

**PARISH GROUPING OF MALAHIDE, KINSEALY, PORTMARNOCK AND YELLOW WALLS**  
**ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES REGARDING THE CORONA VIRUS**

**SUSPENSION OF MASSES**

To ensure that we contribute positively to the efforts being made in our country to curb and mitigate the spread of the corona virus and to protect the health of all parishioners and especially those who would be most at risk, we have taken the decision to **SUSPEND** the celebration of both Sunday and weekday Masses in our churches and in the Carmelite convent until further notice.

**THIS DECISION WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW. See [www.malahideparish.ie](http://www.malahideparish.ie) for any updates.**

**PARISH OFFICE CAN BE CONTACTED BY PHONE 018451244 - OFFICE HOURS Mon – Fri 10.30 - 1.00pm**  
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**SHARED MASS CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. (Procedure is explained there)**  
**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS will take place but with restrictions of no more than 100 people**

During this time **Sunday Mass for our Cluster** will be celebrated at 11.00am in Portmarnock Church behind closed doors and will be available on their webcam ([www.portmarnockparish.ie](http://www.portmarnockparish.ie) and click on webcam). This will provide a local focus for people to hear Sunday Mass. You can tune into daily Mass at the Pro-Cathedral on [www.procathedral.ie](http://www.procathedral.ie) at 10.30am or at the same time on the 'RTE News Now' television channel.

The churches in Malahide, Portmarnock and Yellow Walls will be open each day for parishioners to drop in and say a prayer or light a candle. St. Sylvester's Church will be open from early morning to early afternoon. Adoration times in St. Sylvester's church will continue as normal during the day but not in the evening time.

We are aware that for many people the restrictions introduced by the government will affect their earnings and the following request should be ignored if you are affected in that way. During this time there will be no Sunday collections in our churches. This has implications for parishes, the diocese and priests. There are marked collection points at the back of the Church if you wish to donate to the collections that normally take place at Mass on a Sunday. The First Collection for the COMMON FUND supports the priests of the diocese. The Second Collection for SHARE supports low-income parishes and Diocesan administration that is an essential support to all parishes. Alternatively If you wish to donate online to the First or Second collections that take place on a Sunday you can do so via the Dublin diocesan website at [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie) using the DONATE button to choose either or both Sunday collections.

**BELOW ARE THE GUIDELINES FROM THE IRISH BISHOPS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES**

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**CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

**Advice of the Irish Bishops in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus and Government Directives**

The following instructions take into consideration the new norms issued by the Irish government. It is likely that these restrictions will continue for some time after that. Instructions regarding the celebration of Holy Week will be issued in due course. The motivation for these new restrictive measures is a sense of care for the common good and especially for those most vulnerable. Each Christian community should be acutely aware of the responsibility to care for those who are most at risk, even where it may not be appropriate to visit the elderly, a simple telephone call to enquire about their needs could mean so much to them.

**NORMS**

- All non-essential pastoral gatherings and meetings, such as formation gatherings, retreats and seminars are cancelled.
- All Confirmations are postponed until further notice.
- Every Catholic is entitled to a dignified Christian burial. Attendance at Funeral services and Masses should be limited to close relatives and must not exceed 100 attendees within the Church building.
- Similarly, Church weddings and baptisms may be celebrated on condition that the attendance in Church does not exceed 100 people.
- In these difficult and uncertain times, people find strength, consolation and hope in prayer. Churches should remain open for prayer each day.
- In the current emergency situation, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass. Parishes should inform parishioners of the local possibilities to participate in Mass via local radio and online. It may be possible for some parishes to facilitate attendance at Mass while still observing the health authority's limit of 100 people. (*Government directive discourages unnecessary gatherings and interaction among people in general and especially among those most vulnerable and therefore we have cancelled weekday Masses*)
- This is an occasion for all of us – especially in families -to pray more intensely for each other and especially for those who have succumbed to the illness. We should pray also for those in the frontlines – especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers that the Lord will protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all.

## A PRAYER IN THIS TIME OF CHALLENGE

**GOD OF LOVE**, we, your people, turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as a people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. **May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.**

**GENEROUS AND MERCIFUL GOD**, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. **Heal us of our fear.**

**HEALING GOD**, bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and neighbours. We pray especially who those who are isolated, that they may know your love. **Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.**

**GOD OF STRENGTH**, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. **We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.**

**GOD OF WISDOM**, we ask you to guide the leaders in healthcare and governance; that they may make the right decisions for the wellbeing of people.

**O GOD OF CREATION AND GOD OF LIFE**, we, your people, place ourselves and our world in your protection and love. May your peace be with us and enfold us today, tomorrow and during the time ahead. Amen

The series 'Exploring Catholic Faith and Culture', All MARA meetings and activities, **Portmarnock Art Group Annual Art Exhibition** in The Grand Hotel, have been cancelled and will resume or be rescheduled when appropriate to do so. All Parish Centre activities and classes incl. Parish Café have also been suspended.

### A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Dear Lord,



it's such a hectic day  
with little time to stop and pray  
for life's been anything but calm  
since you called on me  
to be a MOM.

\*

Running errands, matching socks,  
building dreams with building blocks,



cooking, cleaning, finding shoes  
and other stuff that children lose.

\*

Fitting lids on bottled bugs,  
wiping tears and giving hugs,  
a stack of last week's mail to read.



Oh, where's the quiet time I need?

\*

Yet when I steal a minute, Lord,  
just at the sink or ironing board



to ask the Blessings of Your grace  
I see then,  
in my small one's face

\*

That You have Blessed me  
all the while.  
And I stop to kiss that



PRECIOUS SMILE.

### WHAT IS A MOTHER

A MOTHER IS SOMEONE WHO  
CARES ABOUT YOU.

SHE'S SOMEONE YOU COULD ALWAYS  
RUN TO AS A CHILD.



SOMEONE YOU CAN ALWAYS  
TURN TO AS YOU GROW.

WHATEVER THE SITUATION,  
A MOTHER SEEMS TO KNOW JUST  
WHAT YOU NEED.

AND WHATEVER THE NEED,  
SHE'S WILLING TO HELP,  
READY TO LISTEN,  
ABLE TO UNDERSTAND.



SHE'S SOMEONE WHO ENCOURAGES YOU  
TO BE ALL YOU CAN BE -  
YET ACCEPTS YOU JUST AS YOU ARE.

A MOTHER IS SOMEONE  
WHO WILL ALWAYS HAVE  
A SPECIAL PLACE IN YOUR HEART  
AND YOUR LIFE  
ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE'S  
A WONDERFUL MOTHER

LIKE YOU.....

