

St Patrick's Day 2021

Some suggestions for Parishes on how to build a sense of togetherness with families who are apart this year due to COVID.

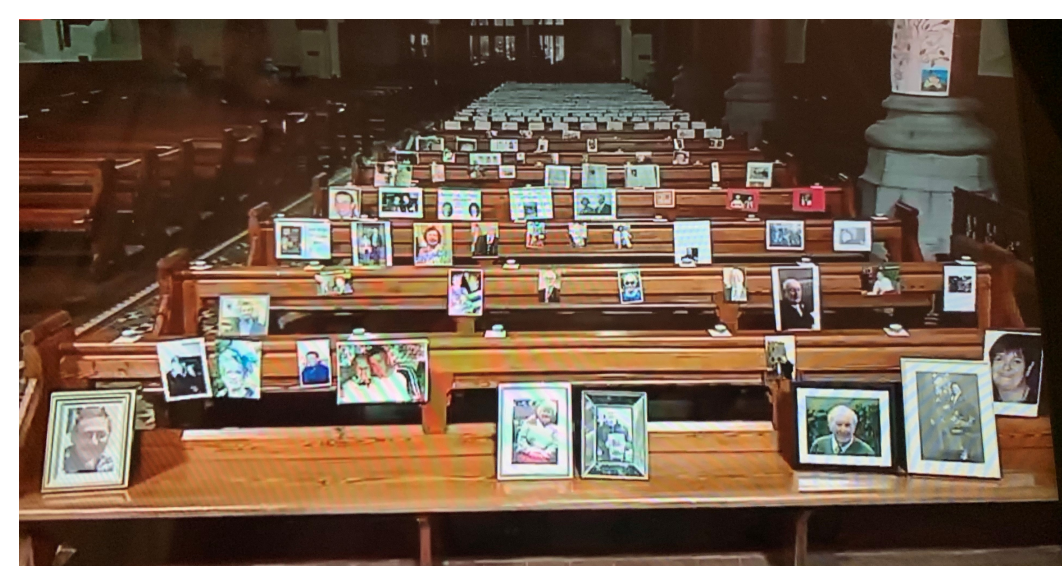
Suggestions for connecting with people who are living overseas and not able to travel home:



- Invite people to draw/colour/print a map of where their family member(s) is located and write their name(s) on the back. The map (or a photo) could be left into the Church and later placed on the seats in the Church for St Patrick's Day Mass(es).
- Have flags/bunting available for people to write the names of their family member(s) on, display outside or within the Church.
- Have a map of the world where people can place a pin on the places where their family members are.
- Read out the names of those who are overseas during Mass.

Suggestions for remembering people who have died in the last year:

- Invite people to leave a photo or card with their loved one's name into the Church. Photos/cards could be placed on the Church seats for St Patrick's Day Mass(es).
- Read out the names of all who have died during Mass.



St. Patrick's Day Entrance Ritual

We gather today to celebrate, to value and to treasure all that is good about Ireland and about Irish people.

We join with the whole world in celebrating the contribution Irish people have made and continue to make to our world. We remember those who had to leave home because of poverty, famine and lack of employment.

- We bless this bowl of shamrock reminding ourselves that Patrick used the shamrock to explain the community of love within the Trinity...three in one and one in three.

And we bless ourselves "In The Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen".

- We bless this bowl of soil from the earth. Our ancestors had a great love of the earth. For them all of creation pulsed with the spirit and energy of God. May we follow in their footsteps and walk gently on our fragile earth.
- We bless this candle. We light it for all who have died during this past year from COVID 19. We pray for all who are saddened by the loss and pain of grief.
- We bless our Irish Flag: It's a sign of our identity, belonging and unity. May it's bright colours of green, white and gold lift our hearts, give us hope and keep us one.



St. Patrick's Day Prayers of the Faithful

Introduction: Lord, you called St. Patrick to prayer. Give us hearts like his, open and attentive to your voice.

1. Unite, protect and strengthen your Church throughout the world. Sustain Francis, our Pope. Guide our leaders in faith. Be close to all God's faithful people. Together may we witness to true gospel living in our daily lives. Lord hear us.
2. For the gift of courage which Patrick showed in returning to Ireland and facing many dangers in his work of spreading the Christian message. Lord hear us.
3. For the gift of prayer in good times and in bad. For the ability to listen to the voice of God speaking in our hearts. Lord hear us.
4. That we may be carriers of the good news of God's love. That we may be prepared to endure criticism and insult in the service of the gospel. Lord hear us.
5. For Irish people all over the world—those who have been successful and content and for those whose dreams have not been fulfilled. We remember them today with love and prayer. May the love of God surround them. Lord hear us.
6. For all who have chosen to make Ireland their home. May they feel welcome among us and succeed in building the lives of their dreams. Lord hear us.
7. For those who have died.....may they have eternal rest. Lord hear us.

Conclusion: Christ be with us, above and below us. Christ be beside us, within us, among us. Christ surround us to guide and protect us. Day and night may Christ be our light. Amen.



The Celtic Heart

We're all on a journey through life, for some this is a spiritual journey, we're not tourists but pilgrims in search of the Holy, we journey to be together, we journey to escape, we journey to grow up, we journey to experience, we journey to change things, we journey to find ourselves, we journey to come home. But until we find our home in You our journey is incomplete. We are people of the way searching for landmarks for our heart's journey. Listening to the voice of the Spirit. Listening to the voice of the soul. Give us the courage to continue to journey inwards. To journey we must travel, to find you we must lose ourselves. Be a light for our path and help us to step out in courage, step out in faith, step out in love and help us always to walk in your footsteps. Amen

The Spirit of God

In the singing of birds
Is the sound of God
In the swimming of fish
Is the power of God
In the moving of beasts
Is the will of God
In the heart of humankind
Is the dwelling place of God
In my heart and my head
In my hands and in my feet
God's Spirit within me
Shall move and shall speak

St Patrick's Breastplate

I arise today,
Through a mighty strength:
God's power to guide me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's eyes to watch over me;
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to give me speech,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to shelter me,
God's host to secure me.
Amen

Prayer of St Patrick

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart
of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of
everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen

Beannacht - John O'Donohue

On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.
And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets into you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green
and azure blue,
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.

Compassion - Henri J.M. Nouwen

Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.

When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.

God is the Friend of Silence

- Mother Teresa
We need to find God in silence
He cannot be found in noise and restlessness.
God is the friend of silence.
See how nature . . .
Trees, flowers, grass grow in silence.
See the stars, the moon and sun . . .
How they move in silence.
The more we receive in silent prayer,
The more we can give in our active life.
We need silence to be able to touch souls.
The essential thing is not what we say,
But what God says . . . to us and through us.
All our words will be useless
Unless they come from within.
Words which do not give the Light of Christ . . .
increase the Darkness.

Give us Faith Lord

Give us Lord, a special faith,
unlimited and free,
A faith that isn't bound
by what we know or what we see...
A faith that trusts the sunshine
even when there is no light,
A faith that hears the morning song's
soft echo in the night...
A faith that somehow rises
past unhappiness or pain,
Knowing that in every loss
Your goodness will remain...
A faith that finds Your steadfast love
sufficient for all things,
A faith that lifts the heart above
and gives the spirit wings.



May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.