

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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June 2020



‘We are in this together...’

Bishop Denis issues framework document

On June 9, Bishop Denis issued to every parish a copy of the National Framework Document for a Return to the Public Celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. In his introduction for Kildare and Leighlin, Bishop Denis writes of the phrase, ‘We are in this together’, that “It is an essential stance to take as we acknowledge the need for both personal and collective responsibility in tackling and overcoming this virus.”

Following the document’s outlining of the essential starting points for a parish - initial steps, checklists and liturgical considerations – Bishop Denis states that every parish is to

take the time needed to ensure a safe opening of any church and that no church is to be opened until satisfactory arrangements have been put in place. He goes on to say, “We must not undo the enormous good achieved by the sacrifices we have all made to date.”

Parishes will have much to do in order to be ready to open and to continue to implement the necessary measures locally. Again, we are in this together. Now, more than ever, parishes need a new wave of volunteers to assist in and continue the life of the local faith community.

Each of us should not be afraid to ask of ourselves and of one another – what can I do?



What will we need to consider as we make a return to Mass?

In his homily on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Bishop Denis reminded us of a number of things that we will need to consider as we make our return back to church for Mass. These include the following: how we enter the church; how we make our way to our seat; how we process to communion; how Holy Communion is distributed and how we receive; how we contribute to the Church, its upkeep and different appeals; how we leave.

Places will be limited; a calculated capacity when reached cannot be exceeded. We will need to be patient and kind to one another, especially to our parish volunteers.

The dispensation from Mass still holds so, for now, we might decide to go to Mass on a Monday, or a Tuesday, or a..., spreading out the usual ‘Sunday Congregation’. And, as Bishop Denis said in his homily, going once a week will be more than enough, but if we are any way vulnerable or challenged, we stay at home and continue to join through the webcam.

Every parish will have their own arrangements so make sure to check locally for what is planned.

Diocesan Pastoral Council considers Framework Document and the Council's Five Pastoral Themes



The DPC met with Bishop Denis in a zoom meeting on the evening of June 10. Among its deliberations was the national framework document. Council members expressed unanimous support of the measures recommended in the document and reiterated the need for local volunteers to assist in its implementation.

The Council also discussed practical actions arising from its five named pastoral themes. These themes have emerged through a number of diocesan open meetings held in recent years and the Council's own reflections for the past year. The next step is to bring these themes and actions to a wider consultation in the coming weeks and months.



The **five themes** are: **1.** Sharing the good news of our faith – communicating the Gospel in an ever changing world, being a welcoming Church and engaging our youth **2.** Lifelong faith formation – getting to know the person of Jesus and our Catholic faith **3.** Reaching out and being present to all **4.** Liturgies that lift up our hearts, inspire and energise us in our efforts to lead a more Christian life / making liturgy more life giving **5.** Animating and supporting parishes in responding to a changing reality and greater involvement.

Resources for Baptism Preparation available on Kandle.ie

A suite of resources for baptism has recently been uploaded to the home page of our diocesan website, kandle.ie. This is an initiative of the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation. Mindful, in these days, of the extra challenges facing parishes, parish baptism teams and families with children for baptism, it is hoped that these resources will be of both practical and spiritual use for all involved.

The following **resources** are included:

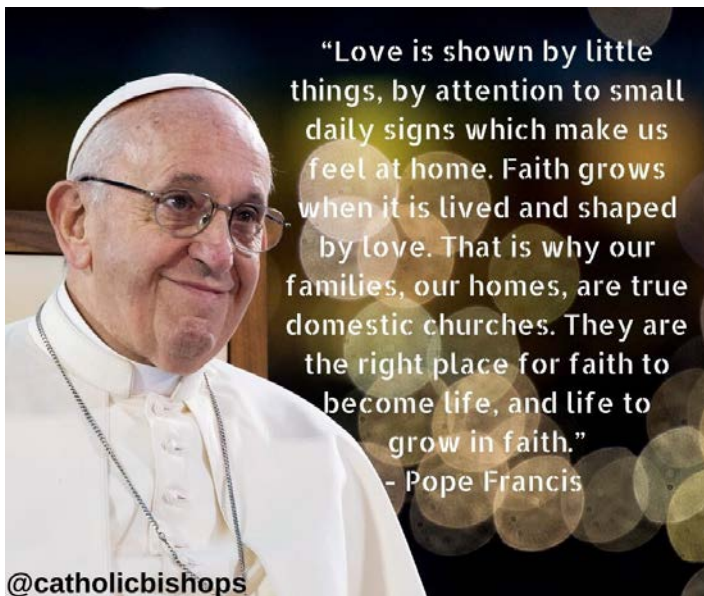
- + A Youtube link to a 6 minute video from the Archdiocese of Brisbane on the celebration of baptism
- + What happens at baptism – a four page leaflet that walks through the ceremony and explains the meaning behind what is happening
- + K&L Guide to Baptism (English)
- + K&L Guide to Baptism (Polish)
- + A Word about Godparents
- + Checklist for Families

