

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Friday: 10 am
Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem



Recently Deceased

Henry O'Herlihy, Ballintemple
Marjorie Murphy, Mahon Park
Noel O'Sullivan, McGrath Park



Easter Reflection

Spring is the time of year that we celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. We look forward to the bright spring days and celebrating the message of Easter of hope and new life.



*Alleluia
Christ is Risen - He is truly Risen!*

Early on Easter Sunday morning, three women, friends of Jesus, go to his tomb to anoint him. But when they get there, the stone has been rolled back and the tomb is empty. A stranger is there and tells them that Jesus has risen from the dead! He is alive! The women are amazed and frightened but they believe and they know that hope has been restored. Jesus' resurrection from the dead has changed their lives and ours forever. When our lives are sad and things are getting us down, think of Jesus and his bravery. He faced his fears and overcame them. From the darkest day in his life, Good Friday, to the brightest day, Easter Sunday, Jesus never gave up his faith in God.

So every spring we celebrate Easter and Jesus' message of new life and hope. We can see it everywhere we go. And we can hear it too! Just look around and we will see signs of new life. Just look around and listen.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Easter.

Fr. Colin

Welcome to St Michaels for Personal Prayer

To maximise the number of people that can join us for Personal Prayer, we have made a number of changes to the church so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe. We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit. Follow the Exit signs. We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime. *Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.*



CHURCH CLOSSES AT 7.00 pm

Parish Finance – Thank You

Many people now use the Donate Button on the Parish website to support the parish and priests. This is really appreciated in these challenging times. A direct contribution to the offertory and maintenance collection can be dropped into the sacristy or the presbyteries at any time. Many people continue to do this and it is really helpful and appreciated.

Easter Dues

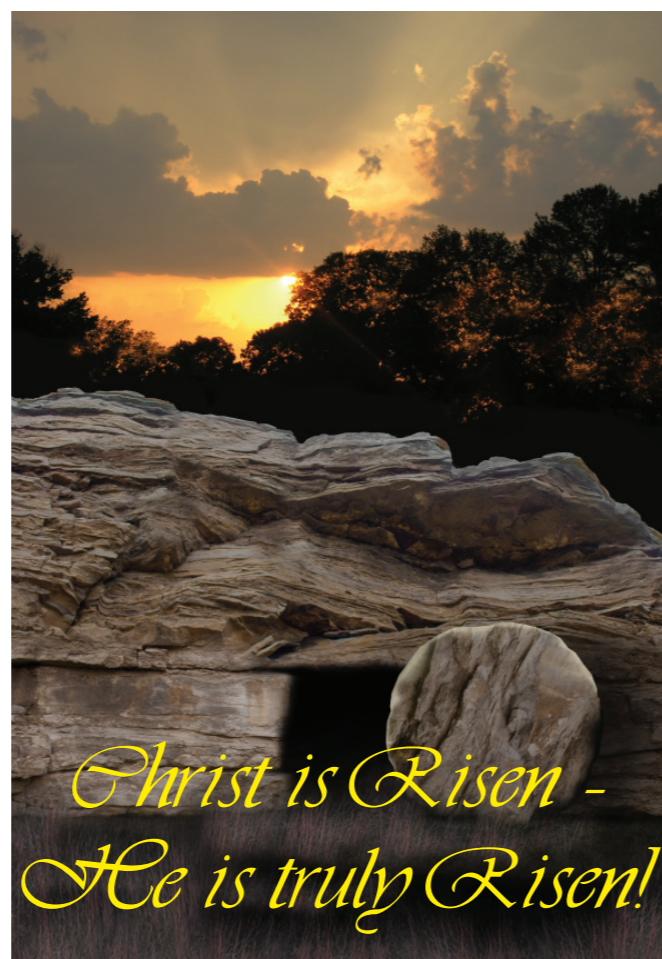
Easter Dues envelopes are available in the church. Your support and generosity to the priests is much appreciated in these difficult times. You can also support the priests via the Donate Button on the parish website. Thank you.

