

BRINGING HOLY WEEK HOME

A PALM SUNDAY
TO EASTER SUNDAY
COMPANION



2021

A most special week

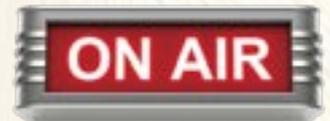
For Christians, Holy Week is the most important week of the year. Holy Week lasts from Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday and reaches its highpoint in what we call the Easter Triduum – those three great days from the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper to Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. Reflecting on the Scriptures and turning to ritual and symbols, Christians throughout the world, journey with Jesus through those final days of his life, his passion, his death and resurrection. In the process, we experience God’s redemptive presence, our faith is deepened, our hope is renewed and our commitment to living a life of love of God and one another is strengthened.

A different way of praying as a community of faith

Again this year, our celebrations will be very different due to the restrictions in place because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a Christian Community we cannot gather together for our usual religious services. This will not prevent us from uniting spiritually and taking time to pray, to reflect and to make this Holy Week a truly enriching experience of the presence of God in our lives. This guide is to assist us in walking the journey of Holy Week 2021 together, even if we must be apart.

Broadcast ceremonies

We are blessed that many of the traditional ceremonies associated with Holy Week will be livestreamed over the internet or broadcast on radio or television. While recognising that this cannot fully substitute for being present at the ceremony, this guide is designed to help deepen your participation in those broadcasts and to assist you in getting the most out of them spiritually. For those who wish, the liturgical texts of the various ceremonies are available daily at <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/readings/>



In the home

Not everyone can watch the broadcast ceremonies. For those who cannot, this guide has a simple prayer ritual for each day of Holy Week that can be celebrated alone or with your household.

Prayer space

Please set up a prayer space in a prominent place in your home. There, each day, you can place different symbols or things of meaning to you and your family. You might start by placing in the prayer space the most beautiful candle you have to remind us of the living presence of Jesus among us and a Bible which contains God’s Word.



To do

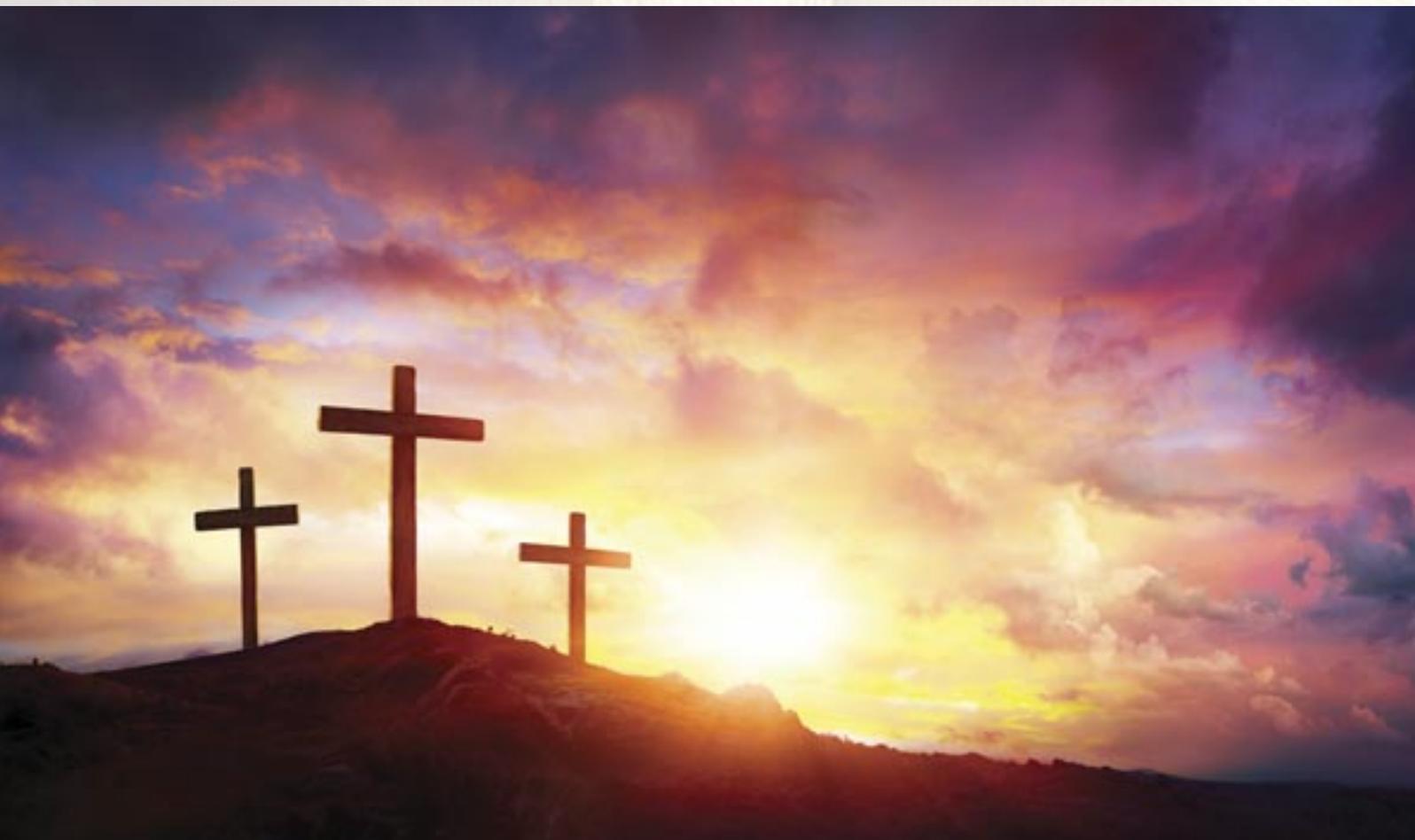
Each day there will be a call to action. To do something different or significant that puts the message of that particular day into practice.

