

Letter from Bishop Leahy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
This week is important for the Catholic Church in Ireland. We are hosting the World Meeting of families and welcoming Pope Francis to our shores. Last Wednesday, Feast of the Assumption, I went on pilgrimage together with others from the Diocese to the Mass Rock in Ashford, Kileedy. It was a symbolic gesture to express how the Diocese wants to prepare spiritually for these special days ahead.

At the Mass Rock we reflected on how the Church is at a crossroads, and that, in the light of Pope Francis' visit, we might take three steps. **First, we need to look back and re-read where we've come from and acknowledge our past, good and bad,** and that includes acknowledging the dark aspects of our Church's history that have come to light especially in recent decades.

A second suggestion as we stand at a crossroads with the coming of Pope Francis. Look around us where we are now and be pro-active in repairing the Church today. It really is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. Each of us builds the Church through putting into practice the art of loving the Gospel teaches. Sometimes love is seen only as sentiment or in terms of morality. But love is at the heart of the Church. Indeed, one of the definitions of the Church is "love for one another".

A third suggestion, we need to look to the future with hope, watching for the signposts that show the way. I like a phrase Pope Francis often repeats: "do not let yourselves

be robbed of hope" We need to be both faithful to our heritage and creative in expressing Christian faith and love today. It would be such a shame were we to lose the memory of our Christian heritage. But equally, love makes us creative of new ways. Creative fidelity calls us to be open to new ways. Our Diocesan Synod has indicated ways forward for us.

Pope Francis is the 266th Pope in history and only the second ever to visit Ireland. Of course, he is a human being like all of us, a "sinner" as he defines himself, and yet he is a special person linked particularly to the Holy Spirit, a unique representative of Jesus Christ coming among us to be a healing presence, speaking words of wisdom and offering new horizons. As Catherine of Siena, one of the great women saints of the Church put it, the Pope is the gentle Christ on earth. It is important for us to welcome him by opening our hearts and minds to his words and gestures.

During the three days of the Congress in the RDS, Dublin, some of the speakers and panellists are from Limerick. Some of the parish choirs of the Diocese are singing at the Concluding Mass in the Phoenix Park. Many are travelling to attend the ceremonies either at Knock or Croke Park or the Phoenix Park. It is really encouraging to see how many young families are taking part. For those interested, the Concluding Mass at the Phoenix Park will be relayed on a big screen in St John's Cathedral, beginning at 2pm. Regardless of whether or not we are travelling to Dublin, I invite all of us to be

united in prayer for these important events, in welcoming Pope Francis among us.
Warmest regards, yours sincerely, Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick.

As people from across the country and across the world gather in Dublin today with Pope Francis, we offer a prayer for the Holy Father and for all families: Bless us all with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Protect all families with your loving care. Amen

OFFICIAL PRAYER OF THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES: God, our Father, We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,

One family, in the Spirit of your love.
Bless us with the joy of love.
Make us patient and kind,
gentle and generous,
welcoming to those in need.
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.
Protect all families with your loving care,
Increase our faith,
Strengthen our hope,
Keep us safe in your love,
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord, **Amen**

The Future of the Parish – event open to all Parishioners. Developments in the Diocese of Killaloe involving the Laity - A presentation by Fr Ger Nash followed by discussion in the Parish centre Monday 27th Aug 7.30pm

National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock on Sept 9th A bus will leave outside Salesian Primary School at 9am All welcome, contact Sr Susan 085 7491270. Children's Prayer Appeal to all children to write a prayer for

their Grand's parents. All prayers will be blessed at the Pilgrimage.

St Vincent De Paul collection next weekend Sat/Sun 1st & 2nd September.

PARISH WEBSITE

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C.

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at Church Sacristy Tel: 061 325288

**Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays
09:00-12.30 Sunday**

MASS TIMES: Weekends:

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00

Saturday 09:45

BAPTISMS: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 25 th	18.00	Jim & Lilly Daly (A) Gerald Goodwin (A) Patricia Tarpey (A) Gabrielle Lyons (A)
Sun 26 th	10.00 11.30	Nancy McElligott (A) Jean Guerin (A) Michael Brosnan (A)
Mon 27 th	10.00	
Tue 28 th	10:00	Special intention
Wed 29 th	10.00	Michael Brosnan (A)
Thur 30 th	10:00	
Fri 31 st	10.00	Betty Boylan Rec dec
Sat 1 st	09.45 18.00	Paddy Byrne (1 st A) Ian Cumisky Rem
Sun 2 nd	10.00 11.30	Cathy Deegan (A) Teresa Lynch (A) Maureen o'Connor (A)