

May Newsletter



Festival Service

Although COVID-19 restrictions have been eased a little we will still hold the **Festival Service via Zoom** this year, on **Sunday the 30th of May at 3pm**.

Bishop Michael will officiate and our All-Ireland President, June Butler, will lead the reflection. During the service the three new Diocesan Trustees will be commissioned to their offices:

Revd. Canon Ian Cruickshank – Diocesan Chaplain

Revd. Margaret Sykes – VP Faith + Policy

Linda Ward – Social Policy Representative

All are welcome to join, but numbers are limited, so please let me know if you would like to receive the zoom link.

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global call to prayer, drawing on the Holy Spirit to bring more people to Jesus. Taking place between the Feast of Ascension (13th) and Pentecost (23rd), it involves numerous communities of worship taking part in over 170 countries.



During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen and further their own relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Pray for 5 of their friends or family to come to faith in Jesus.
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.

Mothers' Union