



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Parish Office: St Mary's Cathedral, James's Street, Kilkenny

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18th February 2024 – First Sunday of Lent

A Thought...

Lent, which we began last Wednesday, is the very old tradition of recalling the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert before undertaking his public ministry. By observing these days Christians have prepared themselves, throughout the years, to celebrate the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Easter: the most sacred of times in our faith's tradition. The practice of fasting from food for spiritual reasons is, in fact, to be found in all three largest Abrahamic faiths: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. In all three of these faiths, refraining from eating is deeply connected with an additional focus on prayer, and the practice of assisting the poor by giving alms or donating food. So we are not alone with this practice. In fact, it unites us not only to Christ but to other faith traditions - it is good to pray, to fast and to give to others. May we do so well this year...

Fr Dermot

Please remember the following in your prayers

Anniversaries

- 11am Anna and Cyril Keegan, St. Francis Terrace.
Sean Cantwell who died recently.
- 5.30 Marian Chochla who died recently.

And for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

John Delaney, Michael Blanchfield, Sadie and Therese McGrath, Seamus Culleton, Rita, John and Patrick Hillman, Jim Cody, Martin Dermody.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €575.00; Baskets 1334.07. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

Lenten Offering

The Lenten Envelopes are available for distribution at this time. Thanks to all who distribute them throughout the parish and to all who contribute so generously.

John Paul II Awards

This past weekend the first young person approached the parish to undertake the John Paul II award here. Isn't it wonderful to see someone young volunteering in their faith community - our future is bright. Well done to her and we look forward to making her, and others, so welcome as they work towards that award.

Easter Celebration on RTE

This past week we met with the producers from RTE who are helping us 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.

Lent Programme

Please take a look at the notice boards at the back of the cathedral for details on the many offerings of the Faith Development Group for us all for Lent. Feel free to drop into any of them - they are open to all.

The Trocaire Box

You will notice the large Trócaire box at the front of the Church. This tradition was first launched by the Irish Bishops in 1973 as a means of encouraging and facilitating families to give what extra they had to those who are poorest in our world. It is a beautiful Lenten tradition - which of us from our childhood doesn't remember them at home; bringing them from school or lifting them periodically to see how heavy it was getting. Please help continue that wonderful tradition of our caring for those who need it most. Take a Trócaire box home from the church this Lent. You can return it after Easter.

Trócaire in our Parish

On the first weekend of March we will host a series of small events for Trócaire in the Cathedral Parish. We will have a pizza and Taize prayer night for young people, we will hold a coffee morning for all, and we will have a speaker at Mass in March to explain much of the good work that Trócaire do. More details as we get closer to that time.

City Retreat

You will see a poster at the back of the church for a City Retreat. We are asking the four City parishes to come together on one of the weeks of Lent for a few simple nights of prayer. The first night will be led by Fr Billy Swan of Wexford on the topics Faith, Hope and Love and then Bishop Niall will lead us all in a Lenten Penitential Service on the last night. Try to make this week part of your Lenten journey.

Training for Ministry

A sincere thank you to our current and new Ministers of the Word and Eucharist who will all be undertaking programmes of formation or training during Lent. It is wonderful to see their dedication to their service of others in our parish.

St Mary's Day Care Centre - Vacancy for Chiropodist

Person will be required to work one day per week. Interested applicants can contact: The Secretary, St Mary's Day Care Centre, Haughney Green, Gaol Road, Kilkenny or email stmaryshousingdcc@gmail.com

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