

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

All Saints

1st November 2020

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

Neighbouring Priests: Fr T Mannion 964 3014 - Fr P Casey 916 4143 -

Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

Masses

Mass intentions booked will be said in private as public Masses are not allowed at this present time.

Sat 31st Oct	Patrick & Helen Leydon & Deceased family
Sun 1st Nov	Mary Ellen & John Byrne & Deceased family Mary & Jack McMahon
Mon 2nd Nov	John & Mary Ann Devanney
Sat 7th Nov	Peter & Kathleen Loughlin, Sheena
Sun 8th Nov	Jim Gallagher, Shiveillagh Tony Forde

Level 5: During Level 5, public Masses are suspended. If you want to get a local Mass, tune in on www.churchtv.ie and follow the links to the church of your choice, e.g. Dromahaire.

Visitation: Suspended during Level 5 Restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Hopefully we will be able to resume visitation before Christmas. Keep safe.

November List of the Deceased: In Masses during the month of November, the deceased of the Parish will be included. If you wish you can drop your envelope with your list through the letterbox at the Parochial House.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

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 in 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.

Confirmation of Details: Can all parishioners please fill in a "Confirmation of Details" form if you are on our envelope scheme so we can keep our records relevant and up to date. If you wish to join the scheme, please get and fill in a form from one of the churches or from the Parish website and return your form to the Parochial House. Thank you.

Bishop Hayes reflects on Living with COVID-19: Our crisis - our opportunity.

Once again, we are at a critical stage with the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that more restrictive measures are being put in place, we can encourage each other to persevere and not to lose heart. Our civic leaders and public health officials are rightly encouraging us to work together to help curtail the spread of the virus; to dig deep and to show resolve. It is not easy, as the restrictions not just disrupt our routines. Their imposition means that businesses must close, and people lose their employment, albeit with Government supports. Also, the restrictions cause isolation which, alongside the anxiety around the increasing number of positive cases, has consequences for our mental health.

These challenges raise many questions for me, namely:

- Where do we, in the midst of these necessary restrictions and concerns, find that resolve to work together, and where do we go for inspiration?
- What is the motivation to stay with the restrictions and go beyond our usual efforts? – What is it that can sustain us?
- We are being offered the hope of a reduced level of the virus, yet we worry about the next wave.
- Also, there is the possibility of a vaccine. While we wish all those engaged in pursuing that path well, however, a vaccine may not be available in the short term.

In the meantime, all our usual supports; work, a livelihood, the contact with extended family, friends, neighbours, clubs, organisations, community, faith gatherings, e.g. Mass have been removed. Where do go for that resolve to keep going?

Is this time of being curtailed by restrictions our opportunity to discover within ourselves a source of hope, of endurance that will sustain us in the long term? Perhaps, this is a time to have conversations about how we are coping; to take time to listen to how each one of us is getting through these current difficulties and of sharing that wisdom with each other.

In this time of reflection, we may come to realise that what we 'normally' rely upon is really a distraction from discovering a rich resource within. Perhaps, this time of restrictions is an opportunity to step back once again from over-activity; a time to reflect, read and study resources that will sustain our spiritual well-being in the long term. Faith and prayer, in the home and in church can be a huge support in difficult times, especially when we do so alongside an in-depth reflection upon our current crisis and share our journey with others.

Do not lose heart.

We are called to persevere and not to lose heart on the solid basis of our faith in a God who is with us on our journey of life. In reflecting upon the reality of our experiences within the context of our faith story, we must focus upon the practical measures like keeping our distance, washing our hands and wearing our masks in crowded places. We need to do all we can to ensure that COVID-19 is stemmed in its spread for the sake of everyone, especially, the most vulnerable. Looking ahead, Advent and Christmas are likely to be very different this year. Advent, as a time of patient, hopeful waiting and longing, will have a particular resonance in these times, while the much needed joy of Christmas may well be tempered by the impact of restrictions. As parish communities may we explore creatively ways in which the hope of Advent and the joy of Christmas can be realised and safely celebrated. We give thanks for the courage, compassion and generosity of people during the pandemic – especially that of our health workers, carers and others working in essential services – it has been uplifting and inspiring. May we, not 'pass by on the other side', but, in the example of Christ, open our hearts and reach out in response to others in their need at this time.

+ Martin Hayes
Bishop of Kilmore