

***For your name's sake, O Lord, do not deliver us up forever...  
For we are reduced, O Lord, brought low everywhere...this day.  
Deliver us by your wonders,  
And bring glory to your name, O Lord.***

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The above words are from today's First Reading for Mass, from the Book of the Prophet Daniel. How appropriate on this, the first day of the suspension of all public Masses in the Archdiocese, to return to these words, acknowledging our current circumstances, but more importantly, calling upon, and trusting in, God's desire to "deliver us, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that...we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress."

On this St. Patrick's Day, these words from Daniel bring to mind the vision Patrick had of his beloved Irish calling out to him to come and walk among them, come and guide them, come and lift them up. You see, in many times and places, for all kinds of reasons and circumstances, God's children call out, and make their plea for God to deliver them. So it was for the Jewish people at the time of Exile, so it was for the Irish longing for the Gospel to shine its light on their dark world, so it is for us in this time of COVID-19 and its disruption of our lives and routines.

Be assured that even as public Mass cannot be celebrated at this time, as a necessary precaution for the common good, every pastor is offering Mass quietly for his people. The image below is the old Altar Cross that originally was attached to the Altar of Sacrifice in Church. Many of you might know that it is currently in the Priest's Sacristy. It is before this Crucifix that Mass will be offered each and every day for the people of Annunciation.

Today's Opening Prayer for Mass began with the request "May your grace not forsake us, O Lord." It struck me as the most honest and direct thing to say to God this day. It is amazing how the circumstances of life enable me to receive words, emptied of meaning by repetition and familiarity, to be so poignant and full of meaning once again.

May grace and peace be yours, may calm prevail, may good health be yours. God Bless,  
Fr. Grogan



***Dia's Muire dhuit, agus Pdraig – May God and Mary and Patrick be with you!***