



Saint Nicholas'

Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead



Our Lady of Lourdes

12th April 2020

Easter Sunday

Cycle A (Easter Octave)

Fr. Peter Owens PP,VF

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Our Parish and COVID-19: What Now?

Given the unprecedented situation with the Coronavirus Pandemic, the parish has been following the advice issued from Government departments, and implementing the latest Down and Connor directives.

Documents can be viewed on the Parish Website.

EASTER IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

When we came to Mass on Ash Wednesday (26 February) to begin our Lenten journey towards Holy Week and Easter, none of us could ever have imagined the catastrophe that was to befall our whole global family in the dread appearance of the Coronavirus pandemic. This year Lent took on a sacrificial significance beyond anything in our previous shared experience.

Now we arrive at Easter, the central Christian feast, a time resonant with joy and celebration. For it is the foundational mystery of our faith that the suffering and crucified Christ rose physically from the dead and inaugurated the possibility of eternal life with God. However, how many of us feel joyful? How many of us feel like celebrating? Rather, most of us feel fearful and anxious, stressed and strained, perhaps low in spirits, maybe even depressed. Social isolation and distancing have been and are a moral imperative, but they have taken their toll in the form of loneliness and tension and hardship.

This Easter, more than any other, whatever our shifting moods, we are called to make an act of faith and affirm a conviction of trust in the promises of Christ who pledged to abide with us always, not least in seasons of shadow such as this time of pandemic.

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Fr. Peter

Services on the Parish Website

Fr. Peter will celebrate
**Good Friday Service from
Mount St. Nicholas'**

&

**Mass for Easter Sunday from
Mount St. Nicholas'**

These will be available to watch on the
Parish Website

Please check the Website on the day.

A Missalette for Easter Sunday
can be found on the front-page
of the Parish Website

Message from Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC have been communicating weekly to look at ways of keeping in touch with parishioners during the Coronavirus lock down. We have used our Parish Web site and Facebook as ways of sharing information. This includes direction from the Diocese, useful contact details, weekly Bulletin, and access links for Masses and Easter week services. We are here for our parishioners, and can be contacted through the parish office Tel: (028) 9336 3269.

The members of the PPC represent both Carrickfergus and Whitehead and are happy to hear any suggestions you may have about how we can improve communication at this difficult time. It has been highlighted that some of our parishioners may not have access to social media and we would like you all to consider how you can check in on those people and let us know if there is any further service we could offer. We look forward to meeting up again after 'Coronavirus' has left.

We wish you all a Happy Easter and hope you are all keeping well and safe.

God Bless, Mary

Trócaire Boxes

We would usually bring back our Trocaire boxes, at Easter, but that will not be possible this year, at a time when the developing world needs our help the most. You can donate online or over the phone directly to Trocaire. Please do hold onto your boxes until further notice and we will be in contact about how to return them when it will be safe for people to do so.

CellChat

Since the Parish Cell groups can no longer meet as a group we have set up a group chat forum on WhatsApp. The forum, called 'CellChat', is for sharing news or asking for help or sharing our faith in these difficult times. If you wish to access the forum please text Jim Mullan on 07841 428436 giving your phone number and a name and I will add you to the list. You do of course have to have access to WhatsApp on your phone. It can be downloaded for free at the App Store on iPhones or Google play on Android sets. You may of course ask to be removed from the forum at any time.

Give it a go, even just to pass some time. Take care and God bless, The Parish Cell groups.

Parish Safeguarding Committee

Over the coming weeks, the Parish Safeguarding Committee will provide key messages of safeguarding to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults in our parish and wider community.

This week we are focusing on domestic abuse.

During this time of the COVID 19 pandemic we are all spending more time at home or in a domestic setting, which may at times create potentially stressful situations.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, do not suffer in silence.

Useful numbers of help available from:

Women's Aid

Men's Advisory Project

The Rowan Centre

Childline

Lifeline

NSPCC

24 Hour Domestic and

Sexual Abuse Helpline

on 0808 802 1414 /

help@dsahelpline.org

Contact the police on 101 or in an emergency call 999.

Masses online from Loughshore Pastoral Community

Please find below, a link to webcams on the internet.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse

Webcam Broadcast Easter Sunday

<https://www.loughshoreparishes.org/webcam/>

Saturday	8.00pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	11.30am	Easter Mass

St. Bernard's, Glengormley

Webcam Broadcast Easter Sunday

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

Saturday	9pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	10am Mass 11am Children's Mass