

Diocesan Statement

In line with national and governmental efforts to stem the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the public celebration of Sunday and weekday Masses in the diocese of Achonry is suspended until and including Sunday, March 29th when the situation will be reviewed. It is important that we all strictly adhere to this.

The obligation to be physically present at Mass on Sunday or Holy Day is therefore suspended until further notice.

Priests are encouraged to celebrate Mass privately on a daily basis without a congregation. Mass can then still be offered for specific intentions and priests can assure families of this, even though family members will not be present.

Churches are to open during the day for people to pray. All faithful are asked to pray for a speedy and safe outcome to the difficulties posed by Covid-19 **Our Parish Church will be open after daily Mass until 6pm each Day**

Funeral Masses, Marriages and Baptisms can still be celebrated with congregations of less than 100 people.. In accordance with instructions received. A designated member of the family should liaise with the family to ensure this.

All celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation are suspended until further notice.

Where Mass can be broadcast from churches via webcams, this should be done 'behind closed doors.' **(List of churches in the diocese of Achonry with a webcam: Ballaghaderreen, Carracastle, Charlestown, Coolaney, Kiltimagh, Swinford. Mass will also be broadcasted on Midwest Radio, EWTN Sky 588 and also Radio Maria at 10am each day on Saorview, Channel 210).**

Fr Dermot Meehan, Diocesan Administrator of Achonry, calls for widespread prayer and asks that all people act for the common good and promotion of healthcare. He also asks for prayers for all on the frontline, engaging with those in most and direct need.

This week has seen our country enter uncharted waters to protect each other and our country from the Covid-19 (Coronavirus). As you can read from our Diocesan Statement, there is a change on how we can celebrate our Christian life, it is a big change for all of us, people and priests alike. In a time like this we need to care for each other to make sure everybody is well and that they have the provisions they need. It is also time when we need to pray to God, to help us overcome Covid-19 (Coronavirus). The Bishops have asked for prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus. Placing all our trust in the Lord, and asking Our Lady to intercede for us, we invite everyone to pray these prayers:

St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of
everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of
me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every
ear that hears me
Amen

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled
to your protection,
implored your help, or sought your
intercession was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence,
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and
sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions, but in your mercy,

hear and answer. Amen