

PARISH CENTRE: 22229/22779; CATHEDRAL PRESBYTERY: 22505;
BÓTHAR NA NAOMH PRESBYTERY: 22688.
PARISH CENTRE MOBILE NUMBER: 085 8819575
WEBSITE: www.thurlesparish.ie email: parishcentre@thurlesparish.ie

2021 Easter Greetings from Thurles Parish Pastoral Council

'The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.' (Cardinal Basil Hume)

As we celebrate the passion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, Thurles Parish Pastoral Council wish to take this time to send you all our heartfelt Easter Greetings and pray every blessing on you and your loved ones. The usual celebration and ritual of Easter is yet again impacted by this current reality of Covid 19. We look forward with hope to when we can once again return to our churches and celebrate our faith together as one family in Christ.

We are reminded of how much the communal celebration of our faith enriches our lives as a Parish, and the on-line spiritual presence of a community connection is enriching. Although we may be in isolation watching in our homes, the sense of connection with the familiar faces and voices has been uplifting each morning. We thank you all for your work in this.

Easter is a time of hope! After going through the dark and difficult days of Holy Week and Good Friday, when Jesus was left alone and isolated, the breaking open of the tomb and the joy of the resurrection changes everything. Fear and despair are replaced with joy and hope for the future.

A heartfelt thanks you to everyone continuing to play their part within this pandemic. Thank you to all our Parish and community volunteers who are reaching out and helping the most vulnerable in our society. The qualities of generosity, compassion and innovation are really to the fore.

We are very mindful of the bereaved in our community, and the palpable loss of familiar community and church support for funerals and services, which is unique to this time. Our heartfelt condolences and support are extended to you, and our gratitude to local undertakers who are compassionately supporting families.

May you all have a peaceful and hope filled Easter. May all of you and your families remain safe and well in these uncertain times.

'And when we come to search for God, let us first be robed in night. Put on the mind of morning to feel the rush of light spread slowly inside. The colour and stillness of a found world.' (John O' Donohue)

EASTER CLERGY COLLECTION: Is scheduled to take place this weekend, April 4th.

The money collected in each parish goes to a central diocesan fund from which all priests are paid. Jim, Joe and Vincent say *'thank you'* for your continued support on behalf of all the Priests of the Archdiocese. During these difficult times we understand if you cannot contribute towards the Clergy Collection.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed daily on the main altar in the Cathedral, **Monday – Sunday incl., after 11.00 a.m. Mass until 5.00 p.m.**

EASTER RAFFLE: Sincere thanks to all who supported our Easter Raffle. Total raised: **€2,340.00.**

ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY NOVENA: The Sunday after Easter Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. The traditional Divine Mercy Novena of Chaplets will be live-streamed (www.thurlesparish.ie) from Bóthar na Naomh Church @ 3 pm each day leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday. The Novena starts on Good Friday at the slightly later time of 4.15 pm due to the Passion ceremony. Please join us for this wonderful devotion which celebrates the great mercy of God revealed to us at Easter.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday, 11.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Closed for lunch 1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m. **Parish Office will re-open next Wednesday April 7th.**

PARISH NEWSLETTER: May be accessed on the parish website under the Heading 'Newsletter' on the home page.

WEEKLY ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTION: We are very grateful for your Weekly Offertory Contributions - **€2,150.00** received. **Donation Boxes for the Weekly Offertory Collection are placed around the Cathedral and Bóthar na Naomh Church.**

TRÓCAIRE: Trócaire Boxes may be returned to the Parish Office. Thank you.

VISITING OF THE SICK & FIRST FRIDAY CALLS: First Friday house visits and other pastoral house visits have ceased except in the case of emergency.

HOLY WATER: If you need Holy Water please bring your container, filled with water to the Parish Centre for blessing.

HOPE OF HOPE: An hour for you, within these Covid times, to experience the pathway to calm, gratitude, togetherness and hope in your life, through time out for listening, prayer, reflection and song. We invite you to join Marianne Dwyer and Fr. Jim Purcell on-line in the Sacred Surroundings of the Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles on Friday April 16th from 8pm – 9pm. The link is www.thurlesparish.ie.

COVID-19 LEVEL 5 RESTRICTIONS:

- **Religious services will be online only – Cathedral daily (Monday – Sunday) in the Cathedral at 11.00 a.m. & 7.00 p.m. and Bóthar na Naomh Church every Sunday at 9.00 a.m. Churches will remain open for private prayer.**
- **Confessions will not take place until further notice.**
- **Weddings: Up to 6 guests are permitted to attend a wedding ceremony.**
- **Funerals: Up to 10 mourners can attend the Funeral Mass. People not attending the Funeral Mass are asked to avoid congregating immediately outside the church building or around the hearse. For the sake of the great majority trying to keep to the public health guidelines, we ask people, difficult as it is, not to approach the bereaved in the church grounds or cemetery to sympathize.**
- **Baptisms will take place at the following times: Cathedral Saturdays @ 6.00 p.m.; Sundays after 11.00 a.m. Mass. Bóthar na Naomh Church Sundays after 9.00 a.m. Mass. Maximum of 6 people (incl. parents) allowed. Contact Parish Office for booking and further details.**
- **Travel: We must stay within a radius of 5km unless we need to leave for essential purposes which include: To attend a wedding or a funeral; to visit a grave.**
- **Wearing of face coverings is expected when visiting the Cathedral or Bóthar na Naomh Church. (It is understood that for medical reasons some people may not be able to comply with this request.)**

NEWLY BAPTISED: *Páidí Liam Collins, Borrisoleigh.

RECENTLY DECEASED: †Michael (Stabby) Stapleton, Kennedy Park, formerly St. Ita's Terrace, Bohernanave. †Teresa Coffey, Lower Main Street, Borrisoleigh. †Ruth Butler Oak Rd, Dukesmeadows, Kilkenny. †Dermot John Daly, Cahir, formerly Monadreen. †Frances Brody, Ruan, Co. Clare.

May They Rest in Peace

"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies".

HAPPY EASTER!