



Dear Parishioners,

We are well on our way toward Holy Week. This year, we can utilize 25% of church capacity for Easter ceremonies and we are grateful. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday will also be live-streamed. (The Church in Ireland is in lock down until May.) I would like to thank you for your ongoing sacrificial support of the Sunday offertory and the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your continued fidelity enables us to continue the mission of the Church.

Ninety-four year old, Mary, has a laptop set up by her granddaughter. Mary lights 2 candles and places them on each side of her screen. She takes flowers from her garden to “reverence the presence of the Lord”, as Mary tells it. She has a quarried faith that hallmarks her generation. It is a special part of a hidden church. The pandemic forced Mary and all of us into isolation. But with the proximity of web cams, Mary, like many of you, is an enthusiastic faith witness. Online prayer and Masses open up new questions as to what it means to be present with the faith realities of others through livestreaming. This new way of witnessing is to be welcomed until we can all be there in person as the Body of Christ. We thank God for the miracle of the vaccines which we encourage everyone to receive.

Teilhard De Chardin writes, “Since once again Lord on the steps of Asia, I have neither bread nor wine nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to the pure majesty of the Real itself. I your Priest will make the whole Earth my altar, I will offer you all the labors and sufferings of the world.” This prayer is very much the vision of Pope Francis with the earth as our common home to be shared by all. Ninety-four year old Mary, connects with “the God of all creation”, through the flowers of her garden. For us, our church environment ministry decorates for the celebrations, and we enjoy it! These flowers give a fragrance to our prayer. It is there, at the altar, we are one body, one Spirit in Christ.

This past year of pandemic has given rise to a new appreciation of family, and of home as “holy ground.” This was also the experience of early Christians. They met in their homes to pray, ponder the word of God and break the bread of Life (Eucharist). This year Pope Francis has announced March 19th as the first day of the “Amoris Laetitia Family” Year in the year of St. Joseph. He has dedicated a whole year to focus on family and conjugal love.

To the Samaritan woman Jesus said, “It will neither be on this mountain nor in Jerusalem that we worship the Father, but in Spirit and in truth” (Jn 4:21-24 ). That tells us the place to worship God is in our bodies – and this we never do in isolation, despite all lockdowns. We worship as part of the connected community of Communion – which is the Body of Christ.

This coming Holy week we worship the Lord who gave His life for our sins (such is the grip of sin) and rising gloriously, that we might be a people of hope in the face of adversity. We hope you can participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

Happy Easter!

*Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin*

Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor