



Diocesan Newsletter

December 2021



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CULLINAN

It is difficult to know what to write on Christmas cards again this year. I can't use some usual message - like 'Have a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year'. It just doesn't fit right because of the stressful situation in which we find ourselves again this year.

This Christmas we thought the pandemic would be over. But it lingers on. Actually the longer it goes on the more I ask myself the deeper questions about life. The pandemic has shaken me and everyone. And therefore it can make us alert to what really matters. It has awakened our hearts so that they do not become frozen. It has helped us to reach out to others. It has made us ask those deep questions. One answer I come up with is - that life is wonderful but is not supposed to be easy. Life is a great, beautiful but tough adventure.

So on my Christmas cards I don't want to write something bland - Maybe would it be better to write something like, "Please know you are not alone", or "Keep on hoping". Yes, maybe that's better, "Keep hoping". And this in fact is what living by faith actually means. Even when we cannot see the way ahead we continue to trust that God is with us. We human beings love to have all the answers. But we don't. God does - but he chose answer our questions by coming among us to be one with us, completely. He is born in the most simple surroundings in the stable with Mary his mother and Joseph his foster father.

Jesus shows us how to live. He rebuilds what we have broken down. But all is well if I can but trust Him. So Lord because you are with us we can keep on hoping, because we are not alone. You are with us - Emmanuel. So maybe after all I can write on those cards - Have a very Happy Christmas and keep on hoping and every blessing to you and to all.



For those with a special devotion to Our Lady of Medjugorje, Glencomeragh House are offering a special night of devotion every month.

MEDJUGORJE NIGHT

at Glencomeragh House

Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary E91 H584



**2ND THURSDAY
OF EACH MONTH**

- Beginning with the Holy Rosary at 8pm during which confessions will be available.
- Followed by Holy Mass, Adoration and prayers for healing of body, mind and spirit.

**OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE
- PRAY FOR US!**

All are welcome!

National Online Alpha with Follow on Course and Scripture Reflection



Fr. John Nally would like to flag for your attention a unique and powerful opportunity with which Alpha-Ireland have been working on for some time. Alpha-Ireland are the organising body for Alpha in The Republic of Ireland.

What is it? Alpha-Ireland will directly organise and host an Alpha Course on a Nationwide basis starting in January called ' REFOCUS '. For full details see www.alphaireland.org

What's New about this particular alpha initiative? 1) Each parish will have individual ' break-out rooms ' for their own parishioners. 2) A separate follow-on Course will be run in the Easter Season to further encourage the participants. 3) A Scriptural element will be introduced during the Lentan Season.

Who is it aimed at? 1) Those already heavily involved in Parish Ministry (Parish Pastoral Councils, Parish Leadership Teams, Ministry Groups). 2) Those who would like to be more involved in Parish activity. 3) Those who are looking for engaging ways to lead a wholesome Faith life in a complex modern world.

How long does it last? It starts Tuesday 18th January and concludes at Pentecost.

What will be the benefit to the Parish? It costs nothing, there is no hassle in setting it up or running it, and at the end of the process a dedicated group of parishioners focused on Parish Outreach will be there to help.

See www.waterfordlismore.ie for more information in January



Be part of this amazing adventure!



**A CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC OUTREACH
MOVEMENT TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO
ENCOUNTER THE PERSONAL LOVE OF
GOD FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT.**

Fire in the south

ministries

ZOOM EVERY WEDNESDAY
(RE-STARTS MID-JANUARY)



ZOOM I.D 86141473152
PASSWORD FIRE
TIME 8 TO 9.15 P.M.
DAY WEDNESDAY

**COMPANIONSHIP, MUSIC, SHARING,
PRAYER, THE ODD FUNNY STORY,
SACRED SCRIPTURE & ADORATION.**

*Husband and wife team,
Pat and Emily have experienced God's
healing and presence in their lives,
and now aim to share that, as they
know God wants people to experience
his loving presence and to have a
personal relationship with him. It is
their hope to spread the Good News
like wildfire throughout the world: for
it is given to us, not to keep to
ourselves, but to be shared with all.*



**PLUS DAILY
"JUST A MINUTE"
INSTAGRAM REELS**



A Grace before Christmas Dinner

*Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem on the first Christmas day:
welcome to this meal with us as we gather around the table.
We thank you for the food that is provided and we give thanks
to you for those who have prepared this meal.*

We know your love in our hearts today.

*We remember those who are homeless and may not have food
or someone to share a Christmas meal with.*

Take them into your loving care.

*We ask your blessing on those who are suffering as a result of
the current pandemic in our world.*

Keep us safe O Lord. Amen.

HOLY FAMILY MISSION



Applications opening for 2022/23

Holy Family Mission is a once in a lifetime opportunity to grow in your relationship with Jesus.

Residential Catholic community for young people aged 18 - 30 who desire:

- to learn more about their faith
- live with like minded young adults
- be steeped in an environment of prayer and the sacraments
- have opportunities for mission with young people and families



Visit www.holyfamilymission.ie to apply

- **Applications for non-EU residents** are open from 10th Jan until the 25th Feb 2022.
- **Applications for EU residents** are open from 1st March until the 29th April 2022.

LITTLE NELLIE'S BABY BANK

This is an initiative established to provide material support for mothers and babies in need. The name was inspired by Waterford's Ellen Organ, also known as "Little Nellie of Holy God". If you have any unwanted pre-loved items for babies or children, please contact us at St John's Pastoral Centre. Tel:051-874199

*Holy Family Mission
Christmas Newsletter now
available on
www.holyfamilymission.ie*

***Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful
Christmas***