

## CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

**APRIL 5th. 2020**

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***“There is no need to be afraid”***

‘Easter is not just a past event. It is a present reality.

We are called to be ‘**Easter people**’ The feast of Easter is as much about life before death as life after death. It is a feast that calls us to open ourselves fully to the spirit of the risen Lord, so that we can be life givers in our world today; in times of crisis.

We need the Holy Spirit, the spirit of the risen Lord, if we are to become that **Easter people**. Perhaps, the gift of the spirit we need most at this time is the gift of courage. The first words of the angel to the women were, ‘***there is no need to be afraid***’ The first words of Jesus to the women were, ‘***do not be afraid***’ The violence done to Jesus generated a great amount of fear among his followers.

Now that Jesus is risen there is no need for fear. **Easter is a feast of courage**. The risen Lord empowers us to be his courageous witnesses, his messengers of life in our time and place’ **Martin Hogan**

‘***Christ is risen, alleluia!***’ this is the ancient Christian greeting on this day of great joy and happiness for all.

***Happy Easter, 2020.***

***A Prayer to Mary in time of crisis.***

**O Mary, you shine continuously along our journey**

**As a sign of salvation and hope.**

**We entrust ourselves to you, health of the sick,  
who at the cross were near to the pain of Jesus, keeping  
your faith firm.**

**You know what we need,**

**and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that.**

**As at Cana, joy and celebration may return  
after this moment of trial.**

**Help us, Mother of Divine Love**

**to conform ourselves to the will of the Father**

**and to do what Jesus tells us,**

**He took our sufferings upon Himself,**

**and took up our sorrows to bring us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen**

**Pope Francis - Urbi et Orbi, April 2020.**

*“a thick darkness has gathered over our streets and our cities;  
it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening  
silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it  
passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice it in people’s  
gestures, their glances give them away.*

*This **virus** lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and  
forgetfulness of what **nourishes people’s souls**. This is not a  
time of God’s judgement but of our judgement: **a time to  
choose what matters and what passes away, a time to  
separate what is necessary from what is not”***