



GOD'S LOVING PLAN

Angie Windnagle

St Mary's
Parish

Serving
the
Community

Serving
the
Family

Serving
the
City

When I was expecting my second son, I remember spending hours poring over decisions on his birth and what I wanted things to look like. Every step of the labor and delivery process was already planned out in my mind. So, when at 40 weeks pregnant and ready to make this plan reality, I experienced a partial placental abruption, I was completely blindsided. Everything that I had anticipated for his birth was undone and I was sent on a completely new path in that single moment. In God's providential care, my son was born healthy. There was so much suffering that came from that birth, but that moment was also a vital turning point for me as a mother and Catholic and I wouldn't change it. God allowed it all for a good I couldn't see yet. I learned the profound lesson that our ways are very often not God's ways.

This Lent, our entire world has learned a similar lesson at a much larger scale. Many of us planned to spend our days preparing for the Lord's Passion and Resurrection in a very specific way. Like many of my friends, I had mapped out exactly what I was fasting from and the spiritual practices I would be implementing in order to create a little curated Lenten journey I thought fit to help prepare my heart for these holy days. However, this year we have seen in God's providential care that he has allowed a new way to be carved out for many Catholics this year. A way that God may see fit to call even more hearts to conversion as the world navigates the immense challenges of a pandemic. We've been called to give up far more than most had planned. At the same time we've been called to renew our hope and trust in the God who sees beyond any earthly suffering, not as a passive spectator but as the one who took on flesh in order to feel deeply the pangs of human suffering, in order to redeem it. At the end of Lent many of us are realizing God's plans were not our plans, and His plans will bear so much more fruit even if we don't see it yet.

The canticle in the second reading helps us commit to heart this reality: no matter how deep our suffering is or how tragic our world becomes, no matter how many plans are disrupted, we have a God who is so profoundly on our side that nobility and earthly power mean nothing to Him. He has literally cloaked Himself in the weight of our sin and sorrow in order to save us and ensure we get back to Him. If I had planned for a king to save the world, the last thing I would plan is a suffering servant who had to endure a horrendous death. But in His mercy and goodness, God planned a way that would convince even the hardest heart that we are never alone, and we will someday be in paradise with Him if we remain faithful and trust in Him.

Author Fr. Jacques Philippe teaches us about this trust in his book "Fire & Light" when he says:

"To the extent we have riches or place our trust in security and human support, we can't really practice hope, which consists in counting on God alone. God sometimes permits us to go through trials, the loss of some of our security, even lamentable falls, in order that we learn in the end to count on nothing but Him and His mercy. Peter is a good example: he had to fall, denying Christ during his Passion, in order to learn not to lean on his own virtues, his own courage, the momentum of human enthusiasm, but only on the love of Jesus."

Let us welcome Palm Sunday and our Lord's Passion this year with new hearts that have been formed by God's will, even if it didn't come as we had planned, leaning into the love of Christ and his wounded heart.

Contacts: Fr Fachtna McCarthy, Administrator, Fr Patrick Claffey C.C. Fr Josip Levaković C.C., Deacon Greg Pepper Tel 01-6600075

Streaming and Website www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie email: info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csp.dublindiocese.ie

Streaming also at www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad

Funded by Living the Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The PPC met for its planned meeting, slightly rearranged in the unusual circumstances, on Thursday morning. Arrangements were efficiently made to have the meeting through a conference call. This was very successful and the one and a quarter hour meeting got through the usual review of events and business in the parish over the past several months and looking to the challenging months ahead.

The COVID19 and the measures we have taken to address the issues arising from it. This has been done following the advice of the HSE and diocesan directives and this will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future.

We are very fortunate in having taken the decision to install the Church Services TV when we did with the support of the Living the Joy of The Gospel campaign several years ago. This has given us a wide pastoral outreach both within the parish and to the wider world. All Holy Week and Easter services will be broadcast here at the times indicated on the opposite column and on our website.

Our financial position has been challenging for many years and several steps have been taken in efforts to address it. In the present situation, where our only sources of income have been effectively cut off, these risks become acute. Plans already in place to raise income have been put on hold for several months at least and this creates a very difficult situation.

A small sub-committee has been formed within the PPC in order to address this issue. The basic truth of the matter, of course, is that we will be entirely dependant on goodwill and generosity of parishioners to help us through this, while we are aware that many of you will also be facing challenges in this regard.

The committee will be addressing this matter with urgency and we will be communicating with parishioners both here in the news letter and directly over the coming weeks.



EASTER CEREMONIES 2020

MONDAY 6TH APRIL 2020 TO WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL 2020 MASS AT: 10.00 A.M.

HOLY THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2020

MORNING PRAYER 10:00 A.M. [L] [SEP]

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 6:00 P.M.

CROATIAN COMMUNITY: THE LORD'S SUPPER 8:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 2020

MORNING PRAYER 10.00 A.M. [L] [SEP]

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 12.45 P.M. [L] [SEP]

SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION 3.00 P.M.

CROATIAN COMMUNITY: CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION 5.15P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY 11TH APRIL 2020

MORNING PRAYER: 10 A.M. [L] [SEP]

EASTER VIGIL MASS: 9.00 P.M.

CROATIAN EASTER VIGIL: 11:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY 12TH APRIL 2020

11.00 A.M. PARISH EASTER MASS

12:30 P.M. CROATIAN EASTER MASS EASTER

MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2020 – FRIDAY 17TH 10 A.M. DAILY MASS

As St. Mary's Church is closed for public worship, weekday Mass and Easter services will only be broadcast live on our website: stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

We invite you to join us in prayer at a distance during this most sacred time when we celebrate the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During these three Sacred Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we celebrate new life and new hope. May the Risen Lord protect all our families and keep them safe.

In Memoriam

Sunday 5 April 2020

11am: Tommy Nolan, Anniversary