

Laragh Parish Newsletter

Sunday 5th April 2020 – Palm Sunday

Holy Week 2020

In the absence of Holy Week ceremonies, people are invited to celebrate Christ's passion, death and resurrection in their own homes. Apart from the ceremonies that are broadcast on RTE, there are also resources available online with practical suggestions about how to mark each day of the Triduum. One of the most helpful is armaghprays.com which Bishop Michael Router, late of this diocese, was involved in creating. It offers reflections, prayers, home-based activities and short videos that deepen our understanding of Holy Week.

As far as our own parish is concerned, the following points should be noted:

1. On Palm Sunday, blessed palm will be available in all three Churches after 12 noon.
2. On Good Friday, each Church will have a Cross displayed for veneration after 3.00pm. **(Please do not kiss or touch the Cross)**. People are also encouraged to pray the Stations of the Cross.
3. On Easter Sunday, newly blessed water will be available in all three Churches after 12noon. The Paschal Candle will remain lit in each Church from 12noon to 2.pm.

Note: Government Guidelines in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) must be adhered to at all times in and around our Churches.

Holy Week Ceremonies

Broadcasting on RTE 1, RTE 2 and RTE Radio 1 Extra

Palm Sunday	11.00am	Mass on Palm Sunday	RTE 1
Holy Thursday	4.40pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	RTE 1
Good Friday	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday	RTE 1
Holy Saturday	10.00pm	Easter Vigil Mass	RTE 2
Easter Sunday	10.00am	Easter Sunday Mass	RTE 1
	11.00am	Pope Francis' Easter Message	RTE 1

A Message from Trocáire: This time of year, we would usually get back tens of thousands of boxes but that will not be possible this year, at a time when the developing world needs our help the most. Please hold onto your boxes until further notice and they can be returned to your churches when it is safe for people to do so. You can also donate online or over the phone. Online donations can be made at <https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation>

Holy Thursday: Washing of the Feet

When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he was doing two things. First of all, he was expressing hospitality. In those days the host ensured that a servant would wash the feet of his guests. But Jesus gives a new twist to this practice. He washes the feet *himself*. He acts, that is, not only as the host but also as the servant. This gives a whole new meaning to the meal he celebrates. The washing of the feet by the one who is both lord of the feast and servant to the guests is a symbol of a new kind of relationship among men and women, one of equality in love.

Good Friday: Veneration of the Cross

Up to about 1000 AD all crosses were "triumphant" crosses i.e. the figure of the Crucified was not to be found on them. Hence the tendency in modern times – though it differs from place to place – to use a bare, homemade wooden cross. The key point is that we are celebrating the *triumph* of the cross. The Cross may be an instrument of torture but it is also the means of our redemption. And so we venerate it. We should not lose sight of the fact, however, that in venerating the Cross we are really worshipping the image of the Crucified. We kiss the wood of the Cross because on it "hung the Saviour of the world".

Holy Saturday: Blessing the Fire and Paschal Candle/Blessing the Water

The Easter Vigil is the main celebration of the Church's year. It expresses in word, symbol and rite God's saving work in Christ and in human history. There are two unusual elements in the celebration. The first consists of the blessing of the fire and the procession with the Paschal Candle. The blessing of the fire is actually a folk custom, originating probably in Spain and Ireland, signalling the birth of the new life of spring. In the context of the Vigil it acts as a symbol of purification and new hope for the Church. The lighted candle represents Christ, the light of the world, who by his passage from death to life has overcome the powers of darkness and turned night into day. The second unusual element is the blessing of water. Ideally this should be part of a celebration of baptism because baptism belongs to this feast in a special way. By baptism we share in the death and resurrection of Christ, passing through the waters of death and rising to new life. Even when no baptism is celebrated, we bless water and renew our baptismal promises to remind ourselves of our baptism and to pray that its grace may be renewed in us.

Your Prayers are requested for the souls of the late:

- **Bre Lynch, Chicago and late of Tierlahood**, who died in Chicago. She is survived by her brother Brian, Dublin.
- **Bridie Moran (nee Smith), New York and late of Knockateggart and Mullamagavin**, who died in New York. A Memorial Mass will take place at a later date. We extend our sympathy to her brother Sean and family, Knockateggart.
- **Nancy Pearson (nee Clarke), Luton and late of Carrickacromin**, whose funeral will take place in Luton. We extend our sympathy to her brother Patsy Clarke, Tullyinchin and entire family circle.
- **Jimmy Smith, Lisboduff and Dublin**. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date. We extend our sympathy to his brother Peter and family, Caulfield.