



# Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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## **EASTER SUNDAY**

### **Easter Sunday Morning**

If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, his life and work would have been a glorious, but nonetheless tragic, failure. Without Jesus' resurrection from the dead, what he began would have petered out. The resurrection was God's resounding 'yes' to all that Jesus said and did, to all that he lived and died for.

### **Resurrection—Encounter—Mandate**

A central feature of the resurrection accounts in the Gospels is the *encounter*: Jesus meets Mary Magdalene, then the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the eleven apostles and 'more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time' (1 Corinthians 15:6). Each one of these would have told the story for the rest of their lives; we may feel far away historically from them, but in the communion saints, we're all one family. The Risen Lord continues to bring his friends together, sometimes in the most unexpected of ways. With Jesus, every encounter leads to a new mission: when we come across him, everything is changed. We might prefer to plod on as before, minding our own business, yet as Peter and John stated fearlessly to the Sanhedrin, 'we cannot promise to stop proclaiming what we have seen and heard' (Acts 4:20). We see how Jesus gives a mandate to those to whom he appears: 'Go and find the brothers and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God' (John 20:17).

### **Mary at the Cross**

Mary, Virgin and Mother,  
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,  
welcomed the word of life  
in the depths of your humble faith;  
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,  
help us to say our own 'yes'  
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,  
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.  
Filled with Christ's presence,  
you brought joy to John the Baptist,  
making him exult in the womb of his mother.  
Brimming over with joy,

you sang of the great things done by God.  
Standing at the foot of the cross with unyielding faith,  
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,  
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit  
so that the evangelising Church might be born.

### **Easter Message 2020**

I send Easter greetings to the people of the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, our parishioners, our priests and religious, those who are isolated at this time, the fearful, people whose employment has been affected, the sick, those who are sadly bereaved and all who work in hospitals and in essential services.

The celebration of Easter takes place in a very different way, a virtual way, behind closed doors. The message of Easter is the same as it has been from the beginning, Christ is Risen, Alleluia. In these days it is a proclamation of hope in the midst of restrictions, hope in the midst of fear and unemployment and hope in the midst of illness and death. We have great hope in the risen Jesus Christ, he is with us, to encourage, to strengthen and to console. We also have great hope in humanity. We are grateful to all who have carefully gone out to serve, those on the front line in hospitals and in the variety of essential services, leaders who make wise decisions and researchers who seek a vaccine. Also the many generous acts of neighbourliness.

As we face into the uncertainties that lie ahead, our hope shines brightly, and our determination to return to our places of work and to live without fear is strong. The experience of the essential restrictions teaches us that we wish to go out, we wish to be with people, to meet up, to chat and to enjoy company. The Easter Message has its origin in the dark days of Jesus' suffering and then blossoms into the Good News of resurrection. Our hope is firm; it is based in Jesus Christ and in the goodness of humanity.

Francis Duffy

Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois

**Leitrim COVID - 19 Community Response Forum:** Our helpdesk will respond to the needs of vulnerable members of our community. Lines open from 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days per week. Phone: 071 9650473; Freephone 1800 852389 or email [covidsupport@lleitrimcoco.ie](mailto:covidsupport@lleitrimcoco.ie).

**A COVID - 19 Community Outreach Champion** is now available in your county to link local community groups and volunteers to those people cocooning or in need of support at this time. You can contact your local Champion for County/City, Karen Dolan, on 087 7167593 or email [kdolan@ldco.ie](mailto:kdolan@ldco.ie). The Local Authority helpline is 071-9650473 and is open from 8am-8pm, 7 days a week.

**M-PACT (Moving Parents And Children Together). You don't have to be addicted to suffer from addiction!** During these difficult and worrying times, M-PACT, Moving Parents and Children Together is here to support you, your family or someone you care about deal with addiction. Contact us in complete confidence on 085 8759313 or email [sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.org](mailto:sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.org) or Facebook - [https://www.facebook.com/movingparentsandchildrentogether/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/movingparentsandchildrentogether/?modal=admin_todo_tour).