Parishes and Parish Baptism Team contacts have also received in recent days a working document, ***Thinking our way back***, which is being offered to support a local conversation about how baptism preparation and baptism might take place locally in the context of COVID-19.

We have included the prayer for families from the K&L Guide to Baptism here. It is a short and simple prayer that every household is invited to take up and make a part of their family prayer time together.

Loving God,
we ask your blessing on our family.
Watch over us and guide us.
Make our home a place of love and safety,
a place of peace and joy,
a place where we grow in faith together.
Amen





Does your parish have webcam, a website, parish app or parish Youtube channel?
Is it active on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram?



If you don't know the answer to either of these questions, perhaps now is the time to find out.

Check out the ways in which you can see what is happening in your parish.

URGENT: RETURN YOUR BOX DONATION

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, people have been unable to return their Trócaire boxes in the usual way. These donations are urgently needed by Trócaire to carry out their life-saving work.

Here's how you can return your box donation



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Or check with your local parish
for the safest way to return it.

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Kildare and Leighlin Sings 'A Hymn of Hope'

An Invitation to Church singers & choir members across the diocese
to be part of a virtual recording

At the invitation and choice of Bishop Denis, Fr Liam Lawton is co-ordinating the virtual recording of a well-known and much loved hymn, The Cloud's Veil.

The **Kildare & Leighlin Virtual Choir** provides an opportunity for Singers and Choirs from all over the Diocese to sing together on a recording, allowing people to use their skills and talents while continuing to give joy and encouragement to people during this time of Lock-down and especially at a time when Choirs etc are not able to function.

If interested, all the information you need is on kandle.ie/kildare-and-leighlin-sings-a-hymn-of-hope Your video recording must be uploaded **on June 26th, not before or after**, so you still have plenty of time to make your preparations! **Please spread the word among choir members ASAP.**

A Prayer for the Year of Laudato Si

Loving God,
Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.
Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.

Be present to those in need in these difficult times,
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.
Help us to show creative solidarity
as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.
Make us courageous in embracing
the changes required to seek the common good.
Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to succeed in listening and responding
to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

We pray through Christ our Lord,
under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians. Amen.



Pope announces Year of Laudato Si

The encyclical, *Laudato Si* (a letter from Pope Francis on care for our common home), was first published on May 24, 2015, on the eve of the U.N. World Conference on Climate Change.

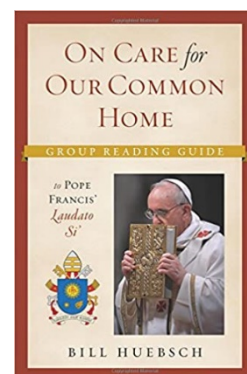
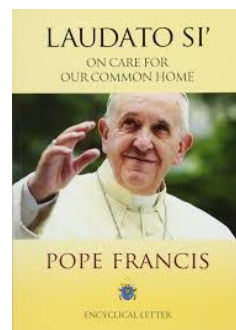
In May 2020, on the 5th anniversary of its publication and following a week of events, Pope Francis announced a **Year of Laudato Si**.

This dedicated year of reflection highlights Pope Francis' focus on the intimate link between the protection of nature and of human life, which are central themes in "Laudato Si'." The reality of the interconnectedness of everything in the world which is at the heart of the Pope's message has been demonstrated in the COVID-19 pandemic and our necessary response to it. This year is a call to all of us as individuals, families and faith communities to **prayer, reflection and action**.



Thinking of an autumn (zoom?) book club in the parish and wondering about a book you might read? Why not try this for a start?

There are group study guides available such as the one shown here and at Trócaire.org.



Parish Resources for Exploring and Acting on Climate Justice

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Check out the many useful resources available from Trócaire
<https://www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes/climate-justice-parish-resources>

www.ecocongregationireland.com offers wonderful supports and initiatives to parishes who want to take positive actions locally, including an environmental check up for your parish. A parish can also work with them to gain an eco-parish award.

