

Ministry Update Advent 2016

A Newsletter for Priests, Parish Sisters and Workers, and all those involved in ministry in the parish from Kildare and Leighlin Faith Development Services.

Reach out 2016



On the Third Sunday of Advent parishes in Kildare and Leighlin are once more Reaching Out locally with a Christmas card and an accompanying Prayer for Peace.

But the parish gift this year is a financial donation made in the name of the people of our diocese to Trócaire who act on behalf of Caritas International in Ireland. Trócaire will divert this donation towards Caritas Syria and their work in specific projects for the people of Syria. In his Greeting Bishop Denis writes:

In this season of light and hope I pray for peace in Syria and across the Middle East and all places of conflict in our world. I pray also for the deep peace of Christ to find a resting place in your home and heart. I invite you to join with me in praying our Prayer for Peace in this season when we once more welcome Christ, the Light of the world, into our lives.

Remember your ABC

Advent Before Christmas

The season of Advent offers us a wonderful time of prayerful reflection as we prepare once more to welcome Christ into the centre of our lives. In all the hustle and bustle surrounding us we might personally miss out on the gift of the Advent season itself.

There are many websites with resources to help us journey through Advent. Here's just a few Irish based sites:

- catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar
- icatholic.ie
- sacredspace.ie
- *and not forgetting our very own, Kandle.ie*

- *Parish Morning and Evening Prayer for Advent, Sample Reconciliation Services & Examinations of Conscience*
- *Keeping Advent in the Home*
- *Blessings for Wreath, Crib, Tree and Presents for use in the Home*
- *Advent Bulletin reflections*
- *Advent Daily Prayer suggestions....*

For these and more check out the liturgy resources on kandle.ie





Bishop Denis Hosts Meeting of Kildare and Leighlin Coordinators

On December 5th Bishop Denis met for the first time with the diocesan co-ordinating group for WMOF 2018.

This group will work with the people of the diocese in grasping the gift of this occasion for the great diversity of families across Kildare and Leighlin. **See wmof2018.ie for more details on the World Meeting of Families and on kandle.ie and the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese facebook page.**



A Crib Prayer for Christmas

Every parish in the country is receiving a large print version of a Prayer to the Holy Family that will be placed in the parish crib as part of the Christmas Liturgy. Parishioners will have the chance to take home a book mark with the prayer for use in the home.

This Irish initiative ahead of WMOF 2018 is being recommended by Rome to the Church throughout the world, with the prayer card being translated into many languages and sent to Bishops' Conferences across the globe.



For anybody involved in a Parish Ministry

'COME, LORD JESUS' is the prayer of Advent. For any of you involved in parish ministry it is precisely this Lord Jesus that you carry with you to others in your parish ministry.

The prayer is a reminder to us that our God is always coming to us, no matter where we are or how we are. God constantly moves towards us in love.

As ministers we get to follow in the footsteps of Mary who we celebrate in a particular way at this time of year. Mary welcomed God into her life, which is what we are doing each time we pray 'Come, Lord Jesus'. Through her 'yes' to God she became the Mother of God. Indeed, the first title ever given to Mary was that of *Theotokos*, or Bearer / Mother of God.

As someone who ministers in the parish you are sharing in the ministry of Mary, first by welcoming Christ into your own life and then by bearing Christ to others through your own ministry in the parish.

What a privilege and a gift!

This Christmas please continue to remember and support the work of

