



Parish of Killavullen and Annakisha

Fifth Week of Lent (March 29 – April 4, 2020)

20.12



Fifth Sunday of Lent. God alone has the power of life over death. **1st Reading:** The prophet Ezekiel lived when Jerusalem was destroyed and its people sent into exile. Rather than wallowing in sadness, God was promising his faithful new life. **Psalm:** The famous prayer of trust is often called by its Latin title, the *De profundis*. **2nd Reading:** God's Spirit in us draws us to new life. **Gospel:** Jesus weeps for Lazarus, as any friend would; as God's Son, he has the power to rescue him from death. *Lord, unbind us and set us free from all that hinders our path to the fullness of life in your kingdom.*

At this time of the Covid-19 pandemic Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass. Masses are Live-streamed from larger churches around the country, especially at, www.churchservices.tv St. Mary's Church, Mallow: <https://www.churchservices.tv/mallow> livestreams weekday Masses at 10.00am. There is a Saturday Vigil Mass at 6.30pm. Sunday Masses are broadcast from St. Mary's at 8.30am and 11.30am.

A Holy-Hour before the Blessed sacrament takes place in Killavullen Church on Sundays at 6.00pm. This service observes best social distancing standards. Please sit metres apart; sanitize your hands on entering and leaving the Church.

Both Killavullen and Annakisha churches are open for personal visits during daylight hours, as is the parish office in Ballygriffin (telephone: 022-46578) email: parishofkillavullen@gmail.com

There you will find copies of the most recent or upcoming Sunday missalette and parish newsletter to take home.

In these anxious times we can find strength, consolation and hope in prayer. May God protect those in the frontlines, especially, doctors, nurses, and the medical support staff. May we all play our part by keeping well and following HSE advice. I will continue to offer Mass privately for these and all your intentions. Fr. Gerard.

For many of us these weeks are a return to that simpler and less hurried pace of life that we normally enjoy only during holiday time. However, a walk down Patrick Street the other day, with its half deserted pavement and closed shops, reminded me that fear stalks our land and that the economic consequences of COVID-19 will be with us long after the virus has been vanquished. We pray that God will deliver our parish from the worst effects of the virus and keep us safe.

As Christians we try to find the connection between challenging times and God's will. Maybe this is the jolt we needed, individually and as a society, to remind us that life is a fragile gift. The experience may increase our empathy for those around the world for whom anxiety and vulnerability is the everyday experience. This week it was reported that the reduced economic activity in China has actually saved between 50-75,000 lives, owing to the reduction in air pollutants over the past three months. Maybe the pandemic will lead humanity to address other serious issues, such as climate change, having shown that a common purpose can only be achieved when all countries work together.

Tax Refund (CHY3) Scheme: I am currently writing to parishioners who contributed more than €250 to the parish in 2019 (through the boxes of mini-envelopes), inviting them to take part in the Tax Rebate scheme of the Revenue Commissioners. This allows the parish to claim any taxes paid on donations to our parish, which is registered as a charity. The scheme allows us to proceed with maintenance and improvement works in our churches. Those who have previously signed the CHY3 form need not do so again. Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

Bon Mot:

*Do not condemn us to be alone, when together,
Allow us to be together, when alone.*
Journal of Ven. Helder Camara (4th May, 1959).

**Act of Consecration of Ireland to the Immaculate Heart of
Mary for Protection from Coronavirus.**

Most Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God and Health of the Sick,
at this time of great challenge to our country
from the coronavirus,
we consecrate to Jesus through your Immaculate Heart:
ourselves, our family, the members of our parish and Diocese,
and the people of Ireland.

O Mary, Queen of Ireland, when you appeared at Knock, you
gave hope to your people in a time of distress, and brought
them comfort in a time of sorrow.

Be with us now as a sign of salvation and hope, as we entrust
ourselves to your loving care.

We renew the promises of our Baptism and Confirmation and
ask your intercession that we may be always faithful to Christ
and to His Church.

Bring under your mantle of protection all those who are
suffering because of the coronavirus, and those who care for the
sick and minister to their needs,
as your Son implores us to do for one another.

O Loving Mother,
at the foot of the Cross, with steadfast faith,
your Immaculate Heart was pierced by grief
at the suffering of your Son.
You know what we need during these difficult days.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us -
He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our
sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

O Blessed Mother, Our Life, our Sweetness and Our Hope,
we wish that this Consecration be for the glory of God and that
it lead us safely to Jesus your Son.

A Naomh-Mhuire, a Mháthair Dé, guigh orainn na peacaigh,
anois agus ar uair ár mbáis. Amen.

BLESSING

May your servants be shielded, O Lord
By the protection of your loving-kindness,
That, doing what is good in this world,
They may reach you, their highest good.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.