

The Week of Reconciliation

John Cardinal O'Connor

As we enter into this Holy Week, which represents for us the holiest week in the history of the human race, let us be reminded that this is not a pageant, this is not a stage show, this is not simply a memorial of something that took place almost two thousand years ago. The purpose of this liturgy is to make present those same events that occurred historically once but are now living here among us. Our divine Lord spiritually and mysteriously is present once again in the power generated by his suffering that began in a special way on Palm Sunday and then continues through the holiest week in history. All of our Holy Week observances must be relived together with Christ if we are to find meaning in his suffering, death, and Resurrection.

One might be led to believe that, since the reading of the Passion is featured in today's Mass, it is the heart of the Mass on Palm Sunday. It is not. The heart of the Mass is the Eucharist sacrifice, in which spiritually and mysteriously we have represented the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Without that, this week would have no meaning. As Saint Paul says: *If Christ has not been raised then our preaching is useless.* At one time this was called not Holy Week but the Week of Reconciliation. The reason that Christ came into this world was to pick up the pieces of our broken lives. But the emphasis should not be placed on the suffering and death of our divine Lord to the exclusion of what it points towards – his Resurrection and ours. This is indeed a week of reconciliation. If we have not been able to practice our faith as we would like and as we know we should, this is a wonderful week to get started all over again. In this way, when Easter is celebrated next Sunday, we will really feel that something has been accomplished.

THRESHOLD OF HOPE

Threshold of Hope a unique online musical gathering with gifted and creative singer, facilitator and spiritual director Deirdre Ní Chinnéide on Tuesday, 30th March coming from the Aran Islands on the west coast of Ireland. This is a free event. Join us via live streaming at www.churchservices.tv/deirdrenichinneide.

CARLOW Social Prescribing Service

The Carlow Social prescribing Service is a new free support that aims to reduce social isolation and improve people's health and wellbeing. We can give you information on social groups, exercise classes, relaxing sessions, volunteering opportunities, support services and much more all in your local area. For more information contact: Sinéad – Social Prescribing Co-ordinator, St. Catherine's Community Services Centre, Carlow 086 4147511 E: socialprescribing@catherines.ie See poster in the Church.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

LOTTO - No jackpot winner. Winning numbers were 5 - 21 - 23 - 30
Match Three: win or share €150
Pat Keogh, St. Patricks Park 21 - 23 - 24 - 30 On Line Winner [98]
Chrissie O Toole, Bough 5 - 9 - 21 - 23 On Line Winner [300]
Promoters Prize €20 Catherine Deering Next draw 29 March 2021

Jackpot €13,600 Thank you all for your continuing support.

A big thank you to each family/bubble, for staggering the visiting times, to local well on St. Patricks Day, while accessing the club grounds on their walk.

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid's
Talbotstown
27th & 28th March, 2021**

**St. Patrick's
Rathvilly
27th & 28th March, 2021**

**The Assumption
Tynock
Palm Sunday**

Recent Death: Edward O'Brien, Baltinglass and formerly Rathvilly.

Months Mind Mass for Larry Murphy, Talbotstown this Saturday, 27th March

Months Mind Mass for Hilda Nolan, Collins Park this Saturday, 27th March

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 27th & 28th March

Rita Conway, Straboe, 1st Anniversary

Olive Fahy, nee Corcoran, late of Ballyhackett, 1st Anniversary

Thomas & Margaret Corcoran, Ballyhackett

Deceased members of the Keatley Family, Castledermot

Liam Hayes, Tipperary

Christina Donovan, Rathdangan

Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday, 3rd & 4th April

Kathleen Smith, St. Patrick's Park

Bridget Cassells, Ricketstown

James & Elizabeth Dowling, Knocklishen

James & Elizabeth Kelly, Mount Neill

Paudie Doyle, Raheendaw

Paddy Byrne, Garretstown

Ned & Mary Balfe, Rahill

The Gill Family, Clane

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY FOR QUIET PRAYER

Monday to Saturday – 10 a.m. – 5p.m.

Sunday – 12 Noon – 5 p.m.

MASSES THIS WEEK – will be celebrated behind Closed Doors

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30 p.m.

Good Friday – Stations of the Cross at 3.00 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 5.00 p.m.

Holy Saturday – Vigil Mass at 9.00 p.m.

EASTER ON-LINE RECONCILIATION SERVICE

You are very welcome to join us for an on-line Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, 31st March at 7.30 p.m. from St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly.

This is a time of prayer, readings, reflection with an examination of conscience that often concludes with the praying of an Act of Contrition. This is a non-sacramental celebration of God's mercy and a rich preparation for a future celebration of the sacrament with individual confession and absolution.

ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE & RADIO

www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam

[Radio 104.3 fm](http://www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam)

THE ROSARY is recited each day before Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – Thursday 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

The Church will be open for Adoration.

LEGION OF MARY

Annual Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony will be held virtually in St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly this Sunday, 28th March at 3.00 p.m.

CHRISM MASS INVITATION

You are invited to join Bishop Denis virtually from Carlow Cathedral for this year's Chrism Mass on the evening of Monday, 29th March.

Video greeting from Parishes at 7.10 p.m. Mass at 7.30 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY

Family Scripture Sharing prepared by our Deacon Liam Dunne.

Copies available in the Church and on our Parish Website.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

Children preparing for Confirmation are encouraged to tune in to the Penitential Service on Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in Rathvilly Church.

Children preparing for First Holy Communion are encouraged to tune into the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in Rathvilly Church.

GOSPEL READINGS – 28th March – 4th April, 2021

Sunday: Mk 14: 1-15:47	Mon: Jn 12: 1-11	Tues: Jn 13: 21-33
Wed: Mt 26: 14-25	Thurs: Jn 13: 1-15	Fri: Jn 18: 1-19:42
Sat: Jn 11: 45-56	Sunday: Mk 16: 1-7	

All the Sunday and Daily Mass Readings can be accessed from our website.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 20th & 21st March, 2021

Thanks to our parishioners who left in Weekly Envelopes of €438.25 during the week. Any financial contribution you can make will be very much appreciated.

Easter Station is due at this time.

You can also make your donation to the parish by electronic banking. You can contact the Parish Office for details or log on to the Diocesan Website.

Donation Buttons on KandLe Website: There are now two electronic 'Donate Buttons' on the front page of the diocesan website www.kandle.ie

Please return your CHY3 Form as soon as possible.

FRIENDS OF CALCUTTA

Thank you very much for your tremendous generosity to our clothes collection. It was very much appreciated – Michael Hopkins.

AFFORDABLE LIVE-IN HOMECARE provides live-in carers for the elderly in your area. If you are looking for a live-in carer for your relative, please call Eileen or Tom today on 087 9916791 or 087 7440729. Our website is www.alhomecare.ie

A MOST SPECIAL WEEK

For Christians, Holy Week is the most important week of the year. Holy Week lasts from Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday and reaches its highpoint in what we call the Easter Triduum – those three great days from the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper to Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. Reflecting on the Scriptures and turning to ritual and symbols, Christians throughout the world, journey with Jesus through those final days of his life, his passion, his death and resurrection. In the process, we experience God's redemptive presence, our faith is deepened, our hope is renewed and our commitment to living a life of love of God and one another is strengthened.

A different way of praying as a community of faith

Again this year, our celebrations will be very different due to the restrictions in place because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a Christian Community we cannot gather together for our usual religious services. This will not prevent us from uniting spiritually and taking time to pray, to reflect and to make this Holy Week a truly enriching experience of the presence of God in our lives.

Some suggestions for Keeping Holy Week

Create a sacred space in your home for the week. It can be as simple as a candle and a bible. You can add particular symbols for given days, palm on Palm Sunday, a water bowl & towel on Holy Thursday, a cross on Good Friday, a candle and holy water for Easter Sunday. Take time each day for prayer: Join in a livestream liturgy from your parish / use the daily prayer ritual in *Bringing Holy Week Home 2021* on Kandle.ie or the Kandle Facebook page / read the readings of the day and go out for a walk as you reflect on them. Visit your local parish Church for some private prayer and a physical connection with your parish.

PARISH FUNDRAISING

As you are all aware the last year has been tough because of the pandemic. Parish funds have been badly hit as we were unable to run our parish draw. Weekly revenue is greatly reduced due to the fact that there is no attendance allowed at Mass. The Parish Council is exploring the possibility of joining the Kildare & Leighlin Co-op Lotto and promoting it within our Parish. We would ask that all our draw promoters would come onboard and help promote it. We would also ask all our loyal parishioners to support as you have done in the past. The minimum jackpot is €10,000 each week and this rises by increments of €1,000 weekly to a maximum of €20,000 if the jackpot is not won. There is also a €1,000 prize fund each week divided by match 3 winners even when the jackpot is won. If a promoter sells a jackpot winning ticket they will receive 10% of the jackpot amount as a promoter's prize. This is in addition to the one ticket per book they receive for selling a full book. For further details please contact the Parish Office.

IRISH CATHOLIC – available in the Church each week. Cost €2.50

TRÓCAIRE - Please return your Trócaire Box during Holy Week.

Trocaire Boxes still available in the Church.