



As we celebrate Palm Sunday, our Lenten Pilgrimage takes a great dramatic turn. Jesus enters Jerusalem with his friends in high spirits and full of hope and the crowd on his side as they welcome with shouts of joy,

'Hosanna in the highest, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'. This entrance is a very political one. At the time of Jesus, victorious generals with their armies returned home and entered the city in similar fashion as the crowds waved branches and shouted out their names.

No other Sunday in our liturgical calendar contains so much drama and tension as today. What begins with shouts of joy and the feeling of victory will quickly change as the same crowd a week later will shout, *'Crucify him, crucify him'*. His spectacular entrance into the city is also his entrance into his betrayal, denial, condemnation, suffering and death and ultimately his Resurrection.

We are part of both crowds, and as we witness his suffering, we will also experience his Resurrection. We pray that as we enter into this most sacred of weeks with Jesus, we will be drawn closer to him and each other.

This year we know and totally understand that people may not feel comfortable to take part in the ceremonies in the church. If you feel vulnerable or are shielding, we encourage you to remain at home and to join us on our webcam.

HOW TO ACCESS THE WEBCAM: To access the live streaming of the Masses in St Marys Creggan; click on the google icon, type www.churchservices.tv/creggan . Scroll down until you see a picture of St Mary's Church. At the top of the picture click on the task bar St Mary's Church. then click on the ► icon. If you have any difficulty phone the parish office on 028 7126 3152.

A BIG THANK YOU for your care and consideration of church finances at this time. It is very humbling to see people who are pushed financially at this time still taking boxes of envelopes and leaving

contributions through the parochial house. Thank you again for your generosity.

EASTER TRIDIUM CEREMONIES

HOLY THURSDAY (1 APRIL 2021)

- 10 am: Chrism Mass in St. Eugene's Cathedral
 7.30pm: Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper (St. Mary's)
 10pm – 11pm: Conducted hour of prayer
Silent night Vigil Prayer before altar of Repose until 6am
Please could people volunteer to spend an hour with Christ.
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GOOD FRIDAY (2 APRIL 2021)

- 10am: Morning Prayer followed by the Divine Mercy Novena
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA starts on Good Friday (2 April) and finishes on Easter Saturday (27 April), leading in to Divine Mercy Sunday, on 11 April.
Divine Mercy Novena leaflets will be available in the Church.
 3pm: Celebration of Our Lord's Passion
 7.30pm: Stations of the Cross
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HOLY SATURDAY (3 APRIL 2021)

- 10am: Morning Prayer followed by Divine Mercy Novena
 9pm: EASTER VIGIL (Takes the place of the 6.30pm Mass)
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EASTER SUNDAY (4 APRIL 2021)

- Mass: 10.30am & 12.15pm
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CONFESSIONS

Do not be afraid to come to confessions. Do not be afraid if you forget the prayers to say. Do not be afraid if it is a long time since you have been. That does not matter - The important thing is to come. When we come, we open ourselves to the peace Jesus gives us in confession - a peace this world cannot give us.

CONFESSIONS FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK IN ST. MARY'S

- Monday 28 – Wednesday 30 March: 11am - 12pm and 5pm -6pm
 Holy Thursday (1 April): 5pm-6pm and 8.30pm - 10pm
 Good Friday (2 April): 11.30am - 1pm; 5pm-6pm

Holy Saturday (3 April):

After 7.30pm Stations of Cross
11am - 12.30pm and 5pm - 7pm

Families and a group of people from the one household will be seated in socially distanced groups in a Pew or group of seats. Single seats will be available for those coming as individuals.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING MASS DURING THE PERIOD OF RESTRICTIONS

**WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD RETURN
TROCAIRE BOXES TO THE CONTAINER IN THE CHURCH.**

1. **If you are showing any one of the symptoms of the virus** - high temperature, persistent cough, lack of taste or smell or feeling unwell in any way - **You should not come to Mass** or leave your home.
2. Because social distancing has been reduced it is very important that **everyone in the congregation is wearing a mask**. Please bring your own.
3. Please **arrive at the Church at least 10 minutes before Mass begins** to allow time for you to be seated safely.
4. On arrival at the church gates, it is essential that you **follow the instructions of stewards**. Please enter by the door they instruct you to.
5. On arrival at Church door **please use the hand gel** and appropriately apply to your hands.
6. **Follow the instructions of the usher to the seat allocated to you**. It is vital that you go to this seat and not your "usual".
7. You will be asked for a **contact phone number** when seated.
8. Please try and be as **reverent as possible in silence** preparing spiritually for Mass.
9. Follow the instructions of the Steward **for reception of Holy Communion**, applying gel to your hands before reception. Keep a **social distance of 1 metre from** the person in front of you.
10. At the end of Mass wait for instructions from the stewards, who will help you leave in a safe manner.
11. Bathroom facilities are available if necessary, on request. A steward will direct you to them. However, we ask, if possible, **please use the facilities at home prior to arrival in the church**.