



## **All Public Masses are suspended with immediate effect.**

In compliance with the Government 's Directive regarding Covid19 the Diocese of Elphin has issued the following directives for the celebration of Mass.

### **The Celebration of Mass**

The Irish Bishops have suggested that "it may be possible for some parishes to facilitate attendance at Mass while still observing the health authority's limit of 100 people". However, the Bishop, having consulted with clergy around the Diocese, the consensus would appear to be that this would be impossible to guarantee in practice.

Accordingly:

The public celebration of Mass in the Diocese is suspended until and including Sunday 29th March, with immediate effect.

The obligation to be physically present at Mass on Sunday / Holy Day is therefore suspended for everybody until further notice.

**ALL THREE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR PRIVATE VISITS AND PRAYERS DAILY.**

### **Live Stream for Mass**

The faithful are encouraged to join spiritually in the celebration of Mass, either on parish radio or on webcam.

We will celebrate Mass on weekdays at 9.30am & Sundays at 11am via our live stream

[www.churchservices.tv/athlone](http://www.churchservices.tv/athlone)

This live stream can be seen on any computer, tablet, smart phone or on most smart televisions.

Parishioners are encouraged to pray at home, with special emphasis on prayers for the sick and for those who are caring for the sick.

### **The Celebration of Funerals**

As a parish we will do our very best to provide for the needs of the bereaved.

As things stand, there is no need for us to cancel funeral Masses **at this time**. The following guidelines should be followed:

- ✓ Ask funeral directors and bereaved families to limit participation to family and close friends so that no more than 100 people are present
- ✓ Ask people to leave the space of one metre between themselves and those next to them
- ✓ Ask people to express their sympathies in a way that does not involve physical contact

### **Ongoing Pastoral Care**

While taking the natural precautions the priests of the Parish will continue to provide Pastoral Care to our Parishioners. We will remain available to visit the sick, elderly or anyone needing to meet with us should you contact us by telephone or email.

We regret having to make the above decisions but do so in the hope that it will play a part in reducing the possibility of cases or Coronavirus in this area.

Please use common sense, follow the guidelines set out by the HSE for your own protection and stay healthy.

Fr. John Deignan PP