

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

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## Unusual times!

**As I write this**, we have enjoyed a true spring day, where the sun shone and the temperature rose and it felt that our long winter is coming to an end. The clocks are just about to change to summer time. As someone who has worked in the outdoors for most of my working life, that sense of the coming of spring, the expectations centered on that change in the seasons, is something that I love. That sense of expectancy is echoed in the season of Lent. As Christians, we are called to observe the season of Lent, carefully keeping the days, stilling our hearts and minds and hearing the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness that are proclaimed in the gospel. We are invited to observe a holy Lent, through self examination and repent-

ance, prayer, fasting and by reading and meditating on God's holy word. In Lent, there is that great sense of expectation and hope, yet there are many difficult days on the path to the cross, before the joy of the Resurrection. We are currently living in very difficult days, when our lives have been radically changed in a few short weeks. Yet we must alter the way we live in order to protect all in our community. The only way that Covid19 can be beaten is through solidarity amongst us all, following the social distancing advice from the government, taking care of those in need and looking after each other. These are scary times, yet we cannot lose hope. As the wonder of God's creation is revealed in our changing seasons, so the wonder of our faith is revealed through the power of love, God's love

for us and our love for each other. We are leaving the grip of winter behind and are moving towards the joy of spring, the joy of Easter Sunday, the greatest day of the year. Just as the seasons pass, so too will this time of fear. I hope you are all safe and well, God bless you all,

**Ross**

## Parish notes:

Following the decision to temporarily cease acts of public worship across the Church of Ireland due to Covid-19, there will be no services in St. Michan's Church or in All Saints Church for the foreseeable future. The buildings are closed but the church is more than a collection of buildings, it is a community of faith and, as such, the church never closes. At this time we must follow the example of the early church and join together in prayer from our own homes. In order to keep in touch and pray together as a community, we are putting in place several ways to enable this.

We will produce a weekly newsletter, of which this is the first! This will be emailed or posted out each week to parishioners. If you would like to be added to our email list and consent to us adding your name, please email Patricia at [office@stmichanschurch.ie](mailto:office@stmichanschurch.ie).

Secondly we will be recording short services and reflections, which will be posted on our face book page: Christchurch Cathedral Group of Parishes. We are also in the process of adding a YouTube channel— St. Michan's Church Dublin—which will also show recorded services.

At this time, when we are all self isolating and many shops are closed, it can be difficult to access shopping or other services. If any parishioner needs any assistance or is in need of shopping or other supplies, please do not hesitate to contact the curate on 087-9892941 or email: [stylesross@gmail.com](mailto:stylesross@gmail.com). Shopping can be left on doorsteps and social distancing can be maintained.

The Archdeacon has returned from his trip to Africa and he is currently self-isolating, as a precautionary measure, until the 3<sup>rd</sup> April. However he is fully contactable by phone and email at this time.

