

DIOCESAN E-NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER



Mission Sunday—October 18th 2020—Mission responds to life

The challenge for the Church's mission right now is that of "Understanding what God is saying to us at this time of pandemic", Pope Francis acknowledges. As people die alone or are abandoned, as others lost their jobs, with the necessity of social distancing or staying at home, the Pope says that we are invited "to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God". This situation can increase our awareness of the need to relate to others, he says. God will touch our hearts through prayer which will always open us to understand others' needs. Those of us who have not been able to participate in the Church's liturgical life now understand "the experience of the many Christian communities that cannot celebrate Mass every Sunday", the Pope said.

O God, you have willed that your Church be the sacrament of salvation for all nations, so that Christ's saving work may continue to the ends of the ages; stir up, we pray, the hearts of your faithful and grant that they may feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature, so that from all the peoples on earth one family and one people of your own may arise and increase. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

Visit our website on www.waterfordlismore.ie

Welcome to our new team members



Emma Sisk Faith Development Officer

Emma Sisk is a native of Ballyporeen parish. She holds a BA in Theology and Religious Studies and Media and Communications Studies from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, and a Certificate in Studies in Catechism of the Catholic Church from Maryvale Institute. After graduation, Emma trained as a multimedia journalist with the Press Association UK. After two years working as a journalist for Media Wales in Cardiff, Emma left a career in journalism to work for LifeWorks Education, an Irish pro-life organisation with a focus on secondary schools. She spent the majority of her time speaking to young people in schools across Ireland about the right to life of the unborn and the dignity and value of every human life. After that Emma worked as a Communications Officer for the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. In January 2019, Emma moved to the US to earn her MA in Theology and Christian Ministry with a specialisation in catechetics from Franciscan University of Steubenville before assuming her current role as Faith Development Officer in the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore. She has been involved with Youth 2000 since attending a retreat in Mount Melleray in 2007. Her experience includes organising and leading retreats on a national and parish level, delivering workshops and facilitating small groups.



Nodlaig Lillis Youth Ministry Officer

Nodlaig Lillis is a native of Ballindangan Parish in the Cloyne Diocese and has been involved in youth ministry for over 20 years. She qualified with a BA, HDE and HDTRE from University College Cork and has 19 years' experience teaching post-primary English and RE in Doneraile, Co. Cork. Nodlaig also has a Diploma in New Evangelisation and Youth Ministry, as well as a Certificate in Studies in Catechism of the Catholic Church from Maryvale Institute. Her experience in parish ministry includes serving as Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and of the Word, delivery of Sacramental Preparation Programmes for children and their parents, music, Youth Prayer Group leader, and parish web design and social media. A former Regional Leader with Youth 2000, Nodlaig was very also involved in the areas of Music Coordination and PR. She worked for four years on "Teen SpiriT: A Celebration of Teen Talent and Christian Faith" in the Kerry diocese, and for the past ten years has worked extensively with Summer Faith Camps in Ardmore, Dungarvan and Tramore, as well as in the Cloyne, Limerick and Kerry dioceses, including the online Campa Mhuire Mháthair in July 2020.



Declan Browne—DA for Secondary Schools

Declan has worked as a multi-skilled Senior Retreat Facilitator and Psychologist within the Educational sector. He also acted as a Consulting Professional (Occupational Psychologist) with over 20 years' experience supporting at a Strategic level to Chaplains, Principals within secondary schools across Ireland, CEO's and HR Directors within private and public sector.

Declan is driven by his Catholic Faith -filled belief in Jesus. His expertise lay across all aspects of Retreat Facilitation within secondary schools among Staff and Students alike. Declan has a highly flexible, consultative approach and ability to build / maintain commitment are his core strengths. He has a BD in Theology, PG dip hum in holistic development and Pastoral Leadership, H.dip psych in Applied Psychology and



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Diocese of Waterford and Lismore

Welcome to the Brothers of the Merciful Jesus.

Two brothers from the *Brothers of the Merciful Jesus* have arrived in the Diocese,. They are Giovanni Maria and Emmanuele Maria from Italy. They are here to learn English and will eventually start a foundation in the diocese. We wish them a very pleasant and blessed stay amongst us.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults in the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore.

Our period in lockdown presented many challenges – how to keep in touch, how to continue to work remotely, how to hold a complicated meeting via Zoom/Microsoft Teams. Now that our Churches have opened again, we focus on hand washing, hand sanitising and social distancing, but please do not lose sight of good basic safeguarding practices of safe recruitment of volunteers, working safely with children and vulnerable adults, and listening and responding to concerns. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Local Safeguarding Representatives for the vital work they do in maintaining best practice in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. As our parishes reopened a lot of work went into organising to ensure safe environments for all. In particular, the role of steward in the parishes has been highlighted as an essential one to help directing, signposting, supporting and checking that the correct precautionary measures are followed and implemented by everyone at all times. It has been heartening that so many people volunteered for this important role.

Stewards are not involved in regulated activities with groups of children and/or vulnerable adults so they do not need to be garda vetted to carry out this role in the parish. However, they do need to complete 'Church Steward Volunteer Declaration Form' which can be found on our website www.waterfordlismore.ie.

If you are concerned about the Safeguarding Welfare of Children/Vulnerable Adults, please contact any of the following:

Tusla, Child and Family Agency – 051 842827

An Garda Siochana – 051 305300

Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Fr. John Harris – 087 9661959

www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children



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**Day for life will be
celebrated on
Sunday October 4th**



On this 25th anniversary of St John Paul II's letter *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life), we renew the call for respect and celebration of all life. The parish is a 'family of families,' (*Amoris Laetitia*, 87). We ask our parishes to be places of welcome, where we can support pregnant women and celebrate the precious gift entrusted to them. We recognise that family is often 'a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems.' (*Amoris Laetitia*, 57). LifeDay for Life is celebrated yearly by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition.

(The Council for Life, Irish Catholic Bishops Conference, Columba Centre, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.)

NEWS SNIPPETS

- Please pray for our Seminarians John, Mark, Declan & Stuart who are studying for Diocesan priesthood. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Bishop Cullinan is currently on parish visitation throughout the Diocese, where he celebrates Mass.
- We pray for the success of the online retreat for our diocesan Priests with Fr. Hugh Lagan that is taking place on October 6th.
- Bishop Cullinan is meeting Priests in small groups at the moment in relation to team ministry in parish groupings. He is undertaking this task in conjunction with Fr. Liam Power and Mr. Joe McCormack.
- **Towards Healing** is committed to supporting victims/survivors of Catholic Institutional, Clerical and Religious childhood abuse and also their families. They offer counselling and other support services, appropriate to their needs, in a timely manner which are safe, respectful, cost effective, and of the highest quality. Their contact number is 1800 303416 .
- **Thank you** to all who are currently volunteering in the parishes and places of worship during these difficult times that we live in with Covid19.

Prayer for those seeking a cure for the virus

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.