



St. Joseph's Church O'Connell Avenue, Limerick Church Notices 31st March 2024

Easter Week

Mass Times and Intentions

Day	Time	Name
Sun. Mar. 31 st Easter Sunday	10.30am	Joseph, Kathleen & Gerry Ryan; Mabel O'Mahony (anniversary)
	12.30pm	Donal Killeen (2 nd anniversary); Claire Howard (5 th anniversary)
	5.30pm	No Evening Mass
Mon. Apr. 1 st	10.30am	Mary O'Callaghan
Tue. Apr. 2 nd	10.30am	Intentions of Clergy
Wed. Apr. 3 rd	10.30am	pro populo
Thur. Apr. 4 th	10.30am	Intentions of Clergy
Fri. Apr. 5 th	10.30am	Kathy Donnelly (7 th anniversary)
Sat. Apr. 6 th	10.30am	Intentions of Clergy
Sun. Apr. 7 th	10.30am	Jim Nealon (month's mind); Mary Kelly (9 th anniversary); Richard O'Shaughnessy (23 rd anniversary)
	12.30pm	Anne McNamara & all deceased members of the McNamara family & also remembering her brother Ben & sister Angela Keogh (both living); Tim Frawley (anniversary); Paddy & Mary Hannan, & Gerard
	5.30pm	Intentions of Clergy

Recently Deceased

We extend our sympathy to their families and pray for the repose of the souls of **John Hayes**, Castletroy Heights, Castletroy, (Des Hayes' brother); Requiem Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Milford, Castletroy on next Tuesday, 2nd April, at 12.30pm and **Pat Owens**, Reading, Berkshire, UK and formerly of Lifford Gardens, Ballinacurra whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on next Saturday, 6th April at 11.30am. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Easter Message

Final paragraph of Joint Easter Message by Bishops Brendan Leahy, Catholic Bishop of Limerick, and Michael Burrows, Church of Ireland Bishop of the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe: We wish you a truly blessed Easter season, a season spent in pursuit of the Risen One who is always ahead, who leaves us breathless as we pursue him, who meets us in the most amazing people and situations. Truly, each time we leave the Eucharist we who seek to know the risen Lord in the breaking of the bread are also SENT, energised, in pursuit of a living Christ who is never trapped in history but is always ahead challenging us to follow, and promising us eye-opening encounters if we dare to do so. <https://www.limerickdiocese.org/news/joint-easter-message-by-bishops-brendan-leahy-catholic-bishop-of-limerick-and-michael-burrows-church-of-ireland-bishop/>

The Woman who came to Dinner . . .

On the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee are the ruins of a small town called Magdala. Among the natives of that place was a woman, who next to the mother of Jesus, is the most famous woman in the Gospels. Except for one brief mention in Luke's Gospel when he lists some of the women disciples, Mary Magdalene does not appear in any of the Gospels until the crucifixion.

By popular tradition however, she is portrayed as a 'sinful' woman. Scripture scholars differ whether this was the same Mary who ended up at a dinner, attended by Jesus, and anointed his feet with expensive scented oils, or in another place washed his feet with her tears, and dried them with her hair, or if she was the same Mary "possessed of demons". Yet all four gospels place her at the cross on Good Friday.

After the Passover meal in the Upper Room, things had begun to go seriously wrong. One of the Twelve went off to betray Jesus. All of them fled when he was arrested and weren't to be seen since—except Peter, who returned to the scene to deny Jesus three times, and wept bitterly as he recalled the words of his Master "*before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.*"

By contrast the women followers of Jesus are there when Jesus dies, and are there when he is buried. Of even more significance—in the gospels of Mark and John, the Risen Lord appears to her before anyone else. In what must be one of the most moving encounters in the scriptures, she mistakes Him for the gardener, until Jesus calls her by name.

She is the first to see Him after the Resurrection, before his own mother – even before Peter, who forty days later was to assume a position of leadership, taking over from Jesus "*You are Peter, and upon this rock shall I build my church.*"

The feast of Mary Magdalene is celebrated on July 22nd each year, where she is listed as:

"Mary Magdalene, Disciple of the Lord"

[Taken from the Easter Sunday 31 March 2013 edition; written by the late Joseph O'Connor RFP]

Pope Francis on X

Mar 29: Only the Lord can give us our sense of worth. He tells us this every day from the cross: He died for us, to show us how precious we are in His eyes. No obstacle or failure could ever prevent His tender embrace. #GoodFriday

Mar 27: Let us pray for peace. May the Lord grant peace to martyred Ukraine, as it suffers heavy bombardment, and to Israel and Palestine. May there be peace in the Holy Land.

May the Lord grant all of us His gift of Peace this Easter.

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