

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

3RD MAY 2020



Welcome To
St Patrick's Esker/Dodsboro/ Adamstown
May 3, 2020

Mass Intentions for coming week: We remember



Cathal Ó'Miachain whose funeral took place this week.

Margaret Weldon whose months mind occurs.

Margaret Dardis, Patrick Hynes & Jack Dennis, Bridget O'Neill, John Ryan, Peter Timmons, Johnny, Jo and Tom Butler, Colm Kearns, Martin O'Brien, late members of Butler and McElligott families whose anniversaries occur.

Readings – Sun 3rd May – Good Shepherd Sunday – Day of Prayer for Vocations

The first reading - 'They were cut to the heart.' It was people's grief that opened the door to their conversion. Sorrow for our sins and shortcomings can open us to God's loving invitation.

The second reading - To bear patiently, even when life is being unfair, is not simply meritorious: it is Christlike. Christ did not retaliate; he did not threaten. He bore our sins and he bears with us.

The Gospel – John 10:1-10 - What kind of shepherd is Christ? He is the one who has come 'so that we may have life and have it to the full.' Let us leave aside any sense that Christian discipleship is some kind of necessary burden. It is the way to life – fullness of life.

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. Damian O Reilly, St. Vincent’s Hospital - “Working as a Priest Chaplain in St. Vincent’s University Hospital at this time of the Covid19 pandemic is one of the most challenging and amazing experiences of my priestly life. To be working alongside health care professionals and all the staff of the hospital is truly a very humbling experience – one of care, kindness and compassion from all the staff and departments who are working very closely together to ensure that the best possible patient care of the highest standard is provided to each patient. Every patient is cared for with great dignity and loving care. The demands on the staff and on the hospital are way beyond what anyone of us could ever have imagined. The hospital administration is doing everything possible to ensure the safety of all the patients their families and staff by making sure that all the resources that are required especially PPE are made available. I feel that in this crisis every one of us are being protected as much as it is possible.

As a hospital chaplaincy team made up of two ordained chaplains and four lay chaplains, we provide a 24/7 chaplaincy service to the patients their families and to staff. We provide the chaplaincy service within the guidelines and restrictions of the HSE and as chaplains we have been trained in all Healthy and Safety procedures and in infection control procedures that are required especially in the care of our patients that are either suspected or confirmed with Covid19. Trained for the use of PPE we attend to the pastoral and sacramental needs of each patient when requested by either the patient themselves or by a member of the family or next of kin. We are available to support the families for whom this a particularly difficult time - because of the restrictions, families are unable to be with their loved ones and this is particularly difficult if the loved one is dying. To be a pastoral and spiritual support especially to the family is vital.

Chaplaincy duties have changed somewhat in that we are restricted from being able to do our normal pastoral rounds each day on the wards. Liturgical services are restricted in that we celebrate Mass behind locked doors and prayer services in the Mortuary are done under the guidelines of the HSE. We provide the chaplaincy services on request from the patients or their families we are also reaching out to family members who make contact with us on the phone. Patients are anointed and prayed with as requested.

We engage with the various multidisciplinary teams such as the Palliative Care Team, the Medical Social Workers and others and that is a vital link in the care of the patient and their families.

Like all who are working on the front line at this time the support and the prayers of the public is very much appreciated, as hospital chaplains the support and prayers of the Archbishop the priest and religious and lay faithful of the Diocese is a great source of strength and for that support. I would simply say a very sincere "THANK YOU". Please continue to pray for all of us and especially for the patients and their families and all staff at the front line at this time. This virus can come to anyone of us for that reason let us be there for each other and care for each other with the spirit of the healing Christ in our hearts who loves us and cares for us.

Please everyone, keep safe and observe the guidelines and restrictions that are in place. God Bless." *Fr. Damian O Reilly*

Fr. John Kelly's experience to follow next week.