

Ministry Update

Together while Apart as a Diocesan Family

A Newsletter from Faith Development Services

March 2020



During these extraordinary times we are called to look out for each other and care for one another.

Our first concern is for the vulnerable among us and the lonely. We have already seen and, in the days ahead we will continue to see, the incredible depth of practical love and concern demonstrated by so many people across our diocese and our country. May we be ever grateful for the witness of solidarity and compassion unfolding in our midst.

From Bishop Denis: *"May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours"*

Although we may not be able to gather as a faith community we all still belong to our diocesan family. There are many ways to keep in touch and stay connected with your parish and diocese.



- See www.kandle.ie for up to date news and resources, including a list of parishes that have webcams so that you can join in prayer and watch Masses and other Church services taking place these days, as well as a statement from Bishop Denis
- Check out if your parish has a website, Facebook page, Twitter page, or app
- Follow Bishop Denis on twitter @BishopDNulty for daily tweets
- Like Kildare & Leighlin Diocese Facebook page to keep updated
- Follow the diocese on twitter: @KANDLEi @KandLeYouth @meithealkandl Here you'll find a lot of news and inspirational prayers over the days ahead
- The website of the Irish Bishops' Conference has a rich array of resources and news to keep in touch from an all island perspective. www.catholicbishops.ie

*Bishop Denis leading a Holy Hour
in the Cathedral on March 18th,
via webcam.*

*Many parishes are broadcasting Mass, morning
and evening prayer, holy hours, stations of the
cross and other forms of prayer.*

**TOGETHER, WITH THE COMPANY AND GRACE
OF GOD, WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS TIME**



DIOCESE OFFERS PRAYER RESOURCES AT THIS TIME

A number of prayers are available on www.kandle.ie Many of these will also be posted periodically on Facebook and Twitter and we encourage people to pray and share them where they can.

These prayer resources include the prayer below as well as a prayer for healthcare workers, a prayer for our priests, a prayer for those who have died during this time, a prayer for those who are mourning as well as an Act of Spiritual Communion and other prayers.

We hope that these prayers can serve as another way of uniting us at this time of separation. This section the diocesan website will continue to be updated in the coming weeks.

'Nothing will separate us from the love of God.' Romans 8:31

A Coronavirus Prayer

Loving and healing God,
we, the people of Kildare & Leighlin turn to you in prayer,
confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment.
We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection.
May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.

Generous God,
fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old,
that we may look after one another in these challenging days.
Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families.
May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace.
Comfort their family and friends.

Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick
and all who work in our medical facilities.
Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance
that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people.
We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work
in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all.
Bless them and keep them safe.

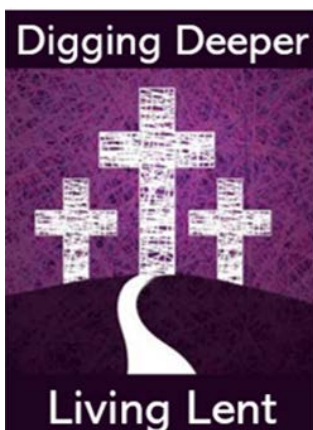
O God of creation and life,
we place ourselves in your protection.
May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow.

St Brigid, pray for us.

St Conleth, pray for us.

St Lazerian, pray for us.

May all the saints of God, pray for us. Amen.



Continuing our Lenten Journey: Prayer, Fasting, Charity

Many of us are undertaking acts of prayer, fasting, and charity that we had not imagined at the beginning of Lent. Let us bring these acts into our keeping of Lent and continue our journey to the enduring message of hope that is at the heart of our Easter faith.

The complete set of *'Digging Deeper, Living Lent'* resources have now been uploaded to www.kandle.ie, including the popular weekly Lenten Scripture Reflections and a weekly bulletin exploring Lent and its many aspects including the sacrament of baptism.

Stations of the Cross and other prayer resources are also available in the 'Digging Deeper, Living Lent' suite of resources.

Work Continues in Faith Development Services and Bishop's House

For all those whose
cares have been our
concern, the work goes
on, the cause endures,
the hope still lives,
and the dream shall
never die.

Edward M. Kennedy

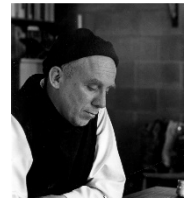
Like so many across our country, the staff of Faith Development Services and Bishop's House have had to adjust our way of working. Outside of direct physical contact with people, there is much we can and will continue to do and we are fully committed to serving the people of our diocese.

While many of us are working from home, the gift of technology means that we are still very much contactable. If we are, on occasion, slower to respond than normal please bear with us.

And please hold us in prayer just as we are holding you in prayer through these unknown days.

"You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognise the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope."

Thomas Merton



Free Digital Resources for Staying in Touch with Daily Prayer

The following resources can be accessed via computer and/or smart phone. Some are always free and others have been made available free of charge during this coronavirus pandemic. These are just a sample. We have plenty of tools to support us in our prayer life.

- **PrayAsYouGo.org:** A wonderful free website and phone app with reflections, music and daily Mass readings (both audio and written) as well as Lectio Divina, virtual retreats and much more
- **Sacredspace.ie:** A daily prayer resource on website and available as an app
- **Magnificat:** A website and app with Daily Mass prayers and scripture readings, Prayers for the Hours of the day, Meditations and Essays on the saints. This is being made free of charge at this time
- **GiveUsThisDay.org:** A daily resource from the US featuring daily Mass texts and Readings (using US readings and calendar), reflections and daily morning and evening prayer. Free at this time

For further information on any of the content of this newsletter please contact:

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An Act of Spiritual Communion



*My Jesus,
I believe that you are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.*

Kandle.ie

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