

Clonskeagh Parish Newsletter

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



A Few Words from Fr Joe.....



I don't know how much I have in common with the President of the United States, Joe Biden. Obviously, we share a first name, which is a start, then he loves participating at Mass, never missing a chance to start his day at his local parish, and I guess I do too. After that our paths diverge. During the week, he was quizzed about Lent, and asked first if he had given something up and secondly what was he looking forward to when Lent was over. So, he gave up sweet things as his way of fasting and he was really, really looking forward to a big bowl of ice cream on Easter Sunday. Me too! It is sort of reassuring to hear someone in high office with such familiar, ordinary Lenten habits that he is happy to share.

When he was Vice President, one Ash Wednesday he came to the podium for a press conference on education, his forehead marked dramatically with ashes. The Sky commentators were immediately struck by this strange sight and presumed he must have bumped his head and raised a bruise, they began speculating. After it was confirmed the religious meaning of this black mark, one of the commentators said as a Catholic she was embarrassed to have forgotten all about it being the beginning of Lent and realised she should have known why his forehead had been marked. So, when we talk about Easter and the Risen Lord, the empty tomb and the dawning awareness of the disciples that the Lord had risen and gone ahead of them to Galilee we must be aware that some of our family and friends have 'forgotten' what this means.

The witness of the first Christians changed them and they spread the good news, building the church, soul by soul, heart by heart, mind by mind. We are called to both witness and rebuilding as Easter joy transforms our lives and hopefully we radiate the love of the risen Lord to others. Transforming what we did in Lent with prayer, fasting and almsgiving, into becoming an Easter People for the next 50 days is our common and shared mission. One Lent I gave up sugar, and then when Lent was over I stayed off for good. Two years ago, I gave up meat and alcohol and I have stayed off both since. Sometimes Lent changes our habits and creates space for new things in our spiritual lives. There is more to Easter than ice cream! Let's live Easter together.

We prayerfully remember all those who are **Recently Deceased** & all whose **Anniversaries** occur at this time.

"May they rest in peace. Amen."

EASTER CEREMONIES

Our Easter Ceremonies will be online this year. For the Easter Vigil we are recommending following the Mass from Knock. For the other ceremonies, we will stream simple celebrations, to view the ceremonies on the webcam please visit www.clonskeaghparish.ie

EASTER VIGIL – 11pm RTÉ One & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252. - Easter Vigil Mass from Knock Basilica

EASTER SUNDAY – 10am MASS

Early in the morning some women go to the tomb. Jesus has risen from the dead. *Alleluia!* *Alleluia!* Perhaps prepare an Easter table with spring flowers, Easter eggs, maybe your baptismal or another candle, and join with Fr Joe as he lights our Paschal Candle - **via webcam** on www.clonskeaghparish.ie

POPE FRANCIS' Urbi et Orbi Message & Blessing – 12.25-1pm (approx) RTÉ One & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252

**Fr. Joe and Fr. Fergus wish you all a very
'Happy & Blessed Easter'
'Beannachtaí na Casca díbh go leir!'**

'Everything is different now because that Tomb is empty.' - We are different now because we have been raised with Christ. We have been capacitated, through the Resurrection, to begin living our lives in a new way. We will celebrate Easter for fifty days until we celebrate the next great Feast, the Feast of Pentecost. Alleluias will permeate our worship - and they are meant to inform our lives. That is because, in the words of the great western Church Bishop, Augustine, *"we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song."*

Let us Pray... *"That for all of us this Easter, the Light of the Risen Christ will dispel darkness, illumine our hearts, and be a lamp for our steps on our pilgrim way. Amen"*

YOUTH INITIATIVES (FROM THE OFFICE FOR EVANGELISATION AND ECUMENISM)

KNOCK YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, 24th April, 12noon -2pm, via Zoom. This will be a great interactive session for teenagers from across our Diocese to experience pilgrimage together through workshops, small group discussions, fun and prayer. To register for this youth group you will need to complete the online parental consent form with your parents by clicking here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OmwpOQKL0Ua2DW8iFevKayJb-gK7h5tOjDzUJL5UJ0xUNURQSkdYVkrQUktIVFIWNzk5R0NTS0U5RS4u>

SUPPORT SERVICES

AWARE - SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS

If you, or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, please consider using the Phone In and Zoom Support & Self Care Groups, the Support Line or Support Mail, now and throughout the holiday season. These services provide support, coping skills and information – and most importantly help people who are in distress to know and feel that they are not alone in their experience. For more information about the groups <https://www.aware.ie/support/support-groups/> and all of our services on www.aware.ie