

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER DECEMBER



Christmas Message from Bishop Cullinan

We wondered will there be a real Christmas this year ? The answer is of course!

Granted, not the same as we have known - More silent and with more depth, more meaning. More like the first Christmas in Bethlehem, when Jesus was born in solitude, in a stable. Without many lights on earth except overhead the star of Bethlehem shining on paths of life in all its immensity. Without colossal royal processions, but with the humility as if we are shepherds, young and old, seeking the truth.

Like that first Christmas there won't be many people with us, we won't have big numbers around our tables and for many there will be sad absences and empty chairs, but love does not come to an end and I pray that the presence of God born in the stable will fill everything.

Will there be Christmas?

Of course! Without streets overflowing with people but with hearts that can burn for the One who is about to arrive, without noise or festivals, without complaints or stampedesbut waiting for the Mystery of Christmas without fear of the "COVID-Herod" that tries to rob us of joy, COVID Herod who will never be able to reach the heart or the soul.

There will be Christmas because GOD is on our side and because God has come to live with us.

And He shares, as Christ did in a manger, God shares our worries and hopes, our joys and trials, our tears, and all aspects of our lives, because in Jesus Christ He is human.

Will there be Christmas?

Will there be a meaningful Christmas? What is a meaningful Christmas?

Surely a meaningful Christmas happens when we know that no matter what, there is love, there is someone who loves us, even if we do not see them. If we put their hope in Someone who is human and divine, whose mother is Mary and whose father is God the Father and he is born on Christmas day for you and me.

THERE WILL BE CHRISTMAS! We can find happiness. **WE WILL SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS!** For him born in the stable and for ourselves. **GOD is BORN** and brings us joy and hope.

So Happy Christmas to you, I wish you God's blessing of His presence and peace.

+Dionisio Cullinan

(adapted from Fr. Javier Laoz)



Faith @ Home initiative

Faith @ Home is a new resource for parishes which is designed to help parents and families reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings. Every week families will be invited to Hear, Pray and Talk about the Word of God together in their homes with prompts and guidance. You may wish to make it available on your parish website and social media platforms. It is available on our diocesan website for download.



Join us as we prepare for the birth of Baby Jesus with:

- "Into the Deep" Nativity Story
- Arts & Crafts
- Christmas Carols
- Sweet Treats to make!

Campa Mhuire Mháthair Christmas Special!

Free Online Catholic Camp for Children aged 5 - 12



Campa Mhuire Mháthair YouTube Channel
Sunday December 20th @ 4pm

More info on www.holyfamilymission.ie or find us on Facebook / Instagram
The Christmas Special will be available to view after December 20th also in case you miss it!



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Diocese of Waterford and Lismore

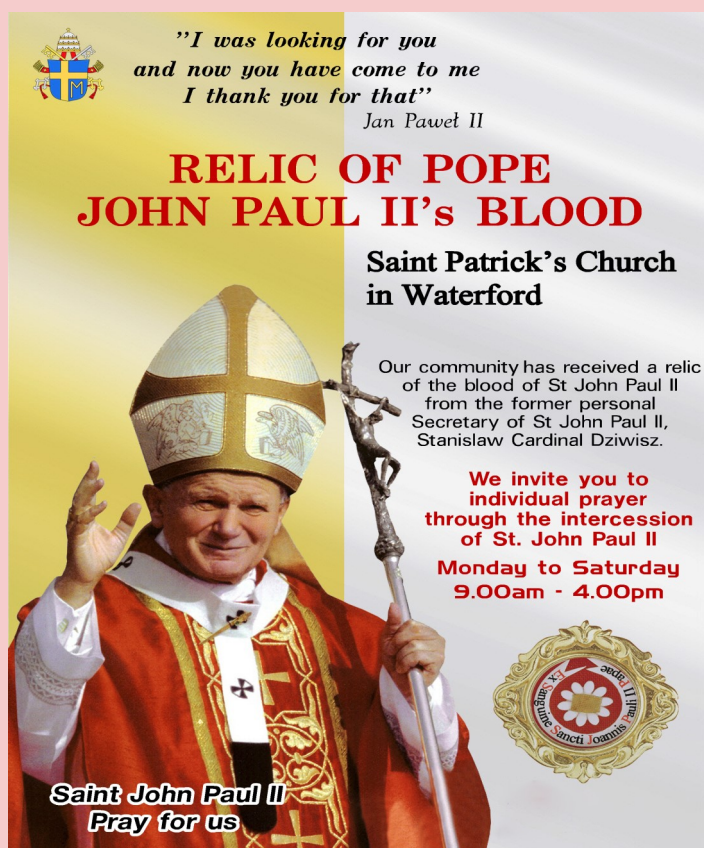


The Diocese of Waterford & Lismore invites parish groups of 5+ people to experience an online Alpha series beginning January 13th, 2021 for 11 weeks. Email events@waterfordlismore.ie to register or call 085 8623705.



Diocese to be represented on RTE and Radio na Gaeltachta

During the Christmas period, our Diocese will be represented on national media platforms. On Sunday December 20th, Fr. Michael Toomey will celebrate Mass from the RTE studios in Dublin. On Christmas Day, Mass in Irish will be celebrated from Ring Parish by Fr. Conor Kelly, and will be transmitted on Radio na Gaeltachta.



*"I was looking for you
and now you have come to me
I thank you for that"*
Jan Paweł II

**RELIC OF POPE
JOHN PAUL II's BLOOD**

**Saint Patrick's Church
in Waterford**

Our community has received a relic
of the blood of St John Paul II
from the former personal
Secretary of St John Paul II,
Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz.

**We invite you to
individual prayer
through the intercession
of St. John Paul II**

**Monday to Saturday
9.00am - 4.00pm**

**Saint John Paul II
Pray for us**

RELIC OF POPE JOHN PAUL II's blood

St. Patrick's Church, Waterford.



Message from Safeguarding Coordinator

Good safeguarding is about reaching out and doing what we can to ensure children and people's rights, choices and dignity are respected - even more so if they are vulnerable. Christmas is an opportunity to reflect and ensure that we are properly safeguarding those adults in our lives who may be vulnerable. Thank you to all who have

ensured that our church environments have been safe for children and vulnerable adults over the last year, it has not been an easy time but may God's grace continue to guide your efforts.

May I wish you and your families the precious gift of peace this Christmas.

"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love"

- St Teresa of Calcutta

Avril Halley, Safeguarding Coordinator




The Diocese of Waterford & Lismore
together with Holy Family Mission presents

DEC
20
2020

"THE LIGHT OF HOPE"



Carols from Glencomeragh House

Carol Service and Nativity Story for all the Family

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. "

Isaiah 60 : 1



Join us on YouTube on the
Diocese of Waterford & Lismore Channel
Sunday 20 December @ 7.00pm

For more information: www.waterfordlismore.ie / www.holyfamilymission.ie