



**PARISH NEWSLETTER 25 June 2020**  
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Greetings to all parishioners,

I hope you are staying safe and well, I would like to remember especially the families personally affected, all those who have lost a loved one in what has been for many a very lonely and isolating period. They are in our prayers and thoughts and remembered at our Masses.

We remember our young people and families waiting to celebrate their First Penance and Holy Communion. May this time of waiting deepen our appreciation of these sacraments. We will be in contact with parents in due course.

I am writing to update you on what will be happening in Patrickswell/Ballybrown over the coming weeks as we welcome the return of the public celebration of Mass to our churches. You may find when Masses resume that it will take some time to get used to the new reality and rules. My best advice for all of us is to realise that things are not simply going back to the way they were. Your understanding and patience in journeying with us all together along the "new normal" is greatly appreciated.

For the present **Patrickswell** will commence with two weekday Masses and two weekend Masses. **Commencing Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 9.30am and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 6,30pm and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 11.30am and thereafter Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.**

**Ballybrown** will also commence with two weekday Masses and two weekend Masses. **Commencing Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 9.30am and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 10am and thereafter Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.**

Please know the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days still remains suspended. If you feel unwell in any way, or share a household with someone who feels unwell, or if you fall into any risk category due to age or health condition, you are encouraged to please choose to stay at home. Raheen Parish plan to continue to provide the Mass online and daily Mass is also continuing to be broadcast on RTE Television News Now channel at 10.30 each morning.

At present the Government regulations on social distancing (2 meters apart) and the Government restriction of 50 limits the number of people who can attend Mass. Until further notice, therefore it will not be possible for everybody to attend Mass together. In order to accommodate all Parishioners and to establish a fair usage policy the following was decided by the Parish Pastoral Council:

1. Parishioners who would normally attend Mass on a Saturday night or Sunday morning pre Covid-19 might consider being accommodated at the Masses during the week taking into account the reduced capacity of the church.
2. Each person will have to reserve a time to attend Mass. This can be done through the Parish Office between 10am and 12pm Monday to Friday tel. 061 353454. If you find subsequently that you are unable to attend, please let the Parish Office know so that your place can be offered to another Mass-goer.

**3.** If you arrive at Mass without reserving a time and the church has not reached the permitted social distancing capacity, you will be shown to a seat. Otherwise with the Government recommendations a person cannot be allowed inside. This is to protect both your own health and safety and the health and safety of those present in the church.

**4.** When we adjust to the above new normal, we hope to make arrangements for anyone who wishes to stay in their car as Mass will be on loudspeaker, to receive communion.

**5.** Parishioners who have booked a seat are asked to arrive at least 10 minutes early for Mass. A team of stewards will assist you in entering the church and finding a seat. Please observe social distancing while waiting for the stewards to assist you.

**6.** Main Entrance only to be used for entering the church, there will be a one-way system in operation, continuing the arrangement in place since the churches reopened in May.

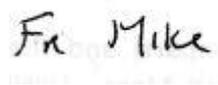
Unfortunately due to the limitations on space, the Sacristy is reserved for the celebrant and sacristan only and will not be accessible to anyone else from either door. If you would like to arrange a Mass intention or anniversary please come to the Sacristy door with the details of your intention written out. Mass cards and other church requests need to be booked through the Parish Office, 061 353454 or email [pwbbparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pwbbparishoffice@gmail.com).

Thank you to those who have returned their Trócaire boxes, dues and weekly envelopes. Parish and priests very much appreciate this valuable support in what is for so many a very difficult time. We are in the process of setting up electronic options for people which will make it easier for your to support the parish and priests online.

Please check parish website for updates <https://pwbbparish.com>

Thank you for your co-operation and patience during these times. May God bless you and protect you and your families.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

On behalf of the Patrickswell/Ballybrown Pastoral Council