

Easter greetings to all:

A topical word at the moment is Cocooning - confinement that gives birth to new life - the death of the caterpillar but also the birth of the butterfly. All of us have been curtailed and restricted by the coronavirus and no-one knows when it will strike next. This causes worry and anxiety which, added to the curtailment of movement, allows fear to flourish. The whole of society has been given a stark reminder of mortality and a clear indication that so many things that we took for granted have proved to be fragile and even illusory. Our extravagance has made the world sick and now the disease has reached us. Many commentators are saying that things will never be the same again.

It's hard to be calm in the face of increasing numbers being infected each day and more deaths being recorded. We can easily identify the signs of death in the cocooning that this virus has given rise to but it's much more difficult to recognize the indications of life shining through. Our faith in the Resurrection which we celebrate at this time lets us know that those indications of new life are there even if they are difficult to see. Our Easter faith helps us not to be overwhelmed by the limits to our freedom, by the worry, fear and anxiety generated by the virus. So we carry on with hope in our hearts and take comfort from the words of Seamus Heaney ' If we winter this one out, we can summer anywhere': until this passes let us keep our spirits up and enjoy the sunshine and beauty of this magnificent part of Ireland.

Fr. Brian, Fr. Karl



Address for Mass Streaming:

[https://
www.facebook.com/100004490054799/](https://www.facebook.com/100004490054799/)

Times of Masses which will be streamed from St. Mary's Church, Culdaff, Co. Donegal:

Monday 7.30pm

Tuesday. 7.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am

**Thursday & Friday,
7.30 pm;**

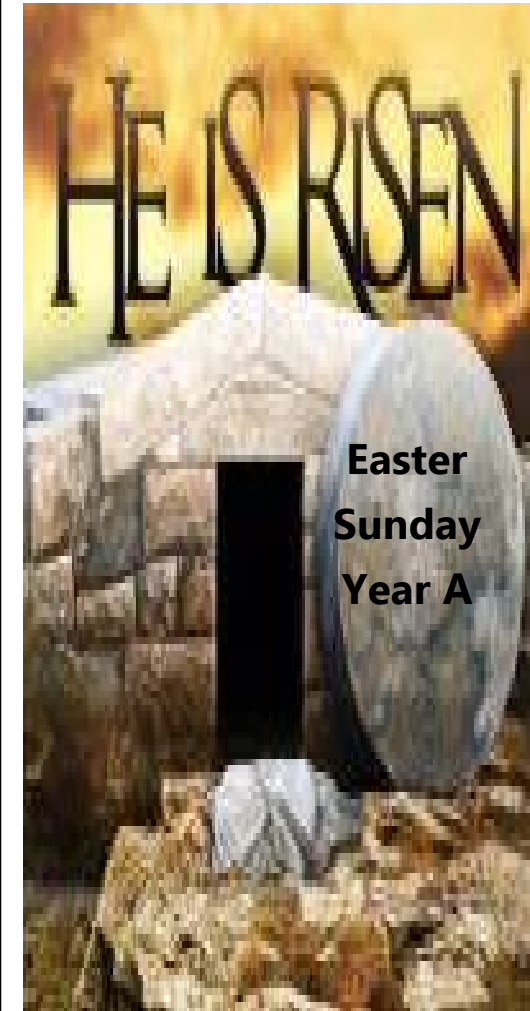
Saturday, 11 am.



St Mary's Church

Bocan

12th April 2020 No. 20



Responsorial Psalm

This day was made by the Lord; rejoice and be glad.

Fr. Brian Brady, P.P., V.F 9376264
Fr. Karl Haan C.C. 9379107
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First Reading

Acts of the Apostles
10:34a,37-43

Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1
Corinthians 5:6b-8

Colossians: Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

1 Corinthians: Let us celebrate this feast with new yeast.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-9

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

It was with immense sadness that we bade farewell to **Lorraine Miller, Moneydarragh**, a young wife and mother.

Lorraine fought the illness bravely but eventually it became too much for her.

Because of our 'lock down' many people were prevented from sympathising in person with the family, but they should be in no doubt that Lorraine was loved and respected and her passing has left a gap in many people's lives.

Our deepest sympathy to her husband, Stephen; her beloved children Ben and Katie; parents Patrick and Angela; Bridgid, who was also like a mother to her; her brothers John & William; sisters, Caroline, Mary & Yvonne; niece, Emma and her many nephews. And the wider family circle.

As people of faith we believe that we will all be united again and so we commend the soul of Lorraine to our heavenly Father.



TROCAIRE - Trocaire are still in need of any help that you can give this year. In light of the present restrictions, any donation can be left at the Parochial House and it will be passed on to Trocaire. We know these are difficult times for everyone but if you can help it would be very welcome.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2020: After consultation with the tour operator, and having reviewed the present situation in Lourdes and the continuing closure of the Sanctuary, the Diocesan Pilgrimage administration team has decided that the Derry Pilgrimage scheduled to travel at the start of July will not take place. Please God, it can be rescheduled for summer 2021. Any deposits or payments made already will either be refunded or may be used as deposits in whole or part for 2021 in accordance with the wishes of the individual pilgrims. This may take some time as the pilgrimage office is currently closed in accordance with Diocesan directives. All youth deposits will be refunded, as rescheduling does not appear to be an option for the youth scheduled to travel at the moment. We very much regret the necessity of this very unusual step but believe we have reached a stage where no other course of action is possible.

The Deep End: Easter Sunday

In today's Gospel Mary Magdalen is highlighted as the woman who is the first witness of the resurrection. Mary and the two disciples must have been very confused and upset as they tried to understand what had happened to Jesus' body. Reading this story can bring many emotions for us: fear and confusion at death, or even a feeling of euphoria and joy at the realisation that death is not the end. If we have lost a loved one, we might feel comforted in the knowledge that we will be reunited with them once more. Jesus comes into situations of despair, disappointment and doubt and, as with Mary after this incident, comes in the form of a stranger, gently calling her name. The Risen Lord seems to meet us in familiar territory, where we least expect it.

We might ask the Lord today for the strength and courage to allow him to break into our lives once more, to help us to be free of whatever it is that causes 'death' in our lives, to help us to let go, to be open to recognising him in our most painful moments and in the most familiar places.

'God of openness, of life and of resurrection, come into this Easter season and bless me. Look around at the tight, dead spaces of my heart. Bring your gentle but firm love ... Open me. Open me. Open me. For it is only then I will grow and change, for it is only then that I will be transformed. For it is only then that I will know how it is. To be in the moment of rising from the dead.' (Joyce Rupp)

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.