



Diocese of Clonfert
COVID-19 (coronavirus)
As of 12th March 2020

In order to comply with current Government advice and in the interest of the entire community especially those who are most vulnerable **the public celebration of all Sunday Masses and Weekday Masses (including St Patrick's Day) in the Diocese of Clonfert will be cancelled until further notice.**

During this time the obligation to be physically present at Mass on Sunday/Holy Day is suspended for everybody.

Priests will continue to celebrate Mass privately on weekdays and on Sundays. The faithful are encouraged to join spiritually in the celebration of these Masses in their own homes or by means of parish radio or web-cam or through television and radio broadcasts. For example you may wish to join Mass from the Cathedral, Loughrea on www.clonfertdiocese.ie or from Knock Shrine at www.knockshrine.ie.

After the private celebration of Mass, each day churches throughout the Diocese of Clonfert will open for individual prayer until normal closing times.

Participation in **Funeral Masses and Services/Wedding Masses and Services and the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism** are to be limited to close family and friends not exceeding 100 people. During the liturgy additional health and safety measures will be in place. Your co-operation for the good of all is gratefully appreciated.

The celebration of the **Sacraments of Confirmation/First Confession and First Holy Communion** is postponed until further notice.

Confessions and the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated as requested. However additional safety measures will apply.

As Christians we are called to generously play our part and work for the common good by reaching out, as appropriate, to practically assist those who are impacted by this situation.

Please pray for those affected by the virus and for our civil leaders that they may make wise decisions. Pray also for all our health professionals, our carers and clergy who are working with those affected and for our scientists who are trying to understand what is happening.

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Over the coming days and weeks updates will be issued in line with any new developments.