

# **ST. MARY'S PARISH**

## ***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

### ***9 May, 2021***

#### **RECENT DEATHS**

**Declan Nevin**, St. Kieran's Tce

**Mary (May) Fallon**, Summerhill

**OUR RETURN TO PUBLIC WORSHIP:** Starting from tomorrow, Monday 10th May, we will resume public Mass with a congregation. Our normal Mass schedule in both our parish churches – 9.30 a.m. and 1.05 p.m. in St. Mary's and 7.00 p.m. in Our Lady, Queen of Peace will apply, along with our usual weekend schedule. We will continue to broadcast Mass on Athlone Community Radio 88.4FM from St. Mary's Church at 9.30 a.m. Monday – Saturday and Sunday at 11.30 a.m. All our Masses in both churches will continue to be live-streamed on our Parish Website [stmarysathlone.ie](http://stmarysathlone.ie) In larger churches like ours, the limit of 50 people does **not** apply as the 'pod' system is allowed, which permits for bigger congregations provided that 2 metre social distancing applies to people from different households.

The Sunday Mass obligation remains lifted so we encourage parishioners to consider coming to Mass during the week instead. Both churches will continue to have one door of entry and a separate exit door. Some seats remain cordoned off and stickers are placed on other seats indicating where you may sit. Our Stewards will assist you as you arrive, at Communion time and as you leave. There will be an opportunity at **all** weekday and Sunday Masses to make your weekly offering.

There will be need for only one Eucharistic Minister at both weekday and Sunday Masses; if you are happy to do so please come into the sacristy before Mass. Readers are also asked to come into the sacristy before their allocated Mass.

In-church wedding ceremonies may have up to 50 guests and funerals up to 50 mourners from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May. This limit of 50 to funerals and weddings applies regardless of church size.

Bishop Francis wrote that **"the Government stated 'It is advised that other religious ceremonies such as Communions and Confirmations should not take place at this time.'"** In view of this, Bishop Francis has informed us that **"all Confirmation ceremonies are to be deferred until the 12<sup>th</sup> June, at the earliest, subject to Government advice. First Holy Communion ceremonies are deferred until September."**

The parish has liaised with our schools and dates for Confirmation are communicated to families directly from the schools. However it is important to state that Bishop Francis has advised that the dates agreed may be subject to change and will depend on public health advice at that time.

Individual Baptisms will take place with only 10 people per baptism observing all the necessary sanitising measures. The parish office will resume its normal opening hours to the public on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. Until that time contact with the office will remain by phone and an over-the-counter service cannot be provided.

**THANK YOU:** We thank you for your continued generosity and support in dropping in your offerings or making your donations via banking online to our parish accounts or by using the new payment facility on our Parish Website [stmarysathlone.ie](http://stmarysathlone.ie) Your contributions are vitally important in these challenging financial times for our parish.

**MAY ALTARS:** For the month of May, the Parish are running a 'May Altar Initiative' on our Parish Facebook page and on our Parish Website [stmarysathlone.ie](http://stmarysathlone.ie) We are asking you to share with us a photo of your May Altar and/or a story about your memories of your family's May Altars from years gone by. We will then share your photo or memory on our Parish Facebook Page and Website. If you would like to take part in this initiative, please email the Parish Digital Team on [mayaltar@stmarysathlone.ie](mailto:mayaltar@stmarysathlone.ie)