



Sunday 3rd May 2020

Parish Newsletter

Sunday Reflection - A Prayer for Our Earth' by Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Mass times from Monday 4th May to Sunday 10th May

Due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) the Cathedral will remain closed.

We will continue to celebrate Mass behind closed doors (no congregation).

Monday - Friday 5.45pm, Saturday (Vigil Mass) 6pm, Sunday 10.30am and 12 noon.

Please join us through our webcam. www.limerickcathedral.com

Online Donations

Today we have launched a **Donation Page** on our Web Site www.limerickcathedral.com

Parishioners and friends of St John's have been asking how they might continue to support the Cathedral in these times. Having discussed this with our web designer, this donation page was suggested. It is simple and straight forward to use. We take this opportunity to thank all those who have dropped in donations and weekly envelopes at the presbytery and **those who have contacted us on E-Mail and text with kind and encouraging words**. We assure you all of our continued prayers for you and your families in these extraordinary times.

Fr Noel

All Baptisms and Weddings are postponed until further notice.

Sympathies We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of the recently deceased in the Parish.



Funerals at a time of Covid-19

As a Parish and a Diocese, we are so sorry for your loss. To lose the people that we love is always difficult and lonely. Losing the people that we love during this pandemic makes our grief all the harder and more complicated. The normal rituals and support systems of family, neighbours and friends that usually sustain, hold and heal us at times like this are no longer freely available. Due to government restrictions, funerals must now either go straight to the graveyard or the Church. Gathering people in confined spaces for vigil prayers or rosaries is not possible. The Government have stipulated that only 10 people can attend the funeral Mass (if a Mass is possible). This is incredibly sad as families and friends must make awful decisions and inevitably dear family and friends end up not being able to attend the funeral Mass of the one they love. Restrictions for families become even more difficult if a family member dies of Covid-19 as family members may be in 'isolation' themselves. With all this sadness in mind there are a few important suggestions that may help you find ways to give expression to your grief and hopefully find healing and comfort. This information can be viewed here on our website.

www.limerickcathedral.com

CORONAVIRUS: YOUR SUPPORT IS SAVING LIVES

Today the world faces an unimaginable crisis; there is barely a corner of the world not affected by the Corona virus crisis. As like all over the world, people here in Ireland are suffering the loss of the touch of loved ones, the loss of jobs and financial security, the loss of health, and the loss of a clear vision of what is yet to come; but despite this people are rallying together to support each other in whatever way they can. They say people are at their best during a crisis, and we have all given witness to the acts of compassion, kindness and love within our communities and the decency of people been so clear.

The Corona virus has been confirmed in 17 countries where Trócaire works and Trócaire has never faced a crisis across so many of the communities that they support. The people Trócaire works with in the developing world are particularly at risk from this virus. Many of them have no access to clean water to wash their hands with, with many more living in crowded slums or camps where a virus can cause devastation. They are defenceless against contracting the virus. If they do contract it, the medical care to treat them simply is not there.

Think about how this crisis has stretched European countries, including Ireland, to its limits. Now think about this:

- Malawi has one intensive care (ICU) bed for every one million people
- Sierra Leone has no ICU beds
- South Sudan has two ventilators for 12 million people

As we have seen, the Corona virus knows no borders but neither does the love and compassion of people all over Ireland. These figures bring home just how bad this crisis could get in the world's poorest countries.

With your support, we are making a difference. We have already launched programmes to help keep people safe from this virus. Our teams are on the ground getting vital messages to communities on how to protect themselves. In the weeks and months ahead, we will be keeping people safe and supporting those who fall ill. Your support will make this happen.

But this crisis needs a response today. We know lots of people in Ireland are suffering. We know not everyone can donate at this time. But if you can, we really need your help today.

Please consider making a donation online www.trocaire.org or phoning 1850 408 408



IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO AN EXPERIENCED **COUPLES & RELATIONSHIPS COUNSELLOR** DURING THIS TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED STRESS AND PRESSURE ON FAMILY LIFE...

Contact: **01 531 3331**, 9.00 am - 8.00 pm, Monday to Friday **All calls charged at local rate.**

The Community Call: For Daily Updates Visit www.gov.ie/communitycall www.hse.ie

Limerick City and County 1800 832 005 covidsupport@limerick.ie

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People: ALONE has launched a national support line and additional support for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The support line is open seven days a week, from 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

Split the Pot: Split the Pot draw will continue. You can leave your envelope with Kieran on Saturdays at the door at the back of the church. The winner of last weekend's draw (Sunday 26th April) was Mary McCarthy. Thank you for your continued support.



Weekly Envelopes: If you wish to donate via the weekly envelope system, please continue to do so. The envelopes can be given to Kieran on Saturdays by calling to the back of the church. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Pennywell Daycare Centre: The Daycare are providing meals on wheels on the following days Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the centre. These can be collected or delivered. Main course €2.50. Contact the centre on 061 414150 to get the menu and place an order.

Radio Maria Daily Mass will be aired at 10am each day including Sunday. Saorview, Channel 210

Cathedral House, Cathedral Place, Limerick V94 H521. Tel: 061-414624

email: admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com

www.limerickcathedral.com