**Newsletter for the week commencing 25th/26th April 2020**

**The Third Sunday of Easter (A)**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2: 14, 22-28**

**Psalm 15 Response:**  Show us, Lord, the path of life

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 17-21**

**Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35**

**Father John writes:**

As I was celebrating Mass in our Church one weekday I glanced up and saw someone peering through the locked glass doors.  I guessed this was one of our parishioners who was longing to be inside the church.  It was so disappointing that the 'lockdown' was extended with no definite end.

After Christ's crucifixion two of Jesus' disciples left Jerusalem to go to Emmaus. They were deeply disappointed and the stranger they met on the way listened to their story. Much to their surprise this man rebuked them for being so slow to believe the 'full message of the prophets'. He gave them a whole tour of the scriptures and challenged them: 'was it not ordained that Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?'  At their request at the end of the day he stays with them and they suddenly recognise Jesus at the 'breaking of the bread'   And Jesus vanished from their sight.

The two disappointed disciples were transformed:  no longer disappointed 'their hearts were burning within them.'  They hurried back to Jerusalem to the Apostles, where they all shared the good news of the Resurrection of the Lord.

No longer ' foolish men, so slow to believe..' as their companion on the way had called them,  they were now full of joy and enthusiasm.  You will recognise that this episode is, in fact, this Sunday's Gospel reading.

If, like the figure peering through the locked church door, we suffer feeling lost and disappointed at the continuation of the 'lockdown' of our Church, perhaps we should pray alongside those two disciples - the unrecognised Jesus walks beside us.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased: Bozena Cloutier Wonska RIP (**Chris Lacki’s last sister); **Bernardette Gurtler** RIP– private cremation; **Alfonsa Moodie RIP –** Funeral Service at Charing Crematorium Wednesday May 6th at 13:00

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Florence Primarolo, Karen Vidler, Gwen Terrett, Catherine Town, Patricia Walden, Catherine Dowding, Ellen Shanahan, Berthe Parsons, John Parrock, Mary Hodges, Inez Wood, Alonzo Nugent, Fr John Hagreen and Ninette Purcell.

**Spiritual Communion – Prayer of St Alphonsus**

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you
now and forever.
*Amen.*

**The Pandemic – a prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray- look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders, and the courage to reach out to all in love so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A prayer for our parish

*O God, protector of all who hope in you, bless your people, keep them safe, defend them, prepare them, that, free from sin and safe from the enemy, they may persevere always in your love. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

 **New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** New Pilgrim Path’s ‘Website of the Week’ this week is a departure from our usual spiritual website resource. Following the principle of *mens sana in corpore sano* (‘a healthy mind in a healthy body’), our featured website is a directory of products and services, in Ireland and elsewhere, which have been made available at no cost for the duration of the coronavirus crisis. Compiled by a young Galwayman, Shane Hastings, the ‘GiveBack’ directory offers access to a range of courses and services including online adult education from top universities;  meditation; physical and mental health and well-being; relationship mentoring; yoga (all levels); Pilates; parental support; personal fitness training; piano, guitar and ukulele classes;  and a host of other resources. Access this useful and regularly updated website at:  www.newpilgrimpath.ie

And finally, …

Jokes about white sugar are rare. Jokes about brown sugar, well.... Demerara

My oven has broken down more times than I've had hot dinners!

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall