Pastoral Area Newsletter

24th - 30th January 2021

Pastoral Area Priests

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Pastoral Area Office Opening Hours:

THE PASTORAL AREA OFFICE IS ONLY OPEN FOR PHONE CALLS & EMAILS

Website: www.pastoralareagnr.com

@PastoralAreaGNR

@pastoralareagnr

ONLINE MASSES & INTENTIONS

On our website you can find the link to our online Mass which is streamed on our Facebook page www.pastoralareagnr.com

Sunday 24th January at 12 noon
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday of the Word of God

✠Oliver Ryan *(Month's Mind)*
✠Christy O'Brien*(1st Anniv)*
✠Kitty & Paddy Clarke *(A)*
✠Ann Rothwell *(Rec dec'd)*
✠Maeve Archibold *(Rec dec'd)*

Tuesday 26th January at 10.30am
Saints Timothy and Titus

✠ Special Intention

Thursday 28th January at 10.30am
Saint Thomas Aquinas

✠ Missa Pro Populo

A list of other local & national online Masses is available on our website

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are keeping safe and well in these ongoing challenging times. Unfortunately, despite all the precautions and vigilance, I have somehow picked up and tested positive for covid. I am self isolating at the moment, and for another ten days or so. Thankfully at the moment my symptoms are fairly mild. I have been able to go ahead with the online Masses from the house so far.

Given how high the numbers associated with the pandemic currently are, we are until further notice temporarily suspending the opening of our churches for private prayer.

As well as the general safety aspect, this will help us to maintain the churches safely for any funerals, and will also give our dedicated team of sanitisers a much needed break from the wonderful work they have been doing consistently since last year's end of the first lockdown. We hope that you will at this time understand and support this decision.

Please keep in touch with us via phone and email and remember to keep checking our website and social media for further announcements and updates.

In the meantime, with thanks for good wishes received, take care, stay safe, keep well, and God bless.

- Fr. Derek

In his Apostolic Letter of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit illis* Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be the Sunday of the Word of God - a day to be devoted to the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God. The relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians.

Here are some ideas to help celebrate the importance of the Scriptures:

- 🕮 If you don't have a Bible at home think about buying one or using an online version. (www.biblegateway.com has lots of different translations)
- 🕮 Make some time to read the Bible regularly - or focus on the readings from Mass (available on the Sacred Space page of our website.)
- 🕮 Visit ***www.tarsus.ie*** for help understanding the Mass readings
- 🕮 When reading a passage of Scripture think about any words or phrases that strike you, or stay with you. Ask God to speak to you in these words.

If you need some help with prayer during lockdown there are lots of ideas on the Sacred Space page of our website. You'll also find the readings for Mass, daily prayer/retreat resources and suggestions for different ways to pray with children.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 runs from 18th to 25th January with the theme 'Abide in my Love...You Shall Bear Much Fruit' *(John 15:5-9).* This year's Liturgy was prepared by the Monastic Community of sisters in Grandchamp, Switzerland, who draw much from the spirit of the Taize Community. *Prayer resources on our website.*

The **YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH** has been proclaimed by Pope Francis from, 8 December 2020 - 8 December 2021. This recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled ***Patris corde*** ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved, tender and loving father, an obedient and accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The letter was written against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph.

Perhaps you know someone like this? Why not ask St Joseph to bless them

St Joseph, Father and Guide - pray for us.

*The Pope's letter **Patris corde** is available to read on the Vatican website by using the Useful Links page on our website.*

Fingal COVID-19 Community Call Helpline

If you are feeling isolated or lonely because of Covid-19, **WE ARE STILL HERE TO HELP YOU.**

Our helpline is open seven days a week, Monday to Sunday from 8am to 8pm.

Don't be on your own, give the helpline a call

1800 459 059

covidsupport@fingal.ie

If you would like to receive a copy of our Newsletter by email then please contact the Pastoral Area Office