

## **Farewell Message**

To the friends and supporters of St. Mary's Cathedral  
and the good people of  
**St. Mary's Parish**

The vocation to the ministerial priesthood is both a gift and a privilege. It is a time to serve. Specifically, it is a call to serve the people of God that His Kingdom might be realised in their lives, in their families and communities.

For more than forty years, it has been my privilege and joy to be at the service of God's people I have been called to serve. Over the many years it has involved adjusting to ever changing circumstances and challenges. Since my return to the Diocese in September 1983, it has required me to trust in the discernment of the Bishop as he seeks to shepherd the people of Ossory.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> I take up a new appointment to serve as Parish Priest in Freshford. For me, it marks a new beginning. These past weeks, since I learned of the appointment to Freshford have given me the opportunity to reflect on the past years as Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral.

When Bishop Séamus invited me to share his vision and work with him to help realise that vision, I was both humbled and honoured. During that time together we navigated our way through many "storms". At a minimum one can say that they were turbulent times for many reasons. Nevertheless, much was accomplished and achieved through the support of the many generous people across the diocese. When we enter the Cathedral today, our eyes and hearts are uplifted and we feel proud of the work completed and most thankful to all our benefactors.

My time as Administrator has been blessed by the wonderful group of parishioners and volunteers who have contributed so generously of their time to create a genuine faith filled community and team who sought to be of service to people. I am immensely grateful for their support and good humour, which made this a happy space and place in which to be involved and minister.

Míle Buíochas.

Let us continue to be mindful of one another in our thoughts and in our prayer.

**Monsignor Kieron**

September 2018