Castletown Geoghegan, Tyrrellspass and Raheenmore - Parish Newsletter - 29 March 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Fr. Barry Condron, P.P. Parochial House, Tyrrellspass, Co. Westmeath, Tel (011) 9223115, (087) 9253366. ctgparish@gmail.com Fr. Benny Bohan, c/o St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Highpark Upper, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow. (087) 1939122 (Retired)

As a person with some underlying health conditions I have been asked by Bishop Deenihan to restrict my activities and to reduce the number of weekend Masses. I had been saying all Masses as normal up to last weekend in the three parish Churches. From this weekend the Masses will be temporarily reduced from five to two. It was suggested that I say the Saturday 6.30pm vigil Mass and the 10am Sunday morning Mass in Tyrrellspass as it is closest to my residence. I have also been requested to seek assistance from neighbouring clergy in case of emergencies or possibly in if necessary the event of a funeral. It had been my intention to continue saying Mass in all parish churches. I felt it was important to maintain the Masses schedule despite the absence of a congregation. I regret that this is no longer possible. I continue to be available to all parishioners on the phone or by email and I look forward to the day when these restrictions will be lifted. It is hoped to arrange that basic and limited Holy Week and Easter ceremonies from Tyrrellspass to be available online. More details to follow next weekend. Please keep safe yourself as we pray together with our Bishop to be spared from the worst effects of the virus. God willing, that will be achieved through our prayers and efforts. **Fr. Barry Condron**

Masses from St St. Stephen's Church Tyrrellspass (No congregations present)

 Saturday 28th of March Vigil Mass in Tyrrellspass for Jimmy Daly Tore and his parents Joe and Tess.

 Sunday 29th of March
 - Morning Mass in Tyrrellspass at 10am

 Anniversary Mass for Maisie Conway
 Peter and Agnes Cunniffe, their daughters Maura and Maeve And sons Aidan and Fursey

 Saturday 4th of April
 - Paul Sheerin

 Noel and Margaret Maher.
 May Fitzgibbon.

 Sunday 5th of April
 - Palm Sunday Holy week begins

Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time begins 2AM Sunday!

Please pray for all frontline medical staff

God of Strength, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. Keep them safe from the Coronavirus, protect them from exhaustion, and guide them with your

Forgiveness of Sins and Easter Duty

Catholic doctrine teaches that if a person cannot get to Confession, it is sufficient to confess one's sins to God, seeking forgiveness and with the intention of going when next possible to Confession. God forgives the sins and the person is renewed in heart and soul. When the opportunity then arises later to go to Confession, he or she should do so. At his morning Mass on March 20th, Pope Francis' spoke about this doctrine in words that can also help resolve any issue about fulfilling our Easter duty: "I know that many of you go to confession before Easter... Many will say to me: 'But Father...I can't leave the house and I want to make my peace with the Lord. I want Him to embrace me... How can I do that unless I find a priest?' Do what the catechism says. It's very clear. If you don't find a priest to go to confession, speak to God. He's your Father. Tell Him the truth: 'Lord. I did this and this and this. Pardon me.' Ask His forgiveness with all your heart with an act of contrition, and promise Him, 'afterward I will go to confession.' You will return to God's grace immediately. You yourself can draw near, as the catechism teaches us, to God's forgiveness, without having a priest at hand."

Please pray for the repose of Willie Gavigan and Jean Newman who have died. They will be buried together on Tyrrellspass cemetery this week. Requiem Mass will be offered later. May they rest in peace.

First Friday Visits: Due to restrictions at this time in terms of public ministry, First Friday visits by Priests are suspended. If you are a First Friday person, please be assured you will be called on when we are cleared to do so. Some people have not been visited in quite some time. Rest assured I will be with you as soon as possible.

Lord, in these days, help all of us to pause, reflect and act responsibly in our interactions, maintaining social distance, and reaching out to those in need in a shared, collective effort to fight covid 19.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Although unable to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, parishioners are invited during the time of Holy Communion to make an Act of Spiritual Communion using the following or similar words: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen



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