



St. Colman's Parish
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
27th /28th March 2021

Pastoral Message for Holy Week and Easter 2021

*If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet,
how much more should you wash each other's feet? Jn 13:14*

What a year! Together all of us have lived through a year of the corona virus, each has experienced it in our own unique circumstances. The Winter months have been particularly difficult. The light and new green growth of Springtime has never been so welcome, and it has coincided with the season of Lent. Let us keep our spirits up and encourage one another in following public health guidance.

Thank God for the way so many people have been there for each other, thank God for the way front line workers have sacrificed themselves to provide essential services. We are full of gratitude; how important it is to live lives of generous service. Individually we are at our best when our communities are at their best.

With government guidance at level 5, and with a genuine concern that we could have another major wave of the virus ahead, it is understandable but sad that we have our Easter ceremonies without a congregation. It is a blessing that you can join in the ceremonies so easily from your home via modern technology. What we miss is the dual presence: the presence of the community gathered in church, and together receiving the Real Presence at the altar.

In some ways it seems like the past year has been one long Lent! If so, what word has God spoken to your heart through it? Here are three points to reflect on as we come to Easter 2021:

- **Live every day putting your trust in God.** In times of great difficulty, in times when life gets us down, we look to Jesus for peace. Jesus' word to us always is, "*Fear not, have peace in your heart, I am with you*". In time of difficulty, regarding health or death, employment or finances, loneliness or depression we sense in our hearts, 'God is with me, God will see me through, - all will be well'. Have basic Christian hope in your heart, - trust in God in all things!

- **This Holy Week and Easter, joining in Mass from home, seek nourishment at the table of God's word.** The introduction to the Roman Missal speaks of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass: *"When the Sacred Scriptures are read in church, God himself speaks to his People, and Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel"* (29). When you go forth from the Easter ceremonies carry words from the scriptures in your heart: the Last Supper, *'you should wash each other's feet'*; the commemoration of the Passion, *'This is my body, given up for you'*; Easter morning, *'You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, He is risen ...'*
- **This year has reminded us that home is where we pray each day.** Home is the place where we first received our faith and where we live it. In the home God is present with us. Prayer in the home is the time we spend turned towards God, - talking to him about our lives and asking his help; giving praise and thanks; asking forgiveness and renewing our trust. Has prayer in the home helped you and your family over the past year? It will be a great blessing if, when this virus is finally a memory, we have a new awareness of prayer in the home.

A word of thanks to our priests and deacons, and all who have contributed to the life of our parishes over the past year. A word of thanks to our schools for the great work they have done. A word of encouragement to all young people looking forward to First Confession, First Communion or Confirmation. We cannot make any plans until we know when we will have congregations in church. The situation is disappointing, but the ceremonies will be worth waiting for. Another group who have suffered are the Leaving Cert. students. May they trust that all will be well and, come the Autumn, they will be satisfied with the options that come their way.

Thank you to all who have continued to contribute to parish funds and the parish dues for our priests. Keep up the good work. Priests have been greatly encouraged by your faithfulness. Please remember other local charities and voluntary bodies over the Easter season, so much fundraising has not been possible. All need funds to pay for the basics like insurance, heating, and the overheads of an office. Please, let us not forget the Lenten campaign of Trocaire. If the corona virus has been hard on us, how much more difficult has it been for the communities Trocaire supports?

Finally, every time we pray over the Easter season let us all, people and priests, remember the deceased of the past year, and their grieving loved ones. Have a comforting word for the bereaved when you meet. In this world and in the next our hope is in Christ, "Christ is Risen, alleluia". Be assured of my prayers.

***Bishop Ray Browne
Palm Sunday 2021***

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 Website: www.milltownlistryparish.com
Safeguarding Children: Contact No (087) 6362780

Masses & Intentions -All Masses will celebrated be online

Mon Mar. 29 th			<i>No Mass</i>
Tues Mar. 30 th	Listry	6.30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<i>Stations of the Cross Michael Joe Donnelly Ballytrasna, Rockfield</i>
Wed. Mar.31 st	Milltown	9:00 a.m.	<i>For all deceased members of the Roberts Family, Callinafercy</i>
Holy Thursday Thurs April 1 st	Milltown	7:00 p.m.	<i>Mass of the Lords Supper</i>
Good Friday Fri. April 2 nd	Milltown Listry	3:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	<i>The Passion of Our Lord Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat. April 3 rd	Listry	6:00 p.m.	<i>Vigil Mass of the Resurrection Sean, Thomas & Norrie Murphy Slievegaura, Ballymalis</i>
Sun. April 4 th	Milltown	11:15 a.m.	<i>Easter Sunday</i>

Reminder

All Masses will be celebrated without a congregation due to Covid-19 Government Restrictions

Mass is broadcast on 106fm and all Weekend Masses will be streamed online via www.milltownlistryparish.com

Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2021

Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes. It is an opportunity to assist people in dire need in different parts of the world. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and continued support. Boxes can be returned to the Parish Office.

St. Patrick's College Maynooth: Application for Pastoral Courses will remain opened until 9th April 2021. Further info admissions@spcm.ie

The way of the Cross: As we approach Holy Week, the prayer of the Way of the Cross may have become more and more important to us. The Way of the Cross can be viewed online through our diocesan YouTube channel -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4j8hnsN4jc&t=166s>

Leap of Faith in Times of Transition: An Online Workshop for Young Adults aged 18 to 30 yrs. on 8th Apr. from 7.30 to 9.00pm. The workshop will be led by Gerry and Miriam Hussey. Join us for this event planned by Diocese of Kerry "YouthDoK" Young Adult Group for Young Adults. Further information available and registration on www.dioceseofkerry.ie

Milltown/Listry Branch of Kerry Hospice Foundation: This year due to Covid restrictions it will be held virtually, and we are asking that you take to the roads and walk within your 5km limit any time between St Patricks Day and Good Friday. We are fully dependant on fundraising to assist in the running of Kerry Palliative Care Unit Day Centre and Inpatient Unit and any donations for the walk can be made to www.iDonate.ie/LongGoodFriday or given to any of our Committee members. Your support is greatly appreciated.

ALONE: manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Parish Envelopes: Your Spring Dues are now due. Your parish envelopes or Intentions can be dropped into the Post Box next to the Parish Office or to Fr. Danny's residence at 18 Ballyoughtragh Heights, Milltown. Thank you for your continuing support.

Priest on Duty: Fr. Kevin Sullivan (087) 6277638