

WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK'S ESKER/DODSBORO/ADAMSTOWN
NEWSLETTER

26TH APRIL 2020



Welcome To
St Patrick's Esker/Doddsboro/ Adamstown
April 26, 2020

Mass Intentions for coming week:



Eamonn Kelly, Patrick Devine,
Ciaran Mitchell, Noel Flynn, Sean Flynn,
Joe & Maura Fitzpatrick, Eileen Fitzpatrick,
John Curran, Anthony, Mary & Paddy Long whose
anniversaries occur. We remember Joan Curran and Joseph
(Joe) Walsh whose funerals took place this week.

Readings ~ Sun. 26th April ~ Divine Mercy Sunday:

The First Reading: 'You had Jesus crucified, but God raised him up.' This powerful statement runs like a refrain through the early preaching of the apostles. Where human wickedness brought death, God has brought life.

The Second Reading: St. Peter insists that we are a diaspora, a people 'living away from home.' As such, we are to be 'scrupulously careful,' and mindful of how our membership of God's kingdom calls us to live.

The Gospel: Luke 24:13-25 - What was it that led two sad and weary disciples to turn right around, to retrace their steps with joy and enthusiasm? It was the encounter with Christ, in his word and in the breaking of bread.

Biblical Reflection ~ Fr. John will be broadcasting a five minute biblical reflection Mon-Fri at 10am on the parish web site – www.st.patrickslucan.ie

Dublin Hospital Chaplains share their experience from the front line ~ “To see our patients having to go through this

unthinkable ordeal is heart-breaking.” Throughout this pandemic, priests and lay chaplains have continued to minister to the sick and the bereaved in extraordinary circumstances. In the Archdiocese of Dublin, 36 ordained and 40 lay chaplains provide this essential service across a wide range of healthcare facilities. Three of the group, Shauna Sweeney, Fr. Damian O’Reilly and Fr. John Kelly, have taken time out from their busy and very difficult schedules to give us a glimpse of what life is like for them and their colleagues as they continue to serve in exceptional times.

Shauna Sweeney, Chaplain, Tallaght University Hospital. “This new strange way of life in the hospital is something that every healthcare professional is learning to adjust to. To see our patients having to go through this unthinkable ordeal is heart-breaking. Patients have not seen their family in weeks and feel isolated and lonely. Families are at home waiting to hear from the hospital and feel helpless. Staff are dealing with extremely stressful situations that change every day.

As a chaplain in such an unusual time, it is my role to try and support patients and staff in the hospital and to make space for them to share their fears. It is extremely harrowing to see what patients and families are going through with this pandemic. Typically, families would be with their loved ones morning, noon and night but that cannot be the case now.

A young man with a young family was dying yesterday. His wife and brother came in to say their last goodbyes to him. I facilitated the visit with them, they had 15 minutes to see him and say goodbye as they would never see him again. They were surrounded by people with masks, goggles, hair nets, and no faces to see. This alone put so much fear with them and they too were instructed to wear the full PPE. It is utterly heart-breaking. The reality of the current situation feels inhumane and not what we as carers are used to.

Staff and volunteers in the hospital have crocheted pairs of love hearts that fit in the palm of the hand - a set. When I met with the wife and brother of this patient, I gave them one love heart to put into his hand, knowing that he would have something of theirs and I gave them the matching heart, to always have to show their son and to know that he was not alone.

Patients are our priority and an initiative that the hospital set up is that every ward has access iPads that patients if well enough can facetime their families. If patients are too unwell the Chaplain calls the family after visiting and lets the family know how their loved one is doing. It gives the chaplain an opportunity to connect in with the family and see how they are doing as well.” (*Shauna Sweeney*)

Fr. Damian O’Reilly’s experience to follow next week and Fr. John Kelly the week after.