

# PARISH NEWSLETTER



Third Sunday of Easter

26<sup>th</sup>. April 2020

PARISH CENTRE

Opening hours from: Closed for the moment.

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## Thought for the week

### A Coronavirus Prayer



Loving and healing God, we, the people of Kildare & Leighlin turn to you in prayer, confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts. *Generous God*, fill

us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families. May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace. Comfort their family and friends. Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick and all who work in our medical facilities. Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people. We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe. *O God of creation and life*, we place ourselves in your protection. May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow.

St Brigid, pray for us.

St Conleth, pray for us.

St Lazerian, pray for us.

May all the saints of God, pray for us. Amen.



Have a Wonderful Week

## 'Doubting Thomas!'

Poor Thomas! Since this amazing event took place, Thomas has been renamed 'doubting Thomas!' And maybe we too quickly dismiss him for this doubting and apparent lack of faith. But on the other hand, he is really a very good role model for all us for genuine seeing and believing. Our faith and believing ultimately cannot be based on hearsay, blind acceptance or what others have seen and believed, valid as this may be for them. Our believing during this Easter season and our whole life must be grounded in a deep and personal encounter with Christ. The life of the risen Jesus is now within us and helps us to put aside our fears and doubts so that we can experience his peace, which is his gift to us and the whole church. The resurrection not only changed the world, it made all the difference in the world! Fear is overcome by peace; doubt is transformed into a great acclamation of faith and sin is defeated by forgiveness. Today let us like Thomas reach out in faith to the risen Christ and offer our prayer in faith and hope; My Lord and my God.



*"You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognise the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope." Thomas Merton*

## Contribution to Parish

These are very challenging times for all of us spiritually, emotionally and financially. While we are having no public mass, the parish is not receiving any income from the normal church collections. We still have a lot of bills that need to be paid. We would suggest that each weekend you would use your weekly envelope, keep it in a safe place in your house and when restrictions are eased, we will organise some way of collecting these envelopes. Stay safe and mind yourselves.



During these extraordinary times we are called to look out for each other and care for one another. Our first concern is for the vulnerable among us and the lonely. We have already seen and, in the days ahead we will continue to see, the incredible depth of practical love and concern demonstrated by so many people across our diocese and our country. May we be ever grateful for the witness of solidarity and compassion unfolding in our midst.

## First Holy Communion & Confirmation

I am very aware that we are entering the 'high season' for First Holy Communion ceremonies. I am also conscious that 39 out of our 56 parishes have not yet celebrated Confirmation. In honesty it is difficult to see a huge change post the current restrictions, which expire on May 5th. With that in mind, as First Holy Communion ceremonies are already diaried for the weekends of May, I suggest they, like Confirmation ceremonies are now postponed until we get further guidance regarding large public gatherings. I want to thank our Principals and teachers for the great work they do in helping prepare our young people for the sacraments, work done in cooperation with the local parish and the families of the young people. I also thank Maeve Mahon, our Coordinator for Primary Education. This is a hugely regretful decision but it is important that while the ceremonies may be postponed, the preparation continues. In early May resources will be sent out by email from Maeve for parishes and for schools and available to families and the wider community on the kandle website.

**Churches:** It is very much my hope that when the current level of restrictions lift it may be possible to offer limited access to our churches, so that parishioners might be able to call in to pray or light a candle. Obviously social distancing would need to be observed, and plenty of hand sanitisers available. More on this after the current restrictions expire on May 5th.

### COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.