



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

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

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3rd March 2024 – Third Sunday of Lent

A Thought...

The Church is a massive institution... People are right the Church is a worldwide institution, but it is also true to say the Church is the face of each one of its members. In 1973 the Irish Church established Trócaire as a means to work to care for the poorest in our world. Trócaire is the Irish word for "compassion" and for 50 years Trócaire has put the compassion of Irish people into concrete actions in so many parts of our world. Those who work for, and volunteer with, Trócaire are our hands and arms reaching out to people and places that need it most. This weekend we reflected on that work with younger members of our parish and again on Saturday at our coffee morning. A display will remain in the Chapter House of the work they do - why not drop in when you are passing to see it for yourself. In the weeks ahead someone will tell us of this work at our Masses - more on that later.

Fr Dermot

Please remember the following in your prayers

Recently Deceased

Sean Magner, Duke's Meadows and Essex.

Anniversaries

11am Adrian Harkin, Rose Inn Street, Michael Cahill, Esther and Larry McDonald.

5.30 Breda Byrne, Dean Cavanagh Place.

And for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

Carol Funcheon.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €372.00; Baskets €1176.28. 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.

Young people in our Parish – Altar Servers & John Paul II Awards

We need not be reminded that you are the future of faith. Our task is to hand on the faith to you in ways that are credible – why not volunteer for the John Paul II Awards if you are in TY; become an Altar Server if you are in 3rd to 6th Class

Thanks

Recently Michael Kelly who was helping out here in the Cathedral with caretaking has decided to step back from this work and to return to education. We are delighted that Michael has decided to do that and we are most grateful to him for all his help in the months that he was here. He will be missed but an exciting new possibility awaits - we wish him every blessing...

Easter Ceremonies

As you are aware this Easter RTE will broadcast the Easter Ceremonies from our Cathedral, live on Good Friday at 3pm and for the Easter Vigil at 11pm on Holy Saturday night. Again, we thank all those who are working to prepare for these celebrations. We are delighted that the people of St Canice's Parish have opted to join us for the Vigil on that night. We will make them welcome. We will also be joined by the Dominicans and the Capuchins. These promise to be special celebrations - resist the temptation to sit and watch them from home. Please come to join us.

Confirmation

Some months back we started the preparation for Confirmation and it is amazing to now realise that these celebrations are just three short weeks away. On Friday 22nd March the students from Mother of Fair Love, Presentation Primary and CBS Primary will all come together with Bishop Niall for the celebration of that special Sacrament. In advance of that we will have the Ceremony of Light for them and Confession, and no doubt countless practices... we will want to be right on the day! We wish the students preparing, and their families, the very best in these final weeks.

Altar Pieces

You may recall the wonderful altar pieces that adorned the old Kilkenny Marble altar that was in the Cathedral. These were commissioned, when the altar was first installed, from the Irish Artist Edward Delaney. We are delighted to be displaying them once more. They are to be hung in the Sacristy Corridor. These pieces depict scenes from the Bible and they are most beautiful - make sure to call in to see them.

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.

Mother of Fair Love Parents Association are holding a fundraising clothes collection on 7th March 2024. Bags can be dropped to Mother of Fair Love School, James's Street any day from 9-3 up until 7th March.

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