CASTLEBAR PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Sunday Mass Times

<u>Parish Church</u>: 7pm (Sat), 8.30am, 10.30am, 12pm

PRIEST ON CALL: Tel. 094 9021844

Mass Intentions **PARISH CHURCH** Monday 1st June: 10.00am - Jim & Eileen Jolly & dec. Mannion & Jolly families, Cottage Road, Breaffy. 7.00pm - Fr. J.J. Cribbin. (M.M.) Tuesday 2nd June: 8.00am - Dominick, Roseanne & Pat Staunton & dec. Staunton, Sweeney & Jennings families. 10.00am - Collins & Sarsfield families, Eiblish Carroll & Agnes & Cecil Carr. Wednesday 3rd June: 8 00am - Holy Souls 10.00am - Special Intention. Thursday 4th June: 8.00am - Private Intention. 10.00am - Maggie Burke, 4 Castlehill Park & dec. Burke & Durkan families. Friday 5th June: ENTECOS 8 00am - Special Intention. UNDAY 10.00am - Michael McCay, Tourmakeady. (1st Anv.) Tony Gray, Moneen Cottages. Saturday 6th June: 10.00am - Martin Forkan, Springfield Road & dec Forkan, Nolan & Mulroy families, Swinford. Eimear Leyden, Ballynew. Mary & Jack O'Reilly, Station Road. Peggy & Austin Quinn, Westport Road, grandson Mark Faherty & dec. Quinn & Howley families. 7.00pm - Mass for Frontline Workers. Masses and Ceremonies in the Parish Church are broadcast live at castlebarparish.ie/web-cam and on the Parish Radio at 105.3 FM.

Rest in Peace

Dr. Mariana O'Dowd, Mount Prospect, Lisgowel, Breaffy.

Pat Flannery, Derrywash.

Kate Lally, Breaffy Lodge.

Josephine Griffin, Cloghans Hill, sister of Jane Fallon, Riverdale Court.

Mary Wilson, Lawn Park.

Fr. John Waldron, Portland, Oregon.

The Six Dioceses of the Tuam Province "Stay with us Lord, for it is almost evening"

A short online reflection every Sunday evening until Pentecost. Sunday 31st May at 6.30pm from the Archdiocese of Tuam with Fr. John Kenny P.P View at <u>www.facebook.com/stmaryswestport/</u>

Hand-washing

I wash my hands in innocence and take my place around your altar. (Psalm 26:6 RNJB)

The psalmist may have had David in mind, opening the old king's heart to the God of his life. Twice he sings, I have walked in my integrity – not by his own merits, but because *Your mercy is before my eyes, and I walk according to your truth.* (*Ps 26:1, 3, 11*)

As a testimony to his harmony with God, even aware of his own bloody past, David draws on an ancient Jewish ritual for the healing of blood-guilt: (Deuteronomy 21:1-9; Ps 51:16) *I wash my hands in innocence and take my place around your altar*. (Ps 26:6)

In our own strange times, in the face of the Coronavirus catastrophe, we too are required to wash our hands. Not that we are like the wicked people of the psalm: *In whose hands are evil plots, whose right hands are filled with a bribe*. (Ps 26:10)

But our hands can carry a more deadly peril. It is not so much for our own safety, but for the protection of others that we soap-and-lather for a scientifically approved 20 seconds; and during the Mass, priest and Eucharistic ministers wash hands with sanitising fluid just before "the breaking of bread." These are new responsibilities of care towards others.

Hand-washing has cousins: Physical Distancing and Self Isolation. And there are some of those in Psalm 26 too – there are people King David wishes to avoid: *I hate the evil-doer's company; I will not take my seat with the wicked*. (Ps 26:5) And there are places where he would prefer to be: *O Lord, I love the house where you dwell, the place where your glory abides*. (Ps 26:8)

But in our days we may not have a choice; I can be a carrier, an unknown threat to others, any others – or they a danger to me. We must keep our distance, stay away, self-isolate, greetings through closed doors. High Fives through window glass. It goes against our best tendencies: to hug, to hold, to steady. Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy wrote, "your arms reached out, love's gesture." It still is, even if there's a new tough love we need to learn for the new tough times that are yet to come. Our arms reach out to measure the distance between us.

The old king's prayer and final hope: As for me, I have walked in my integrity. Redeem me and show me your favour. My foot stands on level ground: I will bless the Lord in the assembly. (Ps 26:11-12)

(Fr. Dermot Connolly, Africa, St. Patrick's Mission Magazine)

Church Collection Envelopes 2020/2021

The Church Collection envelopes will be ready for distribution from next Tuesday. If you are in a position to help in the distribution of envelopes in light of our present restrictions, please tel. the Parish Office at 9021844, (9.30am – 2.30pm, Tuesday - Friday) to arrange collection. Thank you.

Prayer for Frontline Workers

Loving Father we place into your care, all who work, at the frontline in our hospitals and in our community. Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body. Keep them safe from harm and free from danger. May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing to help us all as we learn to live with the Coronavirus and the effect it is having on our lives today. God of consolation may they know your protection and peace. Bless them in these challenging times. Take care of their families and keep them safe in your care.

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours; yours are the eyes with which he looks, compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks, compassion on this world, Christ has no body now on earth but yours. (St Teresa of Avila)



Mass for Frontline Workers

Saturday 6th June at 7pm in the Parish Church. View the Mass at castlebarparish.ie/web-cam or on the Parish Radio at 105.3 FM.