

The Mountmellick Group of Parishes

St Brigid's, Rosenallis * St John's Coolbanagher * St Paul's, Mountmellick

Covid 19 Parish Update

8th May 2020

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you are all keeping well and are encouraged by the announcement last Friday of the plan for our move back towards a more normal way of life. It is a relief to hear that we can stray a little further on our daily walks and that those who have been cocooning can once again cross their doorstep for exercise. While I get many more visits done by phone than by car (and everyone is in!), I do very much miss seeing you all face to face.

While it is a pale imitation of gathering together in our parish churches, I hope that those of you who have internet access have found the Podcast Sunday Services, Holy Week Services, Meditations, School Assemblies and Weekday Prayers on the parish website helpful while our churches have been closed. We are very lucky to have such a well-designed website as it has been an invaluable way of reaching people during the Covid 19 restrictions. Brian Thompson has worked very hard at making the parish website user friendly and to make it easy to access the various Parish Podcasts.

It was very heartening to hear that, while still a few months away, churches will soon be open again; if we are able to move through the various phases of the Roadmap for Reopening without setback, our first Sunday back in our churches will be Sunday 26th July when I hope we will be able to have a celebration of The Holy Communion in each of our parish churches at their usual times. If restrictions prevent us from celebrating The Holy Communion, then we shall be very glad to see one another again and rejoice at being able to gather together again with Morning Prayer. The following Sunday 2nd August, the Service will be a Group/Family Service and Holy Baptism at 10.45 in St Paul's, Mountmellick and I hope that social distancing requirements don't create too many complications for the baptism, such questions as am I allowed to hold the baby and how close can I get to the baby with the water, are among many practical matters that still have to be worked out in light of the remaining social distancing requirements.

When I have been doing my parish rounds by telephone, a number of people have asked what they can do regarding their weekly plate and envelope giving. I am very conscious that we are experiencing a time of financial uncertainty and that some people will have lost their jobs, had their hours reduced or are anxious about their businesses and their personal finances. So I am aware that not everyone may be in a position to contribute to the parish at this time as they have been able in the past; however, for those who are able to do so and have been wondering how they might continue to contribute to the upkeep of their parish during the Covid 19 related closures, you may like to consider the following:

- You can lodge your normal envelope/plate collection money directly to the parish bank account via online banking with details available from the sources listed following the end of this letter.

Or

- You can send your normal envelope/collection money by cheque to the parish treasurer whose address follows the end of this letter.

I want to acknowledge my appreciation and gratitude to everyone who makes regular contributions towards our parishes and I am personally grateful to each of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during this strange time when we are physically isolated from each other and many of our loved ones. I very much look forward to seeing you again on Sunday 26th July (fingers and toes firmly crossed) and to eventually being able to visit face to face over a cup of tea before the end of the summer.

God bless, Revd Tim

Coolbanagher: Mrs Marion Matthews, Coolbanagher, Emo R32 X070

Electronic Bank details for Coolbanagher are available by emailing Revd Tim at rector@mountmellickgroupofparishes.ie

Mountmellick: Mrs Janet Stewart, Rock House, The Rock, Mountmellick

Electronic Bank details for Mountmellick are available by emailing Janet at stewartjanet45@gmail.com

Rosenallis: Mr Ronnie Falkiner, Clonduff, Rosenallis

Electronic Bank details for Rosenallis are available by contacting Ronnie on 0872635624