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30th August 2021.

By Email.

Dear Father,

Yesterday at Mass in the Capuchin Friary I spoke to the reality we are all facing - that of a slow return to public worship. Parishes are wondering how it is that we can welcome people back. The solution is not, in my opinion, to reintroduce the obligation. That would be a missed opportunity. It's a return to understanding our Baptismal calling and the responsibility that comes out of that calling. Teaching people, reminding people, re-educating people as to why Sunday is so special that they will want to go to Mass, rather than feel compelled to attend Mass, is key. A Sunday without giving God time is a Sunday less well spent; it is a Sunday yet again where we have failed to take possession of the land, the space, the holy ground that God is offering us - to recall a wonderful line from the first reading of yesterday's Mass.

To help in this process I am inviting all our parishes to reflect in the month of September on how the parish can be supported to be more welcoming to those who are slower to return to regular worship - our brothers, our sisters, our sons, our daughters, our grandchildren, our friends.

I want to invite people to write to me or email me their thoughts, their ideas. A resource supporting this invitation is attached to this letter and will also be made available on the Diocesan Website. Might I ask you to draw attention to this next weekend, and in the weeks ahead.

With continued prayers for your ministry to, and care of, the people of this Diocese.

Yours sincerely,

Bishop Denis Nulty,
Apostolic Administrator, Ossory.