



The Donegal Group of Parishes

Donegal Town · Killymard · Lough Eske · Laghey

The Rectory
Donegal Town
County Donegal

14th May 2020

PARISH FINANCES DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you and all your loved ones are safe and well in these challenging times. Our lives have been turned upside-down in the past few weeks and we are clinging on to our faith in Jesus Christ to get us through. It has been good to see lots of you joining our online services and for those not on the internet we have tried to keep in touch by phone or post. Feel free to contact me at any time if there is anything I can do for you, or if you just want to chat.

I haven't said anything about church finances so far during the Coronavirus pandemic as it hasn't seemed right to address this subject at a time when many households have seen a drop in income. However as time goes on I thought it might be a good idea to give an update, especially now we know that the re-opening process will be lengthy (a return to church services won't be before 26th July at the earliest). Perhaps I could mention three things:

1. The first and most important message I want to get across is that if you are in financial difficulty there are a range of grants and other helps available, so please get in touch with me to talk about these options confidentially.
2. The second message is that Parish finances are in good shape, thanks to the generous giving of church members past and present and wise management by our Select Vestries and Treasurers. We thank God, who provides for all our needs, and continue to trust him.
3. The third message is that, for those who wish to give to their parish now but are unsure how to do so in the absence of normal church collections, there are a number of options:
 - a. **Give by Standing Order.** This is where a regular payment is sent automatically from your bank account, usually once a month. This is an excellent method of giving and once it is set up requires no extra work to keep it going. To set it up, please ask me or your Treasurer for a Standing Order form or, if you have Internet Banking, please use the IBAN numbers below remembering to include your name or envelope number for reference with the payment.

Donegal: IE62 AIBK 9373 0403 6492 05

Killymard: IE68 ULSB 9855 6015 5320 82

Lough Eske: IE51 AIBK 9373 0409 8220 95

Laghey: IE43 AIBK 9373 0409 8020 63

b. Send a cheque. If you wish, you can send a cheque made payable to “Donegal Parish Church,” “Killymard Parish Church,” “Lough Eske Parish Church” or “Laghey Parish Church” and post it to the relevant treasurer:

Donegal: Mr Justin Irwin, Main Street, Donegal Town
Killymard: Mrs Jean Ellis, Drumstevlin, Donegal Town
Lough Eske: Mrs Margaret Glenn, Corveen, Donegal Town
Laghey: Mrs Margaret Graham, Rathneeny, Laghey

c. Use your church envelopes (Donegal and Laghey). Envelopes can be put through the Rectory letterbox and they will be passed on to each treasurer. If you could put the whole of your donation into a single envelope it would be a great help.

d. Use any envelope. You can put your contribution into any ordinary envelope, mark it with the name of the parish which it is for, and deliver to the Rectory. Again these will be passed unopened to the treasurer. You can put your own name on a note inside the envelope if you wish.

NB Please do not send any cash in the post.

Any contributions received will be treated in the usual way as part of your parish giving.

If you are unable to give at this time, or can only give a small amount, please do not worry. God is far more interested in what is in your heart than what is in your envelope! You can still support your church by your prayers and indeed this is the most valuable thing you can give.

Let's continue to pray for an end to the pandemic and for wisdom and patience in the meantime. For those who have internet access, don't forget our online services on Sundays at 11am, Wednesdays at 8pm and Fridays at 1pm on our Facebook page 'Donegal Group of Parishes.' Let's keep doing all we can to encourage one another and to keep the faith.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The letters are cursive and fluid.

David Huss, Rector