



Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown

Wishing you a very special Holy Week and Happy Easter.  
It certainly will not be forgotten by any of us.

I hope you are doing well with the restrictions imposed upon us. None of us like them, but they seem to be for our good, and the good of the entire community. The Common Good!

***A Simple Holy Week Reflection***

*In Gethsemane, Jesus "began to feel terror and anguish". We follow him through his dreadful ordeal. On the cross they jeered at Him. "Then save yourself if you are God's son and come down from the cross"*

*O Lord, you who suffered all kinds of pain and rejection and desolation, you do not leave us alone in our suffering. You know all about us, to our very depths. We know that you are here with us.*

*You have given strength to countless people over the centuries, those suffering all kinds of sickness and affliction, humiliation, terror and degradation.*

*Be our refuge and our strength now and always.*

Below are a list of Holy Week ceremonies which will take place in Ballybrack Parish Church through their Webcam and on RTÉ 1 and RTE Radio1 Extra/LW252, which may be of interest to you.

**Holy Week Ceremonies Ballybrack Parish - by logging onto the Ballybrack Parish Webcam**

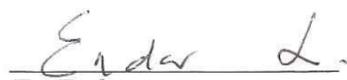
[www.mcmedia.tv/camera/ss-alphonsus-columba-church-ballybrack](http://www.mcmedia.tv/camera/ss-alphonsus-columba-church-ballybrack)

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7.30pm  
Good Friday - Stations of the Cross - 12noon  
Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil - 9pm  
Easter Sunday - Mass of the Lord's Resurrection - 10am and 12noon

**Holy Week Ceremonies on RTÉ 1 and RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252**

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper - 4.40pm  
Good Friday - Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday - 3pm  
Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Mass - 10pm  
Easter Sunday Mass - 10am and Pope Francis's Easter Blessing - at 11am

*Peace be with you and all your family.*

  
Fr. Enda

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Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown

7 April 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners

We hope you are staying well during the Corona pandemic. We were disappointed to see our church closing, and Fr. Enda, along with many others, having to fully isolate. We were disappointed that our Alpha series had to be suspended just three days before it was due to begin. In fact, we can be disappointed about lots of things.

But what benefits are coming from Corona? Here are a few thoughts.....

1. C. S. Lewis, a well-known Christian writer, suggests that 'God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience and SHOUTS to us in our pain. It is a megaphone to rouse a deaf world.' Hopefully, many will turn back to God during this pandemic.
2. We can let disasters or epidemics be a wedge between us and God – or we can sit back in trust, gratitude and amazement as we realise our utter dependence on God in whom 'we live and move and have our being.' (Acts 17:8). We may have been thinking that we were in control of climate, the economy, our finances and our lives. Corona has shown we're not! Now is a good time to repent and get closer to God.
3. Here are 5 things that Jesus did during His time on earth that may help us to thrive during the lockdown.
  - a. Jesus prayed daily. 'When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.' (Matthew 6:6). Could it be Lord, that all of this has happened just so you can get my attention and shower me with the reward you are so eager to give me?  
Don't forget to continue saying our Parish Prayer!
  - b. Jesus met the Physical Needs of Others – He made sure they had food and He healed. During this pandemic, He is using people to bring food to their neighbours and using doctors and nurses and medicine to bring healing to the sick. Neighbours, medics and shop assistants are angels in disguise.
  - c. Jesus talked to people. OK, you may not be able to go out, but you can phone people or use technology like WhatsApp, Facebook, Zoom, etc. to communicate with them. Use this downtime to catch up with people you meant to call but never got around to - in addition to your friends and family.
  - d. Jesus fasted. So, consider fasting as an aid to your spiritual journey, for physical health, and as a tool for ending the mindless snacking we're all tempted to do while cooped up at home.
  - e. Jesus walked. He got his exercise from walking everywhere. We can walk either 2kms or just around our garden or living room. His food was unprocessed. So, eat as healthily as you can.
4. Many of us will get involved with projects – cleaning, gardening, decorating, Netflix watching or whatever. But we should use our time well. In the past you may have thought: 'I haven't time to think, to reflect, to read, to pray' - well now you have!
5. Are some of us in our 60's and 70's about to burst onto the technological stage? Maybe!

Let's all say: 'Thank you, Father. Here is our opportunity to get closer to you!'

Have a good Holy Week and we wish you all a very Happy Easter!

*Tom Robinson*  
(On behalf of the Loughlinstown Parish Pastoral Council)