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CATHEDRAL RE-OPENING FOR DAILY MASSES:

Daily masses are now underway, and we warmly welcome all parishioners back. While it is a 'new normal', it is a great feeling for priests and parishioners, sacristans, stewards, ministers and all involved to re-connect. And we extend our gratitude to each of the sacristans in particular, who carry out their extended roles in these times, with such care and consideration for everybody entering the Cathedral.

Just a brief reminder to all:

The Cathedral of the Assumption is open to the public for two masses and these are streamed live at 11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. every day, including Sunday. We encourage people to come to Mass once weekly, come during the week to avoid big numbers at the weekend. You fulfil your obligation to attend Mass in these times by attending any Mass during the week. Communion can only be distributed on the hands in line with current Covid-19 Guidelines.

The provision of the two mass times allows for the sanitisation of the Cathedral in provision of a safe environment.

The capacity of the Cathedral is now **150 people**, and this is possible with certain criteria in place:

Adherence to social distancing guidelines is paramount, as is hand hygiene measures.

Clear distinct zones with not more than 50 people in each area is advised under updated protocols. There is strictly to be no movement of people between zones, before, during or after services. These zones are clearly cordoned off within the Cathedral –:

Zone A, the centre aisles of the Cathedral, will be accessed through the main middle door, and exit point is through the same door.

Zone B - The Bishops palace, Our Lady's altar side will be accessed through the front right entrance and exit point will be the side door leading into Arch-Bishop's Kieran's grounds.

Zone C - the Sacred Heart altar side will be accessed through the front left entrance, and the exit point will be side door at the Sacred Heart altar, by the Ursuline buildings.

The staggered exits are to facilitate ease of movement and to avoid overcrowding outside. We would like to remind people to **sit on the X**, as these are clearly marked for social distancing. It is ok for families to sit alongside each other in the pews. Also, a gentle reminder that face coverings are now strongly recommended for indoor settings.

Bóthar na Naomh Church will continue to be available for private prayer and will be open from 9.00 a.m. to the extended time of 2.00 p.m. daily. The Cathedral will continue to open for private prayer, remaining open after 11.00 a.m. Mass extended now to 5.00 pm. It will reopen for 7.00 p.m. Mass. The closure at 5.00 p.m. is to facilitate sanitising of the building prior to Mass. Please note that Section A, the central aisles are the allocated section for private prayer, accessed and exited through the main entrance.

Thank you to all for your continued patience and co-operation as these uncertain times continue.

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

BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism has now resumed. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

CONFESSIONS: Cathedral every Saturday 2.30 – 3.30 p.m. (with social distancing in place).

FOR OUR STREAMING SERVICE ON-LINE www.thurlesparish.ie or Google **twitch** → **thurles parish live**- this link will bring you directly to the live stream. **Radio transmission also at 11.00 a.m.** Please tune in to local radio and our website for updates.

LIVE STREAM & DAILY RADIO TRANSMISSION

DAILY MASSES (incl. weekends): 11.00 a.m. & 7.00 p.m.

PALLOTTINE COLLEGE CHAPEL: Mass has resumed at 10.00 a.m. daily. Maximum capacity: **36**.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office is now open to the public Monday – Friday, 11.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. (closed for lunch 1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.).

ALONE COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE: 0818 222 024, is open Monday to Friday, 8.00a.m.- 8.00p.m. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

TIPPERARY CO. COUNCIL COVID RESPONSE CONTACT NO: 0761 065000.

ASCEND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE, NORTH TIPPERARY: If you or someone you know is experiencing Domestic Abuse, help is available. Please call 0505 23999 or 087 950 1299 (Mon- Fri 9am - 5pm).

AUGUST CLERGY COLLECTION: Is scheduled to take place next weekend, **1st/2nd August 2020**. The money collected in each parish goes to a central diocesan fund from which all the priests are paid. Jim, Joe & Vincent say 'thank you' for your continued support on behalf of the Priests of the Archdiocese. We greatly appreciate your generosity – however we understand if you are unable to contribute during these difficult times.

WEEKLY ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTION: We are very grateful for your Weekly Offertory Contributions - **€2,470.00** received, which benefits the upkeep and maintenance (e.g. heat and light for the streaming of our daily Mass) of our Churches. **There are no Collection Bags during these times of Covid Restriction. Donation Boxes for the Weekly Offertory Collection are placed around the Cathedral.** We appreciate your goodwill and generosity when you have so many demands on you and your families. Many thanks.

CONFIRMATION CEREMONIES 2020

The young people from our Parish Schools will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Cathedral of the Assumption on the following dates:

Thursday August 20th, **10.00 a.m.:** Rahealty N.S.

Thursday August 20th, **1.00 p.m.:** Scoil Angela Ursuline Primary School.

Friday August 21st, **10.00 a.m.:** Gaelscoil Bhríde.

Friday August 21st, **1.00 p.m.:** Presentation Primary School.

Saturday August 22nd, **10.00 a.m.:** Scoil Ailbhe C.B.S. Primary School.

Saturday August 22nd, **1.00 p.m.:** Scoil Ailbhe C.B.S. Primary School.

For the confirmation ceremonies only the young person for Confirmation, One Sponsor and the Parents/Guardians may attend. Thank you for being so understanding during these times of restriction due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

NEWLY BAPTISED: *Ava Kate Butler, Derheen. *Aoife Marie Ryan, Caislean Cuirt.

RECENTLY DECEASED: †Liam Fayne, Butler Avenue. †Aaron Hennessy, Mount George, Borrisoleigh.

May they Rest in Peace.