

Ministry Update

A Newsletter for Clergy, Parish Sisters and Staff, and All those involved in Ministry in the Parish, from Kildare and Leighlin Faith Development Services

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April 2020

Pope Francis asks us to join him in this time of trial in praying the Rosary in May



Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. *"Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary, our mother, will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial,"* the pope said in a letter addressed to all Catholics and released by the Vatican on April 25.

The Rosary and the Month of May

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already are in the habit of praying the rosary at home during the month. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view." Pope Francis reminds Catholics that simplicity is the key to praying the Rosary and that there are many good models of the prayer on the internet. See Kandle.ie for a guide to praying the Rosary.

Two New Prayers from Pope Francis to Conclude the Rosary

The Pope has also provided us with two new prayers for these times which we can pray at the end of the Rosary. You can read these prayers on **Page 3** and **Page 4**.

Bishop to lead live streamed prayer service for Leaving Cert students

Bishop Denis will lead a prayer service for Leaving Cert students in Holy Family Church, Askea at 7 pm on Thursday, May 21.

Students from across the diocese will be able to virtually join together to be supported and uplifted through music, prayer and reflections. A special blessing for students will be given by Bishop Denis during the liturgy.

Access to the prayer service will be through a variety of platforms, including Facebook and webcam. More details to follow.

See Prayer for Leaving Cert Students on page 3



KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN HOUSEHOLDS INVITED TO UNITE WITH OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN AND CREATE A MAY ALTAR IN THE HOME

Children preparing for First Holy Communion across the diocese have been invited to create a May altar in their home and to pray the Joyful Mysteries with their family.

This invitation is extended to the whole of the Kandle family. Why not set aside a space in your home to place a statue or image of Mary. You might like to include flowers, candles, rosary beads...

The next steps is to set aside a time to pray the Rosary each day, either alone or with other members of your household.

Send us a photo!

We would love to receive photos of your May altar to share with the rest of the Kandle family. Images can be sent to our [@KANDLEi](https://www.facebook.com/KANDLEi) Facebook page.



Parish and Diocesan Groups Staying in Contact in New Ways...



Members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council on a Zoom Meeting with Bishop Denis

As we continue to adjust to the norms of social distancing and restrictions, parishes and diocesan groups are establishing new ways of 'meeting'. Parish teams and a number of **Parish Pastoral Councils** are now meeting via zoom conference calls or video calls, or via other platforms.

Diocesan groups, such as the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Council of Priests, the Diocesan Education Council and the staff of Faith Development Services are all continuing to meet.

It's different and it's new for us. But these platforms may prove to be a hugely useful tool in the months ahead for all of us involved in parish ministry.

The Daily Bread of the Word of God

In a time when we cannot receive the physical nourishment of Eucharist, it is good to remember that in our Catholic tradition we believe that we are also fed and nourished by the Word of God in the Scriptures.

The Missal of the Mass reminds us that "when the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel"

Pope Benedict XVI wrote: 'Indeed, the word which we proclaim and accept is the Word made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14); it is inseparably linked to Christ's person and the sacramental mode of his continued presence in our midst. Christ does not speak in the past, but in the present...'

This can be a tremendous comfort to us in these days. It can also serve as an invitation to us to turn once more to the scriptures. Here we can come to know and meet Christ who is with us always, speaking to us, feeding us with his word and present with us in every moment.

THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

Resources for Praying with and Reflecting on the Daily Readings



The first and primary resource is, naturally, the readings themselves. If you don't have a Daily Missal, you will find the readings for the Mass of the Day on Kandle.ie



Sacredspace.ie This Irish based website and app from the Jesuits offers a guided daily prayer based on the scriptures of the day. *Living Space* is the area of the Sacred Space website where you will find commentaries on the daily and Sunday scripture readings.



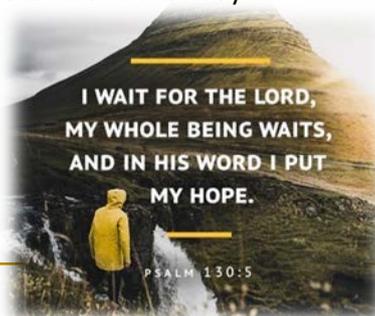
[Pray as you go.org](http://Prayasyougo.org) Another Jesuit website and app based in England. Again it offers the readings of the day with reflections and music (audio available), as well as a suite of other prayer resources and online retreats for different age groups.



Wordonfire.org offers short daily Gospel reflections from Bishop Robert Barron.



ncronline.org, the website of the national Catholic Reporter in the US, offers a daily column, *Pencil Preaching*, with a commentary on the readings each day. Like the Word On Fire reflection, you can sign up to receive this each day.



A Leaving Cert Student's Prayer

Loving God,
I know that you are with me in every
moment of my life.
You constantly care for me and walk with me in
every step I take.

As I prepare for my exams, there are times
when I'm afraid, when I feel alone, when I
worry about what lies ahead.
In those times help me to remember your love
and the love of those around me.
Give me the strength to let go of my worries
and to trust in you
so that I can face each day with hope and
happiness.

As I study, calm my heart that I may feel your
peace. Calm my mind that my thoughts may be
clear. Help me to make the most of my time and
to work to the best of my ability.

As I go onto new things in my life, guide and
direct me that I may be the person you created
me to be.

Bless me, God, today and tomorrow, and bless
my family and friends. Keep each of us safe and
well, now and always. Amen.

Announcement

Triduum of preparation for Pentecost

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan Commission for
Liturgical Formation are delighted to announce three evenings of
preparation for the Feast of Pentecost.

Faith, Hope and Love Living Pentecost Today

Three evenings of prayer, music and reflection
livestreamed from a different church in the diocese each night
at 7:30 pm on Wed 27/05, Thurs 28/05 & Fri 29/05
concluding with Vigil Mass for Pentecost Sunday
live from Carlow Cathedral, led by Bishop Denis.

More details to follow

Prayer For Use in the Rosary from Pope Francis

First Prayer

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

*We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*



Rosary Prayer Two from Pope Francis

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew.

Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

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

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or similar correspondence from Faith Development Services, please contact Christine at fds@kandle.ie

