

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



First Sunday of Lent 01 March 2020

GUIDELINES FROM THE HSE FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES

In late December 2019 Chinese authorities identified a cluster of novel coronavirus infections in Wuhan City, China. The name of the virus is SARS-CoV-2 and the name of the disease it causes is COVID-19. The outbreak has evolved rapidly and further global spread is likely. Because of the risk of the disease spreading to Ireland, we must take all possible action to prevent the potential spread of the disease in the community. (Read further details on the HSE website [here](#))

People at increased risk of getting COVID-19, including people who have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19, may be asked to limit their social interactions for 14 days, including staying at home and not attending work or religious services. In order to reduce the possible spread of infection, these people should not be visited by religious leaders/members of the clergy while they are in self isolation. Pastoral care can be provided over the telephone/skype if resources permit.

Most physical interaction during religious services, e.g. shaking hands while exchanging the 'Sign of Peace' in Christian religious services, involves a low risk of spreading the virus especially if members of the congregation who are unwell do not attend religious services while they are ill. However, because COVID-19 is a new disease that has not been seen in people before, we need to exercise extreme caution to limit the spread of the virus. For these reasons we suggest that physical interaction during religious services, including the Sign of Peace, should be suspended.

Because COVID-19 is a new disease and appears to spread easily between people, we advise that holy water fonts should not be used.

Everyone administering Holy Communion should wash their hands or use alcohol based hand gel before beginning. Holy Communion should be administered into the hands only and NOT onto the tongue. To minimise the risk of spread of infection, the use of communal vessels should be suspended. For example, during Holy Communion in Christian religious services only the celebrant should drink from the Chalice. No one else should drink from the Chalice - this includes other priests, ministers of the Eucharist and members of the congregation.

A Summary of Guidelines issued by the HSE (Updated 27 Feb 2020)

There is a link on the front page of the parish website www.francisstreetparish.ie

Please note, the Archbishop has made it clear, that during this time, people who are unwell should **not** attend mass or other services in church, even on a Sunday.

L'ARCHE FOUNDER HAD A DARKER SIDE



Shock within the Irish branch of L'Arche, the international charity for people with intellectual disabilities, turned to concern on Sunday that a sex abuse scandal surrounding its founder could impact financially on its work. Mairead Boland-Brabazon, chief executive of L'Arche Ireland, described the actions of the late Jean Vanier as "shocking and saddening" after an internal inquiry reported that he sexually abused six women. Ms Boland-

Brabazon, who oversees the organisation's four centres in Ireland, said the inquiry's findings had caused dismay for many involved here. It has four communities across Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Kilkenny, where up to 60 people reside. Day services are provided to more than 100 others. "People are very shocked and really disappointed," she said. "It's completely not what we thought of Jean. "He believed everyone had a unique value and it was always what we thought he espoused. And until now that's what we all thought - we didn't know he had a darker side." She added there was "still so much goodness" in L'Arche Ireland. "It is and will continue to be a vibrant, essential organisation for people with disabilities. Everything will continue as normal here and we'll carry on with our work as it was nothing to do with what Jean was doing. Our work will continue and we still have plenty of work to do." L'Arche International, which cares for people with intellectual disabilities, will release a report implicating Jean Vanier in the abuse, after it "received credible and consistent testimonies" from the women. Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin described Vanier's actions as "particularly reprehensible". Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy said: "Abuse of power has been at the centre of cases of abuse within the Catholic church; we have seen it in other spheres of society and we see it now in this situation."

From The Irish Times

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 23 February 2020

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: €215

2nd Collection: €240

Accord: €75

Family Offering: €308



Remembered at Mass

Recently Deceased: Liam Stynes

Sat 6pm: Deceased Members of the Farrell, Maguire & Horan Families, Simon Meyler

Sun 11.30am: Deceased Members of the O'Sullivan Family, Roman Laussermayer (1st Ann), Michael Nolan, Annie Molloy, Kathleen Carpenter.



Child Protection

If you need to contact the Child Protection Rep in the parish, please ring 01-4530387. You do not have to give your name. Simply give a contact phone number.



Christ Our Light - Towards Easter

Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA presents The Sunday Reading Lent Programme in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, beginning Wednesday 26th February. It continues every Wednesday during Lent at 11:15am.



Beginning Experience

are running a One-Day Coping with Life Alone Programme on Saturday March 7th at the Carmelite Centre, Whitefriar Street Dublin 2. This programme is designed for anyone in the initial stages following a loss through

separation, divorce or death. For more info, contact Louise at bedublin@gmail.com or 086 0877379



Hens Teeth

.....has launched a new monthly market at its gallery, store and diner on Blackpitts, Dublin 8. Every month 10 different, independent traders, artists and craftspeople will take over the Hen's Teeth studio space over a Saturday and Sunday. The market is open from 10am-6pm on Saturdays and 11am-5pm on Sundays. Hen's Teeth is a store, gallery and creative studio on Blackpitts, Dublin 8.



Women's World Day of Prayer

is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The prayer service, which will take place this year in the Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Jobstown, Tallaght on Friday 6th March at 7.30pm. For more information contact Rosemary by email: rosemary.lavelle@dublindiocese.ie



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned a man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus the man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that Yahweh God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 50

Have mercy on us, God, in your kindness.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. R/

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R/

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. R/

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory! People do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves'. But he replied, 'Scripture says: 'People do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'. The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: 'He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone'. Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test'. Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Each year you give us this Joyful Season when we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery (Easter) with mind and heart renewed. You give us a spirit of loving reverence for You, our Father and Mother and of willing service to our neighbour. As we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ, you bring the image of your Son to perfection within us"

*From the First Preface of Lent
(The Old Translation)*