



Parish of Annaclone



Parochial House 17 Monteith Road, Annaclone, Banbridge BT325AQ

email: annacloneparish@dromorediocese.org

Tel. 028 406 71201 / 028 406 62136

Monday 29th March 2021

Dear Parishioner

I hope you are well at this time.

As you receive this new box of Offertory Envelopes for the year ahead, I want to sincerely thank you for your financial contribution to the parish, and the work of the Church in this community, throughout 2020-21. Your on-going support is both very necessary and greatly appreciated.

The past year has been a difficult and abnormal one, at many levels, and I'm sure we are all hoping for some respite, and freedom from restriction, as we look to the months ahead. It has also been a year of significant transition for the parish, with the departure of Canon Kearney from Annaclone after his long and faithful service as PP for twenty-seven years. I am glad that Canon Kearney is currently in good health and settling well into his retirement.

With both the Canon's retirement and the various periods of 'lockdown' throughout the past year, it has been difficult enough to get the parish into any kind of routine, or back to some sense of normality. I thank you for your patience and understanding during this time and I deeply appreciate the help and guidance the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance and Buildings' Committee have given me as I have tried to become familiar with the parish and begin to respond to its needs.

I am very pleased that we are about to re-open both churches within the parish to congregations and that Masses will be celebrated very soon. There will be two Masses in St Colman's, Annaclone, for Easter Sunday (4th April) at 10am and 11.30am. The following weekend, Vigil Mass will resume in St Mary's, Maghera, on Saturday 10th April at 7pm - with Mass on Sunday 11th April at 10am in St Colman's Church. In preparation for Easter, the **Sacrament of Confession** will be available in St Colman's on **Holy Saturday** morning (3rd April) from 9.30am until 10.30am.

Given the anxiety which some parishioners may have about returning physically to Mass, we plan to purchase and install a web camera for St Colman's Church very soon after Easter. This facility will enable as wide a sharing as possible in the liturgy and prayer which is at the heart of parish life. I also want to acknowledge the major work of painting and re-decorating undertaken in St Colman's Church in the latter half of 2020, which has really enhanced the church and revived its appearance.

Thank you, again, for your financial support of the parish through your use of Offertory Envelopes throughout the year. It enables these kinds of projects to be undertaken and helps the parish maintain its various facilities and meet their very considerable running costs.

I pray that the new Easter Season ahead will bring fresh hope to your life and help renew your faith and your relationship with our Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Every good wish and Blessing.

Fr Andrew McMahon

Parish Priest, Seapatrick & Annaclone