

Dear Parishioners (of the Glasnevin Grouping), as you are aware, we are all still coming to terms with the presence of the Covid-19 virus in our community and the threat it poses to public health and social and business life.

The clergy of the Glasnevin Grouping have decided that in the interest of the health and safety of parishioners, parish staff and volunteers and clergy, we are no longer in a position to provide the public celebration of Mass in our churches at weekends or on weekdays. Mass will be celebrated each weekday morning behind closed doors in Ballygall church, and each evening in St. Alphonsus Monastery. Parishioners can participate in either of these Masses from home via the webcam at 10.00 a.m. in Ballygall (www.ballygallparish.ie) and at 5.45 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Monastery (www.rednuns.com).

For the benefit of parishioners who do not have access to the internet, RTÉ will air Mass every weekday on TV at 10.30am from St Eunan's and St Columba's Cathedral, Letterkenny, on RTÉ News Now. RTÉ News Now can be accessed on Saorview (channel 21), Sky (521), Virgin Media (200), Eir (517) as well as via the RTÉ Player, and the RTÉ News Now app.

At weekends, parishioners can follow Mass from their home on the webcam from Ballygall (www.ballygallparish.ie) on Saturday at 6.30pm, St. Alphonsus Monastery (www.rednuns.com) on Sunday at 9.30 a.m. and Iona Road (www.ionaroadparish.ie) on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. Alternatively they can follow Mass on RTE radio or television.

The Churches in the Glasnevin Grouping will remain open for private prayer from Monday-Saturday.

A special Holy Hour, including Eucharistic adoration, music and reflections, led by priests or lay ministers from the Glasnevin Grouping, will be broadcast each Wednesday evening from Ballygall church via the webcam (www.ballgallparish.ie)

All parish meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Not being able to unite together in our churches for the celebration of the Eucharist is a real deprivation for all of us. Perhaps we can view it as our Lenten fast. Unable to receive the Eucharist for the time being, we still share a 'spiritual communion' with Christ and with one another by assisting at Mass via the webcam or on television. It is also an opportunity to pray for those affected by the Covid-19 virus and for all the health care workers who are working flat out to care for those who are sick.

We remain available to assist parishioners at all times, and parish offices can be contacted during normal office hours by telephone or email.

The priests of the Glasnevin Grouping hold all our parishioners in our prayers at this difficult time, and we ask that you remember us and our parish teams in your prayers too.