Trocaire Boxes

Please return your Trocaire Box to the sacristy or the presbyteries. Thank you.

When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE



*Christ is Risen -
He is truly Risen!*

Easter Invitation

A short personal video invitation from Bishop Fintan to the Easter Vigil is available https://youtu.be/egGNb1Gbh_4

Webcam issues

We apologise for the loss of sound on our webcam last weekend. There was a glitch in the system which has now been repaired.

Thoughts

In these strange times, we can still (and must!) celebrate the resurrection. In the words of St Paul, *'now is the acceptable time, today is the day of salvation.'*

EASTER 2020

Malcolm Guite

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that corona which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Universe/Catholic Times. (1). German synod talks could lead to schism, warns Bishop Philip Egan. (2) Fr. Francis Marsden: Easter Vigil -- The light and glory of new life. (3) Sunday Worship -- Easter can be the pattern of our lives (4) Vatican letter -- Virtual closeness, real community: Pope's ministry flourished online. (5) Sport -- Respecting others and yourself sets you on the road to magnanimity.

Irish Catholic (1) Bishop Tom Deenihan warns criminalising Mass-goers and priests sets a 'worrying precedent'. (2). Fr. Bernard Cotter: In Easter we see the promise of a 'risen people'. (3) The Sunday Gospel with Fr. Sylvester O'Flynn: The rising of Jesus from the dead was the most important day in human history. (4) Are politicians prepared to criminalise the religious orders to enable seizure of assets?

Messenger. (1) Altar Boy Memories -- Fr. Donal Neary recalls funny moments 'on the altar'. (2) Feature -- St. Ignatius's Conversion. (3) Fr. Sean Mc. Donagh: The Fate of the Oceans.

Tablet of 21/3 (1) Irish Bishops to consult on new bible translation for Mass (2) Diaries of a Plague -- Six individuals tell their stories of pain, loss & adapting during lockdown.

Happy Easter from the newsletter team.

Thought for the day

Traditionally, we have found it easy to think of the cross as the measure of God's love for us. Perhaps, because of the focus on the cross, we find it more difficult to think of the resurrection as also the love of God, even "all the more so"! The originality of the Fourth Gospel says it all: the disciple Jesus loved, the head cloth recalling Lazarus (see how much he loved him) and, not least, the great figure of Mary Magdalene (Mary!). In summary, Jesus died and rose again for love of us.

Prayer

Loving God, you love us more than we can imagine or take in. Help us to allow ourselves to be so loved by you, that your love may penetrate our hearts, our lives and our loves. We ask this through Jesus, who died and rose for love of us and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections for Prayer

1. The disciples are in a state of shock after their traumatic loss. Jesus, the one in whom they had placed so much hope, has been murdered and buried. Then, before they have time to recover they get another shock. The body of Jesus is missing. Have you had experiences in which one tragedy or crisis follows quickly after another? What was that like for you? How did you cope? Who, or what, sustained you?

2. Mary and Peter, and the other disciple, came and discovered that the tomb was empty. In this text no explanation is given. They are left in a state of bewilderment 'for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead'. Have you been in situations, faced with events you cannot explain, possibly events that have dashed your hopes in another person, or in God? What has that been like for you?

3. Yet in spite of the lack of explanation, the beloved disciple 'saw and believed'. Have there been times when others have done something that you could not understand, and which they could not explain at the time, and yet you believed that all was not as it seemed; times when you decided to trust in spite of the evidence? Have there been times when others have shown this kind of faith in you, when you were not able to offer satisfactory explanations, and all you could say was 'trust me'?

4. Have there been times in your relationship with God when you have felt that you were faced with an empty tomb, and still you believed? What have you learned about life, about love, from such experiences?

PRAYER

God of undying life, by your mighty hand you raised up Jesus from the grave and appointed him judge of the living and the dead. Bestow upon those baptised into his death the power flowing from his resurrection, that we may proclaim near and far the pardon and peace you give us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, first-bring from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.