



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5th July 2020

Let Normal Service Resume

The phrase 'Every day is a school day' is often used to reflect the fact that we are constantly learning and evolving throughout our lives. Having been living through the Covid 19 pandemic, most of us would probably now describe it as a 'life changing event'. Many of us are lucky to have come through it relatively unscathed, but we mourn with those who have lost loved ones. There is also a lot of fear of what might happen next, as regards this virus and its implications for our future. So, maybe it is more important than ever to look at what we might have learned from the experience of the last few months. What is obvious is that we have developed a new-found respect for our key workers – those working in the NHS, care workers, factory workers, shop workers, delivery drivers, clergy, undertakers, etc. We are so thankful for all the people who kept everything going while we stayed cocooned in our houses, doing our bit to halt the spread of the virus. What is also evident is that people have stepped up to help their communities by volunteering and helping to look after the elderly and vulnerable who were unable to leave their homes.

Let us build on this sense of community going forward and make the sentiments felt during this pandemic commonplace. Let us not wait for another outbreak of this awful virus before we look in on our neighbours or volunteer our services. In a world where we can be anything, let us be kind. Could our return to 'normal' mean a new normal of kindness and respect for others that maybe was sadly lacking in the past? Could our new 'normal' be a better way of life for all of us, with consideration for others coming as second nature? If so, please let 'normal service' resume.

**STAY
SAFE!**

Celebration of Mass during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Sunday Obligation to attend Mass was suspended at the beginning of this Covid19 pandemic and that remains the case – you are NOT expected to attend in person – Mass will continue to be broadcast on the parish webcam for everyone.

Practical Points of Protocol to observe – read carefully

1. Vitally important that we maintain the 2m distance rule ...
- this is important at all times including entering and leaving church and outside the church while awaiting entry
2. it is very important that at all Masses parishioners co-operate with ushers
3. No more than three (3) persons to a seat.... or one (1) family unit...
Individual must keep 2m apart in the seat....
4. You will be greeted on arrival at the church and invited to sanitize on entry
And requested to go to the usher who will direct you to your seat.
5. Avoid queuing – come Earlyallow additional time for arrival at churchfollow the directions of the ushers
6. Enter the church through the Church Street doors....sanitizing stations are in place in each porch.....The church will be filled from the front to the back.....and emptied from the back to the front.follow the directions of the usher at all times.

7. There will be NO kneeling during the Mass – sitting and standing only
8. For the distribution of Holy Communion – the priest will come to you and place Holy Communion on your hand...do not leave your seat....
9. Holy Communion must be received on the hand to avoid contact with the priest who will sanitize his hands before and after distributing.

10. Sacristy door is not open for use at present...the ONLY toilet available is below the Castle Street porch.

Daily Mass will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Church from Monday (29th June 2020) – at 10.00am and 7.30pm

And we will introduce a 'Covid19' schedule of weekend Masses the weekend of 4/5th July with a Vigil Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday and Sunday Masses at 9.00am, 11.00am and 1.00pm with an extra Mass at 6.00pm during this trial period.

Saint Mary's Church, Drumragh will be closed for the present due to the difficulty of social distancing in a smaller church.

Parishioners who are over 70 years of age and anyone with underlying health issues are advised not to attend any church services – since the Sunday obligation does not apply at this time.

Please do not attend if you or a member of your family is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.

Your cooperation is vitally important

WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AND ACT RESPONSIBLY.

It is really important to remember now, as things open up further, that personal responsibility and your own judgement are more important than ever:-

Wash your hands - Practice good cough and sneeze etiquette - Stay 2m away from others - Avoid crowds -Know the symptoms.

If you are in a position to give time to help with cleaning or ushering, please give your name to the priests or any of the ushers/cleaners or anyone in parish personnel.

We are very grateful to those who have **already** volunteered. Without you, we would be unable to reopen in a safe way.

We will keep the schedule and procedures under review as public health and diocesan guidelines change. Our priority is providing a safe environment for return to public liturgies.

You are welcome for private prayer when there are no other celebrations going on in the church provided you keep 2m apart from others.

Resumption of Baptisms in the Parish

It is hoped that the Sacrament of Baptism will be available again in the parish in the very near future. In preparation for this, parents of children who have yet to be baptised are invited to make contact with Fr Hasson so their names may be included on the list for Baptism at the earliest available opportunity.

Email drumraghpastor@yahoo.com or telephone 028-8224-3011

There will be further information soon on resumption of confessions.

Sacrament of Confirmation – there is a plan in place to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation during the last week of August with the young people who were unable to do so on March 28 but again this will depend upon the circumstances of the time. Parents and sponsors are encouraged to do all in your power to assist in the formation of these young people in their faith development over the next few months.

Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion for the Year 4 classes of 2019-2020 – dates will be set for the celebration of these sacraments when a sufficient time of preparation has been established in the new school year that begins in September.

The plan is to achieve this before Hallow'een and again parents and families are encouraged to become involved with their children in teaching and practicing prayer.

Please use the special collection box provided for your envelopes to support the parish financially or contribute by standing order.

*There will be no Mass leaflets.
Take this sheet home with you and do not leave papers lying around.*

These are NOT normal times.