Visiting your local church this Holy Week

While we cannot gather for public worship, you may well discover that your local parish has arrangements in place for you to come to the church for private prayer this Holy Week. Many parishes are making it possible for people to take home blessed palm on Palm Sunday and to bring holy water home on Easter Sunday. In this resource you will find a short prayer for your use on both days. You may want to pray the stations of the cross in your local parish church during the week or on Good Friday, or some other form of prayer, as you physically connect with the parish in this important time in the Church Year.

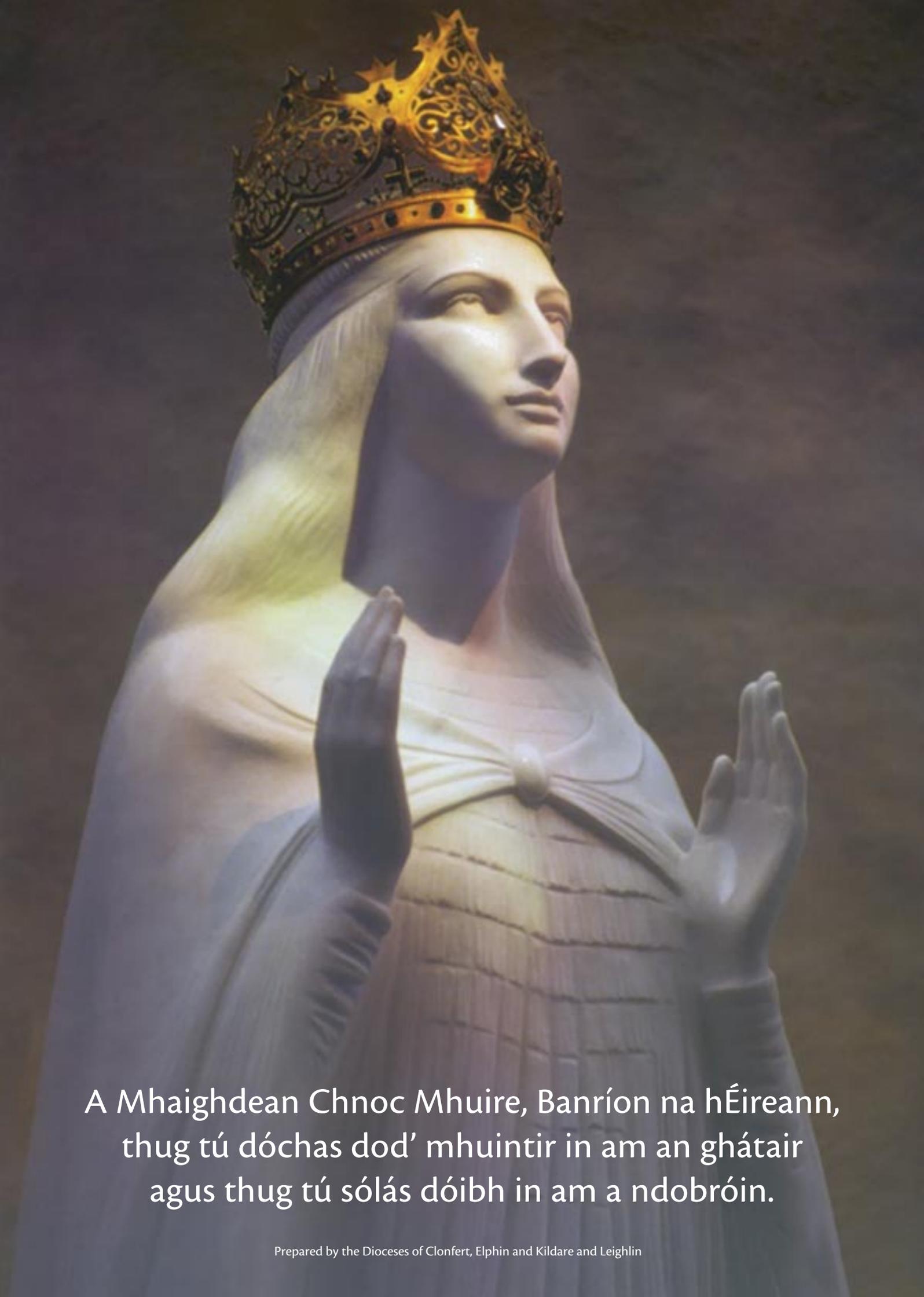
Safety

This guide is designed for use by a single household. All safety advice should be adhered to. If using candles, please do so safely.



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This guide was prepared by Julie Kavanagh (Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin), Sheena Darcy (Diocese of Elphin), Bishop Michael Duignan (Diocese of Clonfert) – Special thanks to Colette Dower for Graphic Design and Typesetting. April 2020.
Revised March 2021.



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.