



EASTER SUNDAY

As we awake this Easter morn we know the joy of those who came to the tomb on that first day of the week, that first Sunday. The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia. Having set out on the journey of the Easter Triduum we arise this morning and welcome the light of life.

Scripture tell us

'It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb' [...] 'Till this moment they had still not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead'. (From the Gospel of the day, full text John 20:1-9)



Deepening our participation in the broadcast celebration

Before the broadcast begins:

- Gather with other members of your household, if you can.
- Place a lighted candle on a table or in a sacred space. A (baptism) candle can be included for each person, as well as flowers and a bible, open on John 20:1-9. The family Easter eggs (a sign of new life and of our Easter feast) can also find a place on the table.



During the broadcast look out for the following:

- The **Gloria** has returned and we pray it once more on this Easter Morning.
- The **Readings** begin with a reading from the Acts of the Apostles. We will hear from this account of the early church throughout the Easter Season and how they came to understand the events of Holy Week and become witnesses for Christ, something we spend our lifetime and especially the Easter season doing. The joyful tone of this day is very much conveyed in the psalm.
- Many of today's celebrations of Mass will include the **sequence** before the Gospel acclamation, a text proclaiming the good news that Christ, our hope, has risen.
- Even if you do not normally sing, why not join in singing the **Alleluia** after its Lenten absence!
- After the homily, people will be led in a **renewal of baptismal promises** or pray the **Creed**. Whichever is done, you might like to light your individual (baptism) candle and hold it at this point of the Mass.
- As you make your **Act of Spiritual Communion**, welcoming the dawning of a new day, a new beginning full of hope and potential, take a moment to think of what you have to be thankful for in your life and give thanks to God.
- **After the celebration** you may wish to place your candle on your dining table.

A Prayer Ritual at Home

Gather with other members of your household, if you can.

On a table or in a sacred space, safely place a lighted candle in the centre. You might include some of the following items on the table: an unlit individual (baptism) candle; any photos of family baptisms; a bowl of water and a green branch, a bible, open on John 20:1-9; your Easter egg, if it isn't eaten already! If there are flowers in the garden why not head out and pick some for the space before you start your prayer together.



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

An Easter Litany

This is the day the Lord has made. R **Alleluia, alleluia!**

God's love has no end. R. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

God has raised us up. R. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

And given us the gift of new life. R. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Reading

'It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb' [...] 'Till this moment they had still not understood the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead'. (From the Gospel of the day, full text John 20:1-9)

Reflection

In his Easter Sunday greeting in 2019, Pope Francis addressed these words to every Christian: 'Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life ... Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you.' On this Easter morning take a moment to recognise and appreciate all the signs of hope and new life around us: light ... water ... flowers ... eggs ... baptism memories and photos ... one another!

Ritual action

Light your candle from the main candle as a reminder of the light of Christ within you. Then take some time to enjoy the signs of life around you. This might include blessing yourself with the water/taking a flower and smelling it/taking a taste of your Easter egg/looking at your photos while remembering and sharing your memories of family baptisms, choosing names and godparents ...

Intercessions

On this Easter day, as we look upon our burning candle we take a moment to remember and pray for all those who need to hear the good news of resurrection this day, and for all those bringing life to others in so many ways in these very days.

We pray for our needs and the needs of the world this day.

We remember in our prayer ... *(bring your intentions to God)*

Lord, who raises us up from our graves and calls us to new life, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Our Father ...

Prayer

Lord of all life, we have journeyed to Easter

and in the most difficult of trials we proclaim still the joy of your resurrection, we embrace with gladness the new life to which you call each one of us.

Bless us, our families and all the world, with your constant presence

that we may give you thanks every day

and share the good news of our faith with all we meet.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Acclamation

Christ is risen. Alleluia, alleluia!

Sign of the Cross...

To do

Place a (baptism) candle and flowers on your dinner table; send a greeting in some way to your parents and godparents; say a prayer for your parents and godparents; watch a family movie; listen/play some music together; eat chocolate!!

A Prayer on Easter Sunday

Light a candle and pause for a few moments to become aware of God's presence. Make the Sign of the Cross, as you pray:

Lord of all life,

You are our hope and our joy, our source of true happiness.

We have journeyed to Easter and in the most difficult of trials

we have renewed our baptism and proclaimed your resurrection.

We embrace with gladness the new life to which you call each one of us.

Bless us, our families and all the world, with your constant presence and protection.

