

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

Pentecost Sunday

31st May 2020

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

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

Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

First Communion and Confirmation: We know how disappointed you pupils are that you couldn't celebrate these Sacraments on the planned days. However, the families, the schools and the Parish haven't forgotten you. Most important of all God has not forgotten you. We will celebrate these wonderful days when we are told it is safe to do so. You can look forward to that special day that we want for you and God wants for you and of course that you want for yourselves. May God bless you and what you do as you work and play at home.

Leaving Cert Mass: Msgr. Liam Kelly will celebrate Mass for all Leaving Cert Students on Wed 3 June in Cavan Cathedral at 6.30pm. It will be live streamed on www.churchservices.tv/cavancathedral.

Tune in to Church services at - www.churchservices.tv or <https://www.mcnmedia.tv> and search for your local or favourite church for Mass.

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

Envelopes: Parishioners are asked to keep the envelopes until the churches are open again for Masses. If you want to pay by cheque, then the offertory contributions that go to the individual Churches can be paid to; Drumkeeran Church Account, Creevelea Church Account or Tarmon Church Account. The Dues can be paid to, Priest's Revenue Account. Thanks for your support and stay safe.

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 into my Soul.

Since I cannot, at this moment, receive you sacramentally, please come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

Community Connect: Is a new, national initiative to support pregnant women and new parents/mothers in a practical and tangible way. The initiative is supported by the Pro-Life campaign. Many women experiencing unexpected pregnancies struggle with the nagging question: 'How will I provide for my baby?' Community Connect is here to help on many levels. It is not a counselling service, but operates as a practical support hub where parents in need can access baby equipment. You can also volunteer to help in many ways from knitting booties to delivering care packages. Please visit www.communityconnect.ie or call 085 875 8366 to get or to give help.

See your Life through the Lens of the Gospel John 20:19-23

- ❖ Jesus comes into a room full of fear. Sometimes is it fear itself that makes us close the door on others and on God. Occasionally a person comes along with the gift of breaking through our closed doors, a person who comes to be with us in our fears. Do you have memories of people getting through to you and being with you despite your closed doors? Who brought you peace in a time of anxiety?
- ❖ Jesus showed his wounds to his friends. Moments of grace can occur when another shows us their vulnerable side, or when we do that with them. Let your memories speak of such experiences to you.
- ❖ As Jesus was sent by the father, so he sent out the disciples. This evokes images of receiving and handing on the things that give life: values, meaning, sense of purpose, love. Who are the people who gave you life by what they handed on to you? To whom have you handed on what is life-giving?
- ❖ In our tradition, the final verse reminds us of the Sacrament of reconciliation but its meaning is broader than that. Spirit filled people are people who forgive. What difference had is made to you and to others when you forgive rather than hold sins against others?

John Byrne OSA

Reflection 1:

"Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, when they stopped being timid, fearful men and received the grace and

courage to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, first in Jerusalem, and then throughout the world. The work continues as Holy Mother Church spreads her mantle of maternal love in people's hearts. Christ breathed on the Apostles, giving them the power to forgive sins by means of the Holy Spirit.

After the atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima in 1945, the late Monsignor Ronald Knox, a convert to Catholicism, opined, "Now that we have atomised the atmosphere, there is no doubt that society itself will break down into smaller atoms." In recent times, people in the First World have become more self-sufficient, less dependent on community and society in general. To cope with a growing loneliness, the psychological and psychiatric professions have grown exponentially. Some expose themselves on radio phone-in and television chat shows, admitting they have made mistakes and asking for pardon for having done so. What many of these tortured souls forget is that the Church has the perfect antidote to loneliness and sinfulness, in the sacrament of reconciliation. When the priest says the words, "I absolve you from your sins," he is speaking the words of Christ through the Holy Spirit, the same Christ who breathed on His Apostles after His resurrection from the dead. The Holy Spirit reconciles enemies and works to build up the Christian community in all places and throughout time. On this fiftieth day after we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, may we give glory and thanks to God for His gift of the Holy Spirit - the breath of God which breathes new life into our fallen world.

Fr Oliver Skelly PP, Coole, Co. Westmeath

The Deep End - Peace be with You.

The word for peace in the Gospel today, Shalom, is more than a wish for a good evening. It is a deeper peace, a peace of mind, body and spirit. A peace that comes from a deep spiritual relationship with Christ. It is a peace that says, no matter what we face, we can remain rooted in something deeper.

Over the past number of months our lives have changed dramatically. At the beginning of 2020 one could scarcely imagine the historical events that were about to unfold across the world. A staggering death toll, half the globe on lock down, airlines grounded, businesses closed, major sporting events cancelled. Many of us in the first week of social isolation were in shock, which turned to anxiety and fear. We experienced a collective grief as a human race as this new reality unfolded.

One can imagine that same fear and disbelief that Jesus' followers endured during those days in Jerusalem following the crucifixion, their

lives utterly changed forever. Yet our faith shows us that the tomb does not have the last word. The Easter story is a message of hope. It shows us that darkness will not always prevail, there will be a turning point, there will be light and renewal. Things will be different, yes. One does not emerge from a crisis unchanged.

We have witnessed so many acts of that light during this crisis from the heroes on the front line, in good neighbours, in friends and family reaching out to one another. These rays of light remind us of Christ at work in this world, offering peace and love when everything else seems hopeless. May we experience this deep peace Christ offers us in the Gospel today and may we carry that peace to others.

Jane Mellett

Evening Prayer

As light departs to let the earth be one with night,
Silence deepens in the mind, and thoughts grow slow;
The basket of twilight brims over with colours
Gathered from within the secret meadows of the day
And offered like blessings to the gathering tenebrae.

After the day's frenzy, may the heart grow still,
Gracious in thought for all the day brought,
Surprises that dawn could never have dreamed;
The blue silence that came to still the mind,
The quiver of mystery at the edge of a glimpse,
The golden echoes of worlds behind voices.

Tense faces unable to hide what gripped the heart,
The abrupt cut of glance or a word that hurt,
The flame of longing that distance darkened,
Bouquets of memory gathered on the heart's altar,
The thorns of absence in the rose of dream.

And the whole while the unknown underworld
Of the mind, turning slowly, in its secret orbit.

May the blessing of sleep bring refreshment and release
And the Angel of the Moon call the rivers of dream
To soften the hardened earth of the outside life,
Disentangle from the trapped nets the hurt and sorrow,
And awaken the young soul for the new tomorrow.