

Dear Parishioners,

I have to self-isolate for another 6 days until Friday at 1pm.

Thank God *I am negative - I also have no symptoms at all.*  
However, as part of HSE advice *I must continue with this process till then.*

That means, I can offer Mass via Web Cam from Friday evening at 8pm onwards.

At the Saturday evening Mass, I will bless the candles - so, if you wish to leave them at the front of the Altar from now till then, you are welcome to do so.

Likewise, I will administer the blessing of the throats in the name of St. Blaise at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses.

I will continue to offer Mass in the house privately for all your intentions.

You can still come to pay a visit to the Church and light a candle and pray, but I can't come to the door to meet you if you ring the bell.

If you wish to contact me for Pastoral Care, please telephone, text, email or place your requests through my letterbox - then I can refer you to another priest if you need him.

I am very sorry for any inconvenience caused at this time;  
Hoping to be back serving you all in the next week or so, Please God,

With all my kind regards,

Fr. Merlyn: Phone: 086 0603433; Email:  
kengmerl@gmail.com

Reflection: *A little bit of humour may be no harm at this juncture.*  
A young girl was shopping in the supermarket with her grandfather. At the baked goods counter, grandfather selected several items, including a loaf of bread wrapped in plastic. Whereupon, the granddaughter removed the bread from the cart and carefully read the list of ingredients printed on the wrapping. "Put it back, grandpa," she said, "too many *preservatives*." But grandpa smiled wistfully and said, "Maybe we'd better keep it. At my age, *I need all the preservatives I can get!*"

Two little boys were comparing the habits of their grandparents when one asked, "Every time I come over to your house to play, I see your grandfather sitting in the same chair reading the same old Bible. Why does he spend so much time reading it?" "I don't know" replied the other boy, "Maybe he's *cramming for his finals*."

Moral: In the face of trials and tribulations ... a sense of humour is a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit - *cheerfulness in the face of adversity.*

### **Mass Intentions:**

Sat 6th Feb 8.00pm: Special Intention.  
Sun 7th Feb 10.30am: Special Intention.  
Mon 8th Feb 8.00pm: Special Intention.  
Tues 9th Feb 8.00pm: Special Intention.  
Wed 10th Feb 8.00pm: Special Intention.  
Thurs 11th Feb 8.00pm: Special Intention.  
Fri 12th Feb 8.00pm: Michael Healy & deceased members of the Healy, Fallon & Comiskey families, Drumnee.  
Sat 13th Feb 8.00pm: Anne & Michael Healy & son James, Pollagh.  
Sun 14th Feb 10.30am: John & Teresa Finnegan, Cormaglava.  
Mon 15th Feb 8.00pm: Harry & Nan Farrell, Clomnee.  
Tues 16th Feb 8.00pm: Tom Casey, Cornadough. (1st Anniv).

**Please note:** Mass is now on Webcam — Search for **Churchtv.ie** ... Then Click on **Longford** ... then **Newtowncashel** ... and finally Click on the picture of the Church. Younger family members might like to assist seniors.

**Please note: the first two rows of seating are on Webcam.**

**Anointing** of the sick may take place **when invited by the family.**

**St. Mary's N.S.** Enrolment for September 2021, takes place from Wednesday 3rd February to Wednesday 17th February 2021. If you require an Enrolment pack/s please contact the school at newtownc1@gmail.com or by phone on 0863015587 and it will be posted to you. Completed forms to be returned by post to the school.

**Lotto draw** held on Monday 1st February. No's drawn 6,9,12&26. No jackpot winner. €30 €5 envelopes to Conor, Rory and Fergal Murtagh, Ballyreevagh; €30 to Mícheál Sweeney, Leixlip; €20 each to Anthony Melia and John Flood. Next weeks draw will be held on Monday 8th February at 9pm and the jackpot is €2,200. Thanks for your support.

**Irish Catholic:** Please place your contribution for 2021 in an envelope with your name and address and drop it in my letterbox. Unfortunately, there is a price increase from €2 to €2.50 from the 4th February. The amount due this year is: €128.00. (€2 per copy x 4 weeks - January) + (€2.50 per copy x 48 weeks.)

**Pioneer Magazine:** Please place your contribution for 2021 in an envelope with your name and address and drop it in my letterbox. Unfortunately, there is a price increase this year from €1.55 to €2. Amount due for this year is €22 (€2 x 11 July & Aug 1copy)

**Worship from** 12th January 2021: Public worship moves on line. Outside speakers should not be used at this time as organised outdoor gatherings are not allowed at Level 5. Churches may remain open for private prayer.

**Sacraments and devotions:** All other ceremonies cease for the duration of Level Five including Baptism and the Sacrament of Penance.

**Funerals:** 10 mourners may attend at a funeral service.

**Weddings:** With effect from Sunday 3rd January 2021 the number of guests is 6.