

Día Dhaoibh a chairde, Hello to all in the Parish of St Michael's!

As a community we are laid low as we have never been before. We are forced to live lives of sacrifice and penitence. We have had to let go of the joys and consolation of physical communion with each other and with those whom we love. In various ways we are being deprived of all we felt we could depend upon: health, work, freedom, pleasure, company... We are in a desert place.

We thank God as a faith community that we can say in God and Jesus Christ we trust. Psalm 23 reminds us:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want,
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside still waters,
He restores my soul....

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

We have decided to post our **Lenten Celebration for Healing and Reconciliation** for you. We hope you may find it helpful in your prayer life this Passion week. It can be prayed alone or with each other –on line - or with your household - while maintaining a safe distance of course!

As we pray, we hold each other in our hearts, and we remember especially, those who are ill and those who have died from Coronavirus and their families – around the world. We ask your protection Lord on each of us, and our families, this Lent and Easter time 2020.

Solas Chríost Linn / May the Light of Christ Guide and Guard us on our way.

A CELEBRATION for HEALING and RECONCILIATION - Lent 2020

Let us Begin with Psalm 129

Out of the depths I cry to You , O Lord
Lord hear my voice!
O let Your ear be attentive
To the voice of my pleading.

Response; With You Lord, there is mercy and forgiveness

If You O Lord, should mark our guilt
Lord, who would survive?
But with You is found forgiveness,
For this we revere You.

Response; With You Lord, there is mercy and forgiveness

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

(We live in hope that we may be made fully alive again like Lazarus)

...When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world..."

Prayer for Healing

You know us Lord better than we know ourselves. We/ I ask you to send the healing power of your Holy Spirit upon us as we make our invocations this Lenten time to You. Help us(our home/ family) in a special way as we endure together through the Coronavirus.

Healing Invocations

- Heal our minds of any anguish, depression, anxiety and fear.
O Lord Hear Our(My) Prayer
- Heal our hearts and help us forgive those who have hurt us.
May we live harmoniously with compassion and kindness for ourselves and one another at this time of trial.
O Lord Hear Our Prayer
- Heal our bodies and help us avoid addictions such as: alcohol abuse, drug abuse, sexual abuse, over eating, gambling, addiction to television and social media.
May we live creatively at this time.
O Lord Hear Our Prayer
- Heal our families of any conflict, hurt, division and pain.
May this crisis draw us together with a greater love for You and one another.
O Lord Hear Our Prayer
- Heal our community of greed, injustice, poverty and homelessness.
May we not forget the marginalised at this time of trial for all.
O Lord Hear Our Prayer
- Heal our world of disease, war, hunger and oppression. May we be delivered safely from the Coronavirus and learn to live in right relationship with the whole of creation thereby avoiding the onset of such terrible diseases as the Coronavirus.

O Lord Hear Our Prayer

- Heal our earth and the natural world from the damage of the human race. Restore our respect for Your creation in a new way at this time.

O Lord Hear Our Prayer

Act of Sorrow

O My God, thank you for loving me,
I am sorry for all my sins/ failings,
for not loving others,
and not loving you.
Help me to live like Jesus,
and not sin/ fail to love again. Amen

Prayer for Forgiveness and Peace

God of Mercy and Compassion, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, You have reconciled the world to Yourself and sent Your Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sin. May God grant each of us who pray these prayers with sincerity of heart and mind, pardon and peace. May we be forgiven and healed of our failings and relieved of any burdens we are carrying. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Slow Down It's Covid Time!

This is the time to be slow,
Lay close to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.
Try, as best you can, not to let,
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light

If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet again
On fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

(John O'Donohue)

Beannacht Dé Orainn ar fad!

Agus Faoi Bhrat Muire Go Rabhaimid

May God's Blessing be Upon us all
And May Mary's Mantle surround and protect us. Amen.