

(continued from front page)

However, with God's help, I am confident that I have made the right decision. As you and I know, with God on our side who can be against us? *If God is for us, who is against us.* Romans 8:31.

I thank the good Lord for bestowing on me the grace to serve Him, to serve His Church, and to serve you, His people. I must say for me it was a great privilege and a tremendous joy to have served you as your Bishop. Throughout my entire life, and in particular when difficult decisions had to be made in my service, I have always endeavoured to deal with the people of God with a deep sense of dignity and respect, in accordance with the true spirit of the Gospel. It is my hope, and indeed it is my fervent prayer, despite my limitations, that I have served you well.

I thank the many priests of the Diocese for their service, for their personal support and for the solidarity they have shown to me during my episcopal service.

I thank the women and men of Consecrated Life for their apostolic service in our Diocese and for their support and kindness in my service as Bishop.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the people of Ossory whom I have served for almost nine years. I continue to be overwhelmed, and indeed very much humbled, by the kindness and absolute goodness shown to me by the good people of God during that time and, in particular, the kindness and prayerful good wishes I have received in recent times.

I thank my brother Bishops for their support and for their solidarity during my episcopal service.

I thank my work family, the staff at the Diocesan Office and at Blessed Felix House, for their true friendship, for their kindness and for their loyalty to me. It has been such a joyous experience to have shared the journey with you.

And finally, I thank my own family for their support and for their continued presence in my life, particularly over the past number of years.

With the help of God I hope to continue, albeit in a different way, to serve the good Lord and His people to the best of my ability by living and proclaiming His Gospel.

Please be assured of my prayers and I respectfully ask for yours.
Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Apostles, pray for us.
Thank you and God bless you, good people of Ossory.

+ **Séamus Freeman, SAC**

29th July 2016 Feast of St. Martha

ST JOHN'S PARISH <> KILKENNY



Pastoral Council

Mary Brennan,
Alan Burke,
Margaret Cleere,
Fr Brian Griffin,
Jimmy Kelly,
Sheila O'Callaghan,
Fr Seán O'Connor,
Aidan Phelan,
Fr Frank Purcell,
Pat Ryan.

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SVP HELPLINE - 086 895 1239

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
31st July 2016

BISHOP SÉAMUS RETIRES

***"It was for me a great privilege to have served you;
thank you and God bless you, good people of Ossory."***

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Some time ago I wrote to the Holy Father requesting him to accept my early retirement as Bishop of Ossory due to ill health in accordance with Canon 401 § 2. I am pleased that the Holy Father has accepted my early retirement as and from 11.00 a.m. today, and I thank him for his kindness to me.

Since suffering a stroke in September 2013 I have continued to serve the good people of God, entrusted to my care as Bishop, to the best of my ability. It was my hope that I would continue my episcopal service until the retirement age of 75 years. However, due to ill health, for some time now I have found my ministry as Bishop to be somewhat of a challenge. Therefore, after prayerful reflection and with a sense of sadness, I came to my decision to retire, as I have been very happy and blessed amongst you, the good people, priests and religious of the Diocese of Ossory.

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Deaths – Month's Minds – Anniversaries

Deaths: Derek Shealy, The Orchard Upper.
Tom Watson, Highrath, Maddoxtown. *Funeral prayers this Sun at 5.30pm in Johnstons – removal to St John's for funeral mass on Monday at 10.30am. Interment in St Kieran's Cemetery.*
Brid Maher, Cellarstown. *Funeral prayers this Sun at 7.45pm in Johnstons – removal to St John's for funeral mass on Monday at 3.30pm. Interment in St Kieran's Cemetery.*

Anniv: Ann Burns (6.30pm); Joe Purcell (8.00am);
Seamus Murphy (10.00am); Mary Walshe (7.30pm); Manzie Barnett;
Martin Doheny; Joseph Browne; John Bergin; Paul & Tom McEaney;
Jim Morrissey; Elizabeth Brennan; Betty Quelch; Tracy-Anne Gillard;

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8.00am	Margaret Leahy
10.30am	Seamus Brennan & Deirdre Dowling
12.00noon	Mary Lynch
7.30pm	Anne Marie Grace
Johnswell 10.00am	Betsy Rice & Teresa Dowling
Dunmore 11.00am	Martina Brennan & Tom Keating

Weekly Envelope Collection

Thanks to all who contribute and those who pay by Standing Order. S.O. forms available in Parish Office.

Ossory Vocations Promotion #36

Spend your life growing rich in the sight of God. That's what counts.

How will you do this? (Luke 12:13-21)

If you think God is calling you to priesthood, call Fr. Willie Purcell Ossory Vocations Director. 056 7770261 or email ossoryvocdir@gmail.com.

Cake Sale

A cake sale in aid of the *Children of Calcutta* will take place after all masses this weekend in the Day Centre.

Mgr Michael Ryan elected as Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory

Following the acceptance by the Holy Father of the retirement of Bishop Séamus Freeman SAC, today (29th July 2016) the College of Consultors elected Mgr Michael Ryan (P.P. Castlecomer) as Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory. A Diocesan Administrator has responsibility for administering the day-to-day affairs of the Diocese while a new Bishop is awaited.

Following the announcement Mgr Ryan said: "I am humbled to be asked to take on this new responsibility and I hope to continue the good work that Bishop Séamus oversaw in our Diocese for these past nine years. I wish him well in his retirement and pray for his continued health.

I hope to do all that I can to facilitate the continued implementation of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan and the many other good works in the Diocese which give us life and hope. I respectfully ask that people keep me in their prayers as we now await the appointment of a new Bishop."

Mgr Ryan, who is a native of St John's Parish, Kilkenny, was educated in St Kieran's College, Kilkenny. He was ordained on 11th June 1967 and served as Curate in the parishes of Dunamaggan, St Patrick's and St Mary's Cathedral. Mgr Ryan then began teaching in 1967 in the Vocational School before undertaking Post Graduate studies in Religious Education. In 1973 he joined the staff in St Kieran's College and became President there in 1990. In 1995 he was appointed Parish Priest of Castlecomer Parish. Mgr Ryan served as Episcopal Vicar for Retired Clergy and since 2002 as Vicar General of the Diocese. Mgr Ryan has already served as Administrator of the Diocese for a period in 2007.

First Friday

Next Friday is the First Friday. Holy Communion at the normal times.

Greyhound Racing – Friday, August 12th

Cathedral Restoration Race Night at Kilkenny Greyhound Track on Friday, August 12th at 8pm.

Kilkenny Medjugorje Youth Group

This group is travelling to the Youth Festival in Medjugorje this weekend. 64 in total. 2 Priests 55 young people and Leaders. Many young people from the parish are travelling thanks for all your support.

NEXT NEWSLETTER – w/e 3rd /4th SEPTEMBER

Bank Holiday Monday – 10.30 a.m. Mass only (No 8.00 a.m.)