



Parish of Killavullen and Annakisha

Holy Week AD MMXX (April 5-11, 2020)

20.13



Palm Sunday. Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the annual feast of the Passover. When he arrived at the city gates he was greeted as the Messiah who would save the people from their suffering. He arrived on a donkey to show that “though his state was divine, Jesus did not cling to his equality with God.” (2nd Reading) He was not the conquering Messiah the people were expecting. Jesus was, instead, the suffering servant of the Book of Isaiah (1st Reading), who did not strike back, but remained faithful to God at all times. *Save us, Saviour of the world, by your wounds we have been healed.*

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 including, St. Mary’s Church, Mallow. A schedule of broadcast services, upcoming and previously recorded, is found at this website. <https://www.churchservices.tv/mallow> Killavullen Church is open for personal visits during daylight hours, as is the parish office in Ballygriffin (telephone: 022-46578) email: parishofkillavullen@gmail.com

The Easter Triduum will be celebrated privately in Killavullen and Annakisha Churches. A group of less than ten representative parishioners can be physically present at each ceremony:

- Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper at Annakisha
- Good Friday Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at Killavullen
- Easter Vigil at Annakisha
- Easter Sunday at Killavullen

Contact me if you would like to be among the representative group at a ceremony and only apply if you have no symptoms of any illness and are not in one of the at-risk groups (e.g., over 70 years or with an underlying medical condition). Social distancing will be observed within the church and the ceremonies will be adapted to exclude physical contact.

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This year will be a unique celebration of An tSeachtain Mhór / Holy Week in our parish. While few of us will attend the ceremonies there can be *spiritual communion* with those who desire to take part and who follow the online and televised services available.

The slower pace of our lives at the moment and the hushed atmosphere in town and country (apart from the birdsong), makes us more finely attuned to God's presence revealed in Jesus. May we know that he walks with us at this time; may he bless the hands of all who assist the sick and dying and bring the assurance of God's love to those feeling isolated and anxious.

Some suggestion on how to celebrate Holy Week at home.

- **Palm Sunday:** Read the Gospel of the Passion according to Matthew. The text is available in the “Mass Readings” section of our parish website.
- **Holy Thursday:** Celebrate your own “Passover Meal” as a household. *Google “Catholic Seder meal”* to find a formula that will suit. Remember the vigil of the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane by spending time in solitary prayer.
- **Good Friday:** A Day of Fasting and Abstinence. Make the Stations of the Cross at home or as part of a 2km radius nature walk. Meditate before a cross or a crucifix in your own home.
- **Easter Vigil:** Light a candle to recall the Paschal Fire. Prayerfully recite the Creed and renew your baptismal promises. Bless yourself with holy water.
- **Easter Sunday:** Join in the spiritual communion of Christians around the world, by watching Mass on TV or the web, including Pope Francis as he delivers the Easter blessing *urbi et orbi* (to the city of Rome and to the world).

Bon Mot: *Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.* PS., Soon, please God, we’ll fly like a butterfly from our cocoons!