



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

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11th February 2024 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Thought...

Sacramental preparation is well and truly under way in our schools. I had met the parents in Presentation Primary and CBS Primary schools and this past week I met with the parents of the students in Mother of Fair Love. It is wonderful to see the energy and excitement that the teachers and principals of our schools bring to helping to prepare the children to celebrate the Sacraments – and for that I thank them. On Friday last we welcomed all the children preparing for Confirmation from the three schools to Mass as they enrolled in their ceremony of commitment – promising to prepare, as best they can, to celebrate later in the year. It is always heartening to see the smiles on the faces of the daily Mass goers as they welcome the disruption of all these young people who come into our celebration – they are the future generation, and as previous generations brought us to God we now, in our turn, must try to do the same. Please pray for them and their families in the weeks ahead.

Fr Dermot

Please remember the following in your prayers

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

11am Elizabeth (Betty) O'Rourke, Blackmill Street; Teresa McGrath, Friary Street; Sean Jones, Beech Park; Edel and Thomas Burke, Dean Cavanagh Place; J.J. Murphy, Rushbrook; Catherine Brannigan, Granges Road.

And for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

Eileen Cummins, Paddy O'Brien, John Delaney, John Ryan, Fr Philip Ryan, and Patrick Ryan.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €160.00; Baskets €933.00. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

Easter Celebration on RTE

This week we meet with the producers from RTE who will help to plan the Easter ceremonies to be broadcast from here. Thanks to all who are helping out – with the liturgies; the readings, the songs and so much more... many are busy preparing.

John Paul II Awards

Gemma Mulligan, the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator, has helped relaunch the John Paul II awards here in the Diocese. This is a national award recognising the involvement of teenagers in their parish communities and Church. It is a wonderful initiative. If there are TY students from the parish who would like to be part of this - know that we will support and encourage you fully

in the parish in any way that we can. Tell your school that you would like to be part of this and let us know too.

Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The annual Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 is now available to book! The departure will take place on 22nd May 2024 from Cork flying direct to Lourdes with accommodation available in the hotels La Solitude, Padoue or Agena. With capacity limited this year, it is strongly advised that pilgrims wishing to travel to Lourdes book as soon as possible. Should you require any additional information on the Pilgrimage, please do not hesitate to contact us: info@joewalshstours.ie or 01 241 0800. Assisted pilgrims should contact Fr Anthony O'Connor on 087 251 7766 or by email on maoc50@me.com.

Pilgrimage of Art to Tuscany

Later this week a group of 50 from our Diocese will travel to Tuscany to visit the many wonderful Cathedrals and Churches and art galleries that this region of Italy is lucky to hold. The pilgrims will explore their faith through some of the most famous pieces of art our world is blessed to have seen. May they all travel safely.

St Valentine and Lent - mixed messages

This week we celebrate the feast of St Valentine, and traditionally it is a celebration of the importance of love – we hold then in our prayers all those couples in our parish. Those new couples and those lifelong friends – may the Lord continue to gift you all.

On the same day we start the Season of Lent.. It is also Ash Wednesday the beginning of our journey towards Easter. Be it ashes or flowers, or both – don't forget to mark these moments.

Preparation for Marriage Courses 2024

Preparing for Marriage? Weekend residential courses available. 26-28 April and 20-22 September 2024. Details: www.grasta.org or at info@grasta.org

Caring for Someone

Are you caring for a loved one at home with additional needs? A spouse, partner, child, close relative or neighbour? Then you are a family carer! Become a member of Family Carers Ireland, the national charity supporting Ireland's 500,000+ family carers nationwide. Contact 057 93 70221 and hear how we can support you or for more info visit www.familycarers.ie

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:

Sr Betty Cagney

If you, or anyone you know, has a Safeguarding concern please contact:

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding and Designated Liaison Person, DLP, Ailish Higgins at 087 8021633

TUSLA: Kilkenny 052 6177302; Laois/Offaly 044 9353997; Waterford 053 9198201

An Garda Síochána: 1800 555 222 or your local Garda Station

Towards Healing Helpline: 1800 313416 www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace Helpline: 01 5053028 www.towardspeace.ie

Please consult the Diocesan website (www.ossory.ie) for all relevant documents and diocesan policies.

Invite your family members to support the Cathedral **FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL** at www.stmaryscathedral.ie/friends