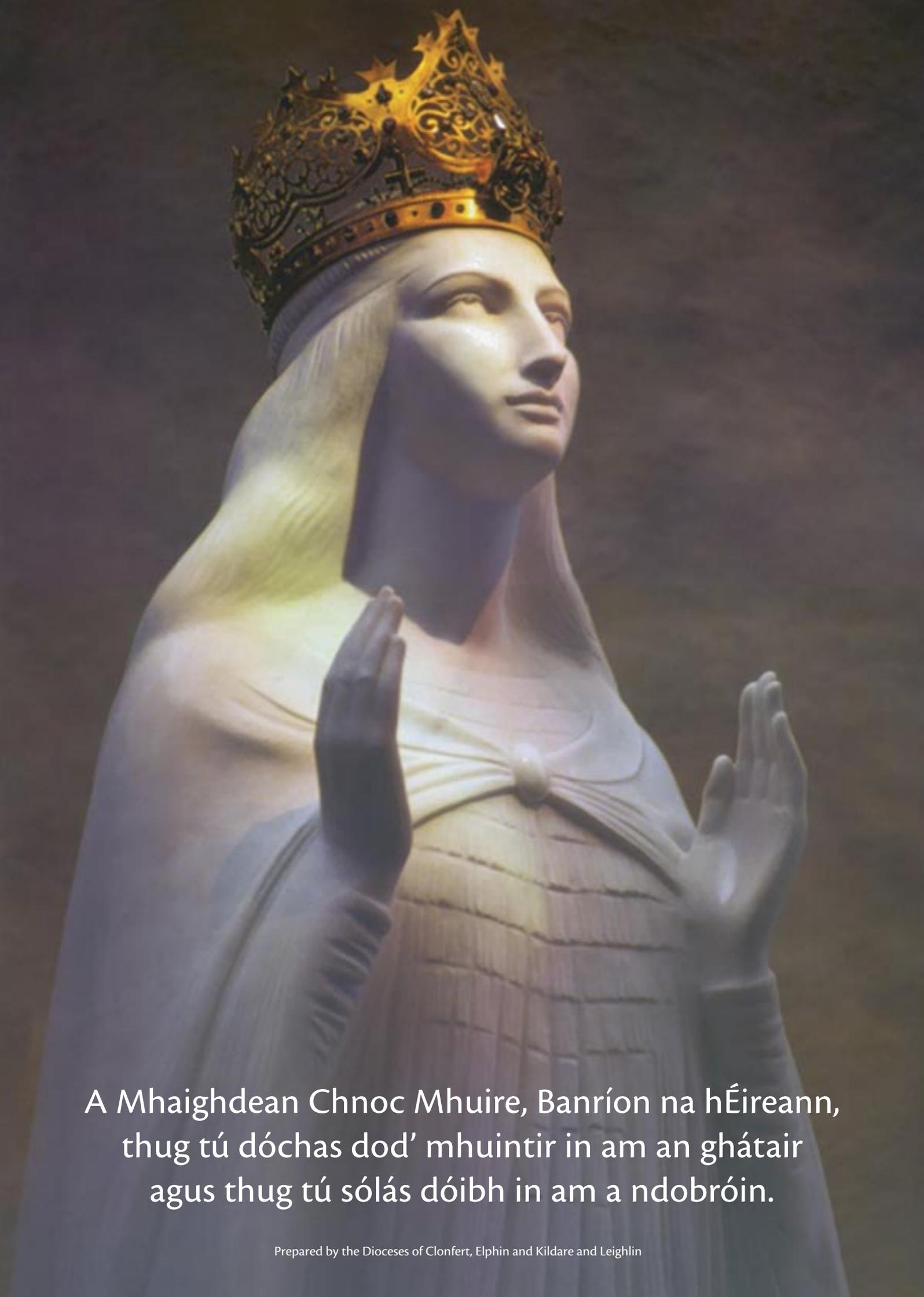
May we give you thanks every day and share the good news of our faith with all we meet.

And may the light of our Easter faith guide our footsteps in your ways of love, peace and truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Easter joy we proclaim, Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia!

If you have Holy Water, use it to bless yourself as you make the Sign of the Cross.

Place your candle safely somewhere prominent in your home as a reminder of the Light of Christ amongst us.



A Mhaighdean Chnoc Mhuire, Banríon na hÉireann,
thug tú dóchas dod' mhuintir in am an ghátair
agus thug tú sólás dóibh in am a ndobróin.