



Please do not visit the Cathedral if you have a high temperature, cough, sneezing or any signs of Covid-19.

Thank you

### CATHEDRAL OPENING TIMES DURING THE WEEK

**Sunday:** 1 pm - 6 pm

**Monday – Friday:** 8.30 am - 9.30 am; 11 am (or after a funeral) - 6 pm

**Saturday:** 11 am (or after a funeral) - 5 pm

### UNDER LEVEL 5 RESTRICTIONS

Masses will be offered behind **CLOSED DOORS** and can be viewed online or by listening to the Parish Receivers

Attendance at Masses will resume on Monday 10th May– limited to 50 people

**Funeral Masses** are **LIMITED** to 25 mourners.

**Weddings** are **LIMITED** to 6 guests.

**Baptisms** ~ Please contact the Parish Office on 9121021.

### SUNDAY ENVELOPES & DONATIONS ~ 25th April - €1,453

PARISH EXPENDITURE ~ €5,589.68

DONATIONS ~ 1 x €500, 1 x €150, 1 x €20

Thank you for your gift to God and His Church

We deeply appreciate your continued Spiritual and Financial support.

**Mary's Meals needs your help.** War rages on in Tigray, Ethiopia, and much of the world remains unaware. The stories we are hearing from our trusted local partner, The Daughters of Charity about what people have gone through since the conflict began last November are nothing short of horrific. But with communication channels only partially open and much of the country still in 'blackout', global media remains largely silent. To find out more please visit: [www.marysmeals.ie](http://www.marysmeals.ie) or call Patricia on 086-3140814

Below 'Live Broadcast' on the Cathedral Website you have the following:

PLAYER	SCHEDULES	RECORDING	FEATURED VIDEOS
Church	Mobile		

Please 'click' on the **Mobile button** to get live streaming from the Divine Mercy Centre at 3 pm

We have uploaded a number of videos under 'Featured Videos' on our website, for Parents, in Preparation for their child's Baptism.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LETTERKENNY ~ 9129503/9122366**



## ST. EUNAN'S CATHEDRAL LETTERKENNY NEWSLETTER

**Sunday 2nd May 2021**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

### A Reflection on Public Worship and Spiritual Good

We are all thrilled at the prospect of returning to Mass, and the priests will be relieved to have you with us again from **Monday 10th May**. These have been four long months since last we gathered - on Christmas Day! We have been preparing for your return and **will communicate our detailed protocol for a safe return to Mass next week**. God willing, as the situation in the country improves, we will revise our protocols as limitations on public gatherings are lessened in the coming months.

As we make our way back to Mass, it is important that we do so well. There has been much bad temper about the ban on public worship, and it is often directed at the Bishops and priests. Some criticism is undoubtedly fair, but we must all examine ourselves about the spiritual temperament we create within our community. While the Government has stood in the way of our desire to practice our faith, it has to be recognised that the gift of faith and the life of faith is something always and entirely within the ambit of our interior freedom. No secular power can actually rob us of Faith in its twofold nature as a gift of God and the soul's free response. As we return to the Mass we must do so lovingly, with peace, with a spirit of reconciliation. As the community is gathered again by the Holy Spirit, we are invited to re-commit to this Community of Faith we have been established in – namely, the parish! - and make ourselves a part of it. In short, we are being called to communion in the bonds of faith and love and not only sacramental communion for our private good. Holy Communion must flow into "ecclesial communion" in faith and charity.

A lot of us have found the last four months very difficult. There has been the unpleasantness at a human level – the loss of social contact with one another as a parish community, the sense of isolation, fear and anxiety in January and February. But we are even more aware as people of faith of how much this lockdown has cost us spiritually. For us, it is our very life to celebrate the Eucharist together. It is not just the social reality of being together; yes, that is part of it – people have suffered the loss of social interaction and all that flows from that; it is more than this; we have suffered spiritually.

In this regard, a decision of the Court of Sessions in **Scotland** on March 24th makes for interesting reading. It strikes a balance between the lawful interventions of governments when faced with a public health emergency, and respect for the free exercise of religion. It ruled that the Scottish government's *total* ban on public worship was a *disproportionate interference* in the right to public worship. It is worth noting two points made in that judgement since, even though it is from a different jurisdiction, Scotland has a similar legal tradition to our own.

