

# Clonskeagh Parish Newsletter

Let us remember those who are sick  
and housebound in our Parish  
today!

The churches are open for *private prayer* and those over 70 and those with underlying conditions are asked to limit their contacts, stay in place at home in so far as possible and to exercise a heightened sense of personal care.

The *Parish Office* is closed to the public and not available for in person visits to book masses or get Mass cards.

Please email

[parishofficeclonskeagh@eircom.net](mailto:parishofficeclonskeagh@eircom.net)

as the emails are checked remotely.

We all need to exercise caution in our interactions with the public and with each other. The norms of social distance, hand washing, and masks are to be strictly observed.

Everyone who visits our church is to wear a face covering, to practice hand sanitising and social distancing, in order to protect everyone's health.

*Fr Joe Mullan Adm.*

We prayerfully remember all those who are

**Recently Deceased & all whose  
Anniversaries** occur at this time.

***"May they rest in peace. Amen."***



**"Be strong and take heart, all you  
who hope in the Lord"**

*Psalm 1:24*



## Homily of Bishop Dermot Farrell at Mass of Thanksgiving on the Occasion of his Installation as Archbishop of Dublin

I am happy to embrace this new mission. I come to you with hope in my heart. It is not a naive hope that everything will be better tomorrow, but a hope born of a conviction that transcends these difficult days through which we are living, and a hope that transcends the limits our own capabilities. Faith is not an invitation to put up with life's difficulties and frustrations. Rather, faith asks us to see these as a time of grace. This time – both in the crisis that is the global pandemic, and in the many crises confronting the Church – this very time, with all its frustration and fear, is rich with possibilities, already carrying the future, overflowing with Christ (see Walter Burghardt, *Sir, We Would Like to See Jesus*, p. 36).

What we do in the coming months and years, how we live out of these challenges and opportunities, will define who we really are as a people of faith.

Today is also the day that the Church celebrates the World Day of Consecrated Life, an occasion to thank the Lord for the gift of lives given to God – lifetimes of service, of commitment to the service of the Gospel and the mission of the Church, and of prophetic witness to the presence and significance of Jesus.

Like Mary, the Mother of the Lord, we have to find our place in God's story. I entrust my episcopal ministry to the motherly care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, and patroness of this Pro-Cathedral.

Be assured of my prayer for you even as I ask for yours for me. Saint Laurence O'Toole, pray for us. Saint Kevin, pray for us. May God bless our Archdiocese of Dublin. Amen.

## Parish News & Announcements

### Few Words from Fr Joe –

Sometimes a handful of pencils are held together with a couple of rubber bands, making a neat and tidy bundle. I thought someone had left me a gift of nice shiny green pencils, sitting on the letter box, when I arrived home the other day. But no, they just looked like pencils, green and straight and bundled together. The Keeling's label suggested something living, and maybe edible, closer examination revealed that these green sticks were in fact labelled, daffodils. It seemed ridiculous as there wasn't even a hint of yellow, of flower, or anything pretty.

To honour the gift I found a vase, stood the sticks upright, set them in a warm place near the window and waited. It didn't take long, certainly within 24 hours the flowers began to emerge, stem, neck and blooms formed and then on the second day an explosion of yellow, pale, delicate flowers, much bigger than I could have expected. By day three a delicate aroma, faint but distinctly flowery, filled my nostrils each time I walked into the kitchen. And there they sit, a spring offering, honouring St Brigid, the first heralds of spring. So, so simple and yet so suggestive of all the new life that is coming our way. The cold earth of winter is still muddy and bare, but buds are appearing on the trees, shoots are appearing out of the soil all around us, and the first extra hour of light extends our days and encourages us to hope.

The long slumber of a Covid weary winter will loosen its grip on our lives, we can expect more from our days. With quantifiable progress seen in numbers falling, behaviours changing, vaccines jabbing, deaths diminishing, hope is rising. We might try and see this moment through the window of faith, it will help us search for God's presence in our struggle, and perhaps to grow through this adversity. Perhaps our values will have matured as we reflect on what really matters in life, the people we love, the care of the vulnerable, honouring the divine presence in others. Maybe it won't be too long until we can gather again in churches and celebrate, remember and share prayer. Until then stay strong, let Spring lift your spirits. Bless the God of creation for all the beauty which he gives so freely.

**Accord Annual Collection** - Accord Dublin's Annual Collection will take place on the weekend of **13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> February**.

We realise that it will be much more difficult for parishes to support us this year – although the demand for services is greater than ever. Your parishioners can donate in the following ways:

**Online** at [www.accorddublin.ie](http://www.accorddublin.ie) where you will find a DONATE button

**By post** to Accord Dublin, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3

**By bank transfer** to ACCORD Dublin Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG,

Bank of Ireland, 88 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2.

IBAN: IE27 BOFI [9001 1357 0742 03](https://www.bankofireland.com/iban); BIC:BOFIIE2D