

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

Third Sunday of Easter

26th April 2020

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

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

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

With the help of www.Churchservices.tv, this Sunday 26 April, there will be Mass broadcasted at 2pm on RTÉ News Now, streamed from the Holy Family Mission in Glencomeragh, Co. Waterford (<https://www.holyfamilymission.ie/>), and celebrated by Fr Patrick Cahill. They hope to maintain this practice while restrictions persist. RTÉ News Now can be accessed on Saorview Channel 21; Sky 521; Virgin 200; Eir 517 and also via its own website, free app and via the RTÉ Player, where this content will also be available after the initial transmission.

Prayer to Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland

You gave hope to your people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your Divine Son, remembering His promise, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find". Help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to heaven. Fill me with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who live with me. Comfort me when I am sick, lonely or depressed. Teach me how to take part ever more reverently in the Holy Mass. Pray for me now, and at the hour of my death. Amen.

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

Accord: If you need to speak to an experienced Couples and Relationship Counsellor, please contact 01 531 331 open 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday.

Parish Finances: Use your envelopes, return them when Masses resume or you can request a standing order form to pay Dues and offertory directly to our bank account, quote your envelope number as the payment reference. Thanks.

Meidheal Wanted: Volunteers who could mow the grass in our local graveyards until the RSS workers are back on duty?

A COVID-19 Community Outreach Champion: Is available in Leitrim to link local community groups and volunteers to those people cocooning or in need of support at this time. You can contact, Karen Dolan, on 0877167593 or email kdolan@ldco.ie. The Local Authority helpline is 071-9650473 and is open from 8am-8pm, 7 days a week.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Tomorrow, when the latest Deathometer of Covid-19 is announced in sonorous tones,

While all the bodies still mount and curl towards the middle of the curve

Heaped one atop and alongside the other

My sister will be among those numbers, among the throwaway lines

Among the platitudes and lowered eyes,

An older person with underlying health conditions,

A pitiful way to lay rest the bare bones of a life.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Her underlying conditions were

Love, Kindness, Belief in the essential goodness of mankind, Uproarious laughter,

Forgiveness, Compassion, A storyteller, A survivor, A comforter, A force of nature,

And so much more

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

She died without the soft touch of a loved one's hand

Without the feathered kiss upon her forehead

Without the muted murmur of familiar family voices gathered around her bed,

Without the gentle roar of laughter that comes with memories recalled

Evoked from a time that already seems distant, when we were

Connected by the simplicity of touch, of voice, of presence.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

She was a woman who spanned the seven ages.

A mother, A grandmother, A great grandmother, A sister, A friend, An aunt, A carer, A

giver

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

And so, she joins the mounting thousands

THEY ARE NOT STATISTICS ON THE DEATHOMETER OF COVID

They are the wives, mothers, children, fathers, sisters, brothers

The layers of all our loved ones

If she could, believe me when I say, she would hold every last one of your loved ones, croon to and comfort them and say - you were loved.

Whilst we who have been left behind mourn deep, keening the loss, the injustice, the rage.

One day we will smile and laugh again, we will remember with joy that, once, we shared a life, we knew joy and survived sadness.

You are my sister and I love you.

Dorothy Duffy 4 April 2020.

