

**St. Mary's Cathedral**  
**14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Recently Deceased**

Bill Murphy, Stephen Street.

**Anniversaries**

11-Joe Butler, St. Teresa's Terrace,  
Gerry and Paddy Malone,  
Tom, Milo and Eily Mullaly, Kilcreene.

5.30-Kitty Egan, Rothe Terrace.

Eileen Flynn.

**Did you know?**

There is a great Facebook page called *St. Mary's Parish*. Check it out.

**Lenten Offering**

Envelopes are now ready for distribution. Thanks to all who contribute regularly to the Cathedral and also to those who assist in distributing the envelopes.

**Easter Cards**

Easter Mass Bouquet Cards and Mass Cards are available in the Parish Office. A tridium of Masses will be celebrated in St Mary's Cathedral in the week after Easter for all who wish to be remembered. The Shared Mass Bouquet Card cost €1 and a donation of €3 will be given to the priest.

**Website Donate Button**

A word of thanks and appreciation to those who have used the Donate button on the website to support St. Mary's Cathedral Parish. We encourage others to use this facility to financially support the Parish and Cathedral at this time.

**St Patrick's Day**

Mass on St Patrick's Day will be at 11am and 5.30pm.

**Lent in the Diocese**

Details of the Faith Development Lenten Programme are available on the notice board of the Cathedral and on the Website: Thought for the Day; Sundays of Lent, Lectio Divina, Lenten Texts and Tweets, Online Resources.

**Trocaire**

Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. Families like Awut and Ajak's in South Sudan need your support now more than ever. "I want to thank Trocaire very much. You really saved me and my children's lives. If it wasn't for your support now we would not even be here smiling. God bless you" said Madris. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion. **The wonderful work of Trocaire would not happen without you.**

**Cathedral Monthly Draw**

Thanks to all who continue to support the Monthly Draw in aid of the Restoration of the Cathedral.

**Please note the following:**

**Parish Office Hours:** In accordance with Government Guidelines the Parish Office will remain closed at this time. Please contact Fr Scriven.

**Funerals in Church:** 10 people are now allowed to attend funerals in accordance with government guidelines

**Celebration of Baptisms:** There will be no celebration of Baptisms at this time.

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** Confirmation will take place later in the year; date to be confirmed.

**Kilkenny Bereavement Support**

Contact the Kilkenny Bereavement Support group: phone 056-7756538, or, [director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com](mailto:director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com).

**Important message from An Garda**

**Síochána Crime Prevention Unit**

Gardaí are receiving an ever increasing number of complaints in relation to fraudulent and illegal scams. The scams can come in the form of texts, emails, telephone calls to your mobile or landline or even through social media. They can be difficult to spot as the correspondence claims to come from a reputable organisation such as your bank, card issuer or even a government department such as Revenue.

**Bishops Announce a National Synod**

Acutely aware of the huge challenges to the faith over the past fifty years, appalled by the shocking revelations of institutional and clerical abuse, hearing a cry for greater participation and accountability in the Church and the challenge to rediscover the 'Domestic Church' the National Conference of Bishops announced a National Synod in Ireland. The Synod will be an opportunity for the whole church to walk together and to navigate a map for the church as it embraces the future. It will be about 'finding the best ways for every baptized person to fulfil the Church's mission of proclaiming to the world, God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ'.

In June the bishops intend to establish a task group of lay women and men, including young people, religious, priests and bishops to plan and oversee the first steps along the synodal pathway.

**Preparing for the Sacraments – Virtually.**

Bishop Denis Nulty invites parents and children preparing to celebrate the Sacraments later this year to a virtual gathering to explore the importance of preparing to celebrate the Sacraments. Sacramental Theologian Mgr Liam Bergin, a priest of our diocese and lecturer in Boston College, will lead parents in our parishes on a reflection of the importance of preparation, on Monday 22nd March 2021, at 7.30pm. Registration will be available on the Ossory website.

**Bishops Appeal to Government**

The Irish bishops are calling for people to be allowed to attend public worship as soon as the country eases its COVID-19 lockdown. "We strongly believe that people's freedom to worship publicly should be restored as soon as the current Level 5 restrictions begin to be eased. It is particularly painful for Christians to be deprived, for the second year running, of the public expression of our faith during Holy Week and Easter."

Ireland's four archbishops met with Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin on Feb. 19 to discuss the restrictions and how they have impacted on religious life and in reply Mr Martin said he would give "consideration" to the views of the archbishops and "agreed to maintain dialogue as the situation evolves." In the statement this week the bishops said, despite these assurances from the government, they "note with disappointment that none of the issues raised has been responded to." The bishops requested of the government that the easing of restrictions from Level 5 should include the restoration of public worship, "albeit in a safe and limited" manner; and that the number of mourners permitted at funeral services be increased, "with immediate effect," noting that in Northern Ireland this number has not been reduced below 25.

**St. Mary's Cathedral Kilkenny**

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*Going the extra mile to polish  
a jewel*