

Parish of Botha

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Easter Day of the Lord's Resurrection Masses this week

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 12th April **The Resurrection of the Lord** 11.30am Mass,

Tuesday 14th April 7.30pm Mass and Novena to St Peregrine.

Wednesday 15th April 10am Mass

Thursday 16th April 10am Mass and Holy Rosary.

Sunday 19th April 11.30am Mass, Anniversary: Maureen McConnell, Rosspoint; Charles and Agnes Murphy, Tonagh; Tommy Duffy, Rosnarick Close; Charlie and Teresa Smyth, Main Street.

Recently Deceased: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of Lizzy McGovern, Portmush, Enniskillen and Richard Nagle, Mallow, Co Cork. May they rest in peace.

Christ is risen, alleluia! Easter greetings to everyone in our parish. When we began Lent on Ash Wednesday the 26th February, we could never have imagined that we would be marking Easter in such a strange way. Easter 2020 will always be remembered as the one where our liturgies were celebrated behind closed doors because of the ban on large gatherings of people. It is indeed difficult to fully appreciate the restrictions placed on us due to the Coronavirus. In a short space of time, we have become accustomed to new terms such as social distancing, cocooning, and self-isolation. Sadly, this has become the 'new normal' and something that may be with us for quite some time.

I wish to offer you my best wishes for this season. It has been strange to mark these days of our Lord's crucifixion, death and resurrection in an empty St. Patrick's Church. Many of you have joined with me via the parish webcam. I hope that this Triduum of Easter has been a prayerful and uplifting experience for you. While we celebrate the most important time of the Church year, I am mindful of those who struggle to believe – may our faith encourage them in that struggle. I am aware of families who cannot be together this Easter, due to travel restrictions. May the risen Jesus unite you, even if far apart. My thoughts and prayers go out to all who are working to keep us safe, particularly those in the healthcare sector, and other frontline workers. May we all appreciate their courage and their dedication. While it may be easy to despair in our current circumstances, may the Good News of this Easter day touch our hearts, so that we may see better times ahead, and also, bring peace and joy to each other. Thank you for your support and encouragement through your prayers, good wishes, messages and financial contributions. Jesus Christ is risen today, let us rejoice and be glad!

Fr. Cathal

*Christ our life, you are alive
In the beauty of the earth
In the rhythm of the seasons
In the mystery of time and space*

Alleluia

*Christ our life, you are alive
In the tenderness of touch
In the heartbeat of intimacy
In the insights of solitude*

Alleluia

*Christ our life, you are alive
In the creative possibility
Of the dullest conversation
The dreariest task
The most threatening event*

Alleluia

*Christ our life, you are alive
to offer re-creation
to every unhealed hurt
to every deadened place
to every damaged heart*

Alleluia

*You set before us a great choice. Therefore we choose life.
The dance of the resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation.
It sets gifts of bread and wine upon our table. This is grace, dying we live.
So let us live.*

An Act of Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*