



Parish of Killavullen and Annakisha

Second Week of Easter (April 19-25, 2020)

20.15



Second Sunday of Easter – Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Luke's description of the "Jerusalem Spring" is an enduring vision statement for the Church of today. The ideal Christian community does four things: it remains faithful to the teaching of the apostles; it has a common life; it celebrates the "breaking of bread" (Luke's phrase for the Eucharist); it makes regular time for prayer. *At the moment these activities are at a distance and through the internet - we will appreciate the support of our Church and faith community all the more when the Covid-19 crisis passes.*

Responsorial Psalm: A song of thanksgiving for all that God has done in bringing his people out of slavery in Egypt (the reference to Aaron). The Hebrew word "stone" (eben) is similar to the word for "son" (ben). Christians saw in Jesus the stone / son of God rejected by the builder that became the cornerstone of a new temple.

Second Reading: The opening lines are a blessing and follow a format that was familiar to Jewish ears. The First Letter of Peter was written during the persecution of the Roman emperor Nero (65AD), hence the reference to "trials" and "testing". *We are among those who have not seen Christ, but still have loved him.*

Gospel: The risen Jesus was a transformed person. Otherwise, how could he suddenly "appear" in a locked room? Here, once again, the Gospel of John shows a preference for faith over physical signs (miracles) of God's presence. Thomas' profession of faith, "My Lord and my God" (v.28), is a highpoint of New Testament belief in the divinity of Jesus. But Thomas was standing before a wounded man, a reminder of the lowliness as well as the sovereignty of the Messiah. The breath of Jesus (v.22) is a symbol of his Spirit: his mission of sharing God's mercy now belongs to the Church. *May each of us be a sign of God's compassion to the world.*

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 <https://www.churchservices.tv/mallow>

Killavullen Church is open for personal visits during daylight hours. The **parish office** at Ballygriffin is open. Contact details are printed in the footer below. **This newsletter**, together with other ideas for prayer and spirituality are emailed to parishioners each week. If you know of someone who would like to be added to the email database please let me know at: parishofkillavullen@gmail.com

Mass is celebrated privately each day in the parish office or one of the parish's churches. Your intentions are united with my own in a spiritual communion around the Table of the Lord.

May they rest in God's embrace: *Month's Mind:* Anne Flynn (Rahan); *Anniversaries:* Mina O'Flynn (Ross Street)

Joan & Patrick Moylan (Clenor).

"To celebrate Easter is to believe that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our 'conventions,' those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope." Pope Francis, *Easter Homily*, 2018.

Cork County Council is coordinating voluntary and State agencies to ensure that the needs of older and vulnerable people are met across County Cork during the COVID-19 crisis. The Council's Community Support Programme is available and ready to help you or someone you know - whether that is by collecting medication, collecting groceries, providing social support or advice, or simply by making a friendly phone call. To access this support for our parish freephone: 1800 805 819. Lines are open from 8.00am to 8.00pm seven days a week; email covidsupport@corkcoco.ie or text (085) 8709010.

Bon Mot: Your talent is God's gift to you.

What you do with it is your gift back to God.