CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART DONNYBROOK

EASTER 2025

Dear Parishioner, and Friend of Sacred Heart Parish,

On behalf of the parish team I extend my very best wishes to you, and your family members, for every possible blessing this Easter. The Easter season is a time when we focus on, and celebrate, the central mystery of our Christian faith - the resurrection of Jesus and His triumph over the power of death. Easter is celebrated, in this hemisphere, in the Springtime of the year. It is a time of new life and growth and, most importantly, hope.

Pope Francis has declared this year as a jubilee year encouraging all Catholics to renew our trust, faith and hope in Jesus Christ in the face of personal, societal and global challenges. The Easter message encourages us to continue to hold onto hope despite the challenges we face in our world. 'Hope is not deceptive' wrote St Paul in his letter to the Romans. Hope provides us with opportunities to see light despite the experience of darkness. The Christian experience of hope is not simply wishful thinking. It is a tangible reality. Conscious of the promise of Jesus to always accompany us as we journey in His name let us focus these weeks, I suggest, on the Spirit of the Risen Lord who helps and guides us on our journey through life, and who raises our hearts daily by his active presence in our lives!

This Easter, in these unusual and unsettling times, let each of us find within our faith the sustenance and resolve to proclaim the Resurrected Christ knowing that He has brought forth life from death, light from darkness, and hope from despair.

I take this opportunity this Easter Season to thank all who share their time, talent and resources in order to build up our parish faith community. It is my hope that this current edition of The Pastoral Voice magazine will highlight some of the reasons we have to be grateful to so many parishioners, and friends of this parish, for their positive engagement in parish life. The parish team is ably supported by so many volunteers who give generously of their time and expertise in the service of many, varied, parish activities. I am deeply grateful to one and all for that support and I can assure you that everything you do, even the smallest gesture, is both needed and appreciated. I am also deeply grateful to you for your ongoing financial support of the parish.

May I assure you that you, and your family members, will be remembered here in prayer, especially throughout the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies – to all of which you are warmly welcome.

Ever conscious that the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ summons us to live in continuous hope in life, this Easter I pray that the blessing of the Risen Lord will come upon our parish community – that the peace offered by Christ as he appeared to his disciples at Easter may reign everywhere. May the spirit and light of Easter "bless us all, watch over us and protect us on our journey, open us from the darkness into the light of peace and hope and transfiguration." – John O'Donohue

Rev. Ciarán O'Carroll P.P.