**Firstly, the Judge examined what is meant by public worship.** Acknowledging the submissions from various faiths, the judge stated: "I accept from these that central to the Christian faith practised by the petitioners is the importance of physically congregating to undertake corporate worship. In so far as Roman Catholicism is concerned.../...Eucharistic Celebration, at a public Sunday Mass, is of particular importance. The attendance at Mass is seen as an essential, not optional, element of the Catholic faith". He went on: "I accept the evidence of the petitioners and of the additional party that worship in their faiths cannot properly take place on-line, by means of internet platforms. On-line broadcasts and services.../... are best viewed as an alternative to worship, rather than worship itself. While certain church practices - the reading of prayer, preaching and teaching - may be observed, or even, in the case of live streaming, participated in to a certain extent, on a computer screen or a television whilst alone, in the solitude of one's own home, that does not amount to collective worship.../... For all these reasons, I am clear that the effect of the closure of places of worship is that the petitioners, and the additional party are effectively prevented from practising or manifesting their religion, however many broadcasts or internet platforms may exist" [cf. excerpts from paragraphs 59-63 of the judgement].

**Secondly, the judge considers the effect of refusing public worship to religious believers.** He states: "It is impossible to measure the effect of those restrictions on those who hold religious beliefs. It goes beyond mere loss of companionship and an inability to attend a lunch club. The fact that the Regulations are backed by criminal sanctions is also a relevant consideration [cf. Paragraphs 122-123].

A similar case is currently before our own courts. Regardless of the return to public worship, it is important that we receive an answer to a number of important questions. One hopes that the Irish courts will have the erudition and reasonableness of their Scottish cousins to recognise (1) the nature of public worship, (2) that it can never be replaced by remote participation, and (3) that there is such a thing as a spiritual good that can be damaged by undue interference by the secular power.

### Sunday 2nd May

**Masses: 8 am, 10 am and 12 noon**

### Monday 3rd May ~ St. Philip and St. James (Apostles)

**10 am Mass ~ Colm Herron RIP**

### Tuesday 4th May ~ St. Conleth

**8 am Mass ~ Angela Melican RIP**

**10 am Mass ~ Sarah and Hugh Harvey RIP**

**6.15 pm ~ Holy Face Devotions**

**7 pm Mass ~ Special Intention**

**8 pm ~ Holy Hour**

### Wednesday 5th May ~ Blessed Edmund Rice

**8 am Mass ~ Grace Dillon RIP**

**10 am Mass ~ Nora Boyle RIP**

**7 pm Mass ~ William, Nora and Nancy Duffin RIP and Maura McElhinney RIP**

**8 pm ~ Youth 2000 Holy Hour**

### Thursday 6th May

**8 am Mass ~ Holy Souls RIP**

**10 am Mass ~ Eamonn Convey RIP**

**7 pm Mass ~ Jimmy Coyle RIP (First Anniversary)**

### Friday 7th May

**8 am Mass ~ Mary Gillen RIP**

**10 am Mass ~ Fr. Hugh Sweeney RIP (First Anniversary)**

**7 pm Mass ~ Phil McLaughlin, Willie Peoples, Emma Peoples, Mary McMenamin, Barry Neely, Seamus O Cnaimhsí, Stephen Shevlin and Nora Browne RIP**

### Saturday 8th May ~ Blessed John Sullivan

**10 am Mass ~ John McGill RIP (Month's Mind Mass)**

**6 pm ~ Vigil Mass**

**Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday (9.30 am - 4.30 pm)**

**Phone: 074 - 9121021**

**Parish Email: office@steunanscathedral.ie**

**Website: www.steunanscathedral.ie**  **St. Eunan's Cathedral**

Live **Web Streaming** from the Cathedral ~ [churchservices.tv/letterkenny](http://churchservices.tv/letterkenny)

**As far as possible ~ please do what you can over the PHONE or by EMAIL**