

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

10TH MAY 2020



Welcome To
St Patrick's Esker/Doddsboro/ Adamstown
May 10, 2020

Mass Intentions for this week: Dr David Gaffney S.J. who died during



the week, Gerry (John) Burns (m.m.), Jonathan James,
Pierre Kelly, Thomas Duff, Marie Clerkin,
Martin & Kate Mullally, Maureen Lowry, John Ryan,
Janet O'Reilly, Catherine (Kathleen) Balfe whose

anniversaries occur,

Readings ~ Sun 10th May ~ 5th Sunday of Easter ~

The first reading - The first reading. Right from the beginning, the Church had to deal with everyday matters such as the just sharing of resources and the assignment of personnel. Her prudential decisions, however, were made in a spirit of communion and of prayer.

The second reading - The Lord was rejected by men, chosen by God. Those who choose him may themselves be rejected in turn, but even in rejection they are called 'to sing the praises of God.

The Gospel – John 14:1-12 – Do not let your hearts be troubled.' Those consoling words are not just an exhortation; they are a recognition of the fact that we tend to do just that, to let our hearts be troubled. The Lord understands our weakness.

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.

Fr. John Kelly, Chaplain, Tallaght University Hospital - “The work of healthcare chaplains is face-to-face - listening compassionately, connecting immediately and loving unconditionally. COVID-19 has challenged and changed the way we provide this pastoral care. Wherever chaplains are, whether at the bedside or the other end of a video camera, it is about connecting people.

On Holy Thursday I visited a 91 year old patient named Ann with confirmed coronavirus. A beautiful person who attended daily Mass. After a pastoral conversation we prayed together, celebrated the sacrament of the sick and she received Holy Communion. Ann had not spoken to her only brother since she was hospitalised. I connected Ann to her brother and they had a conversation which turned out to be her last as she died peacefully a short time later.

On Good Friday, I visited Mary a patient I had met on many occasions during her treatment for cancer. She recognised my voice behind the protective mask and goggles. Having listened to her fears and sense of isolation I was able to connect her by Zoom to her husband and two sons. This was the last time they were able to see and hear their Mother's voice. After her death the nurse and I placed a wooden cross in her hand as we prayed for her. In these times you often only have one pastoral encounter, and these are 'never to be forgotten'.

I am also developing *Keepsake Hearts*. A pair of small matching handcrafted hearts are respectfully offered as a keepsake to an individual or a family on the death of their loved one. One Keepsake Heart is placed with the remains of their loved while the matching heart is sent to the bereaved family. The handcrafted hearts are made by a group of Volunteers.” **Fr. John Kelly.**

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin – Paying tribute to all who are

working in Chaplaincy services in the Archdiocese at this time, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin asked that we continue to pray for all those who are ill, those have died and families and friends who have been bereaved. He added, “In our prayers, we remember those who have come here from abroad and who celebrate Easter far from their home and their traditions. Some of these immigrants are the backbone of our carers and health care workers. We must reach out to them and their families at this time.”

He reiterated his call first made on St. Patrick's Day as the country undertook measures necessary to preserve life by saying; “We are in a difficult situation and one that will not see its end for some time. We are being asked to take very restrictive measures. We are obliged to respond with a sense of personal responsibility and civic duty. Our sacrifices are overshadowed when we think of the great commitment of our public health services, especially our nurses, doctors, public health officials and carers. We owe them all a debt of gratitude. I thank our priests as they continue to minister to the sick, the troubled and the bereaved. Generosity and creativity are being combined by so many to respond to what is above all a call to solidarity, a call to care for one another.”