parishes should seek to reduce running costs** (e.g. heating, light, water) in properties where there are now reduced activities. **Parishes may also look at sharing resources** as this may not only help to reduce costs, but also provide a visible sign of solidarity in time of crisis. This might involve the sharing of personnel (clergy and laity) to assist in the running and provision of services. **Please God, this time of emergency will become also a time for creative collaboration.**

In next week's bulletin **I will endeavour to provide Guidelines for Holy Week and Easter.** Meanwhile, I wish to acknowledge and thank our priests and parishioners for your ongoing efforts to cope during this unprecedented situation. Please continue to look after yourselves. With every blessing and kindest regards, Yours sincerely,

+ **Eamon Martin**
Archbishop of Armagh

Notes for next week's bulletin email no later than Wednesday please to mboice2010@gmail.com

Please see Church notice boards for further upcoming events and notices.