

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”***