

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

Easter Sunday 12th April 2020

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

Neighbouring Priests: Fr T Mannion 964 3014 Fr P Casey 916 4143 Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

*Fr Tom would like to wish
A Happy and Holy Easter
to All Parishioners.*



Webcam: You can tune in to Church services at - Kill at <https://mass.tully.ie>.

Cavan Cathedral on www.churchservices.tv/cavancathedral.

Bailieborough is also served by www.churchservices.tv/stannesbailieborough.

Bawnboy is <https://www.corloughempleport.com/livestream/>.

Derrylin is <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-ninnidhs-church-derrylin>.

Teemore is <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-marys-church-teemore>.

Mass Leaflets: And newsletters will be left in each Church each Saturday morning.

Holy Week Liturgy Times:

Holy Saturday Vigil Mass 11th April at 10pm on RTE 2 and RTE Radio 1 Extra.

Easter Sunday Mass 12th April at 10am on RTE 1 TV and RTE Radio 1 Extra.

Parish Finances: No money has been collected for Dues or for the Churches since the beginning of March. Priests will be taking a substantial cut in their salary. You can use your envelopes and return them when Masses resume. You can also request a standing order form to pay Dues and offertory weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually, please quote your envelope number as the payment reference. Thanks.

A Reflection at this time of emergency dominated by Coronavirus COVID-19. **Lest we forget - should that be possible!** **By Fr. Tom McManus**

It's not raining, the sun is shining, the children are home from schools but all is silent.

This is an eerie time. No children's voices shouting or laughing at play.

What day is it?

No handshakes or the usual friendly meetings in public houses or private ones.

There is the constant statistics of contracted cases, of those who were admitted to ICU units, and sadly of those who have died. It is the non-stop topic on TV, radio and newspapers and the social media. This "thing" has made people prisoners in their own homes all around our planet.

It was new and so few knew how dangerous it was or how best to combat it. The authorities in different countries had different approaches. They relied on the medical and scientific and mathematical experts to predict its behaviour and try to keep a step ahead.

It exists in the twilight zone between "the living" and "non-living". It is so small we couldn't see it even if we had a microscope. It hides from the waves of light we use to see our world. It requires an electron microscope to reveal what it is. It's so simple yet

what devastation it has caused around the globe. We fear it more than something big and dangerous that we can see, a rabid dog with rabies or a cross bull prepared to charge. It has caused us "to cocoon", "to social distance", "to self-isolate", to stay at home, to wash, to wash, to wash our hands. It has changed how we live our lives, how we interact with family and friends, how we pray, how we play, how we do or don't do our work.

We would have heard of viruses before but our generation never had to cope with something like this. The word "virus" means "poison". Hopefully it hasn't poisoned us in any way. This "thing" hasn't needed to evolve body organs to live. It doesn't need to eat or have a heart-beat or have need of lungs or liver or kidneys and so on. It only has a thread of genetic information inside an overcoat. Like the cuckoo that uses other birds to do its nest-building and to rear its young, this "thing" uses us humans to multiply and get around. Since success in genetic terms is about having plenty of offspring, that it certainly does. It uses our cells to get the material it needs to reproduce and when it has done that, it bursts its way out destroying our cells in the process and leaves in the millions to infect someone new. How quickly for something so simple and so tiny to get from Wuhan, a city in China, to our county of Leitrim. How it has got inside the borders of all those countries where it has sickened and killed and torn families apart. How it has devastated economies and made millions unemployed. How it has derailed our travel plans for Spring and maybe Summer and beyond. The tourist industry is paralysed. There was a photograph of grass and weeds growing between the cobblestones in piazza Navona, one of Rome's most popular squares. There is simply no football.

How it has left young people not knowing will their exams go ahead in the early Summer or not. There are the disappointed First Communion and Confirmation pupils. There are the couples who had to postpone their wedding day. There are the devout parishioners who miss being able to get to the church for Mass. It has made us realise how we depend on sport to enrich our lives. How we miss the football and the banter that goes with it.

Now that it exists, it, or a relative won't ever not exist. A vaccine hopefully will soon defeat it or put a stop to its gallop! It could keep a step ahead of us even if it has no brain. It could mutate or change its structure slightly. It could put on a different "crown" or change a button or more on its overcoat. The vaccine wouldn't work and our immune system wouldn't be prepared to fight it.

We used to have a saying: "The best goods come in small parcels". That's certainly not the case here. However, what if we learned that it is the many small things we can do for good that can have the biggest, the best and the most long-lasting effects. What about all the simple acts of kindness that won't make the headlines but will have enriched someone's day. What about all the communications by all the means now at our fingertips. What about doing the shopping for a senior neighbour. What about taking the time to read, to reflect, to pray, to walk and enjoy the outdoors. For, "what is life if so full of care we haven't time to stop and stare".

To be continued.....