

Father John Halton P.P.

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Dear Parishioner

I hope all in your home are coping well during this strange time. Who would have thought that we would all be in this new situation? It is a difficult time, yet thank God the country is facing the challenge with great generosity and determination. We are a great people, especially when called upon to give of our best. I know that here in the parish neighbours are not just people who live beside one another, but are real carers to the aged, the vulnerable, and to anyone who needs their help. I know too that many are praying for themselves, their families and for those who are sick, aged, or over worried. Jesus is very much among us when we pray together and ask him to stretch out his hand to bless and protect us. And Mary continues to plead for us to her Son who never ignores her prayers. Here in the Priest House I celebrate Mass each day for everyone in our parish, and I know that together we can bring about the healing, the comfort, and sense of well being Jesus wants to give us at this time. I notice a lot of people out walking during the good weather. I notice too that many are praying their rosary as they walk along. I am very happy to see this happening at a time of social distancing, because I know that when we pray the Rosary, Mary walks beside us for she is never far from us. As we know next Wednesday is the Feast of the Annunciation. On that day at 12.00 noon the Bishops of Ireland will consecrate our families and country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for protection from the Corona Virus. We are asked to join with them by saying the first Joyful Mystery of the rosary The Annunciation of the Lord.

As we know the Parish of Pobal have a very proactive Parish Council. Many of them have phoned me about collections in the parish. As usual they give good advice. We need first of all to keep the guidelines so that we can overcome the Corona Virus. And we need also to pay our bills as a parish. This too has become difficult at this time, but as always "where there is a will there is a way". The suggestion has come, not only from the Parish Council but also from neighbouring parishes that some people would like to pay their contribution through the Bank while others could continue to pay by having a collection centre in Cradien, and another here in Tempo. In fact some people are already putting their envelope through the Parish Priests letter box. I thank them for their generosity and initiative. If you wish to pay through the bank by standing order I enclose a form which you can fill in to initiate this procedure. All you have to do is: 1: Fill in your name, and Address. 2 Fill in the Name and Address of your Bank. 3: Fill in the amount of Money you want to Pay Monthly, Quarterly or Yearly. 4: Fill in the date on which you want your bank to send your Donation to Pobal Parish Account. 5: Return the Form to me by post or through my letter box so that the amount you donate is confidential and as you know I keep that confidentiality. As always I wish you well. God Bless and keep safe.

Yours Sincerely -- John Halton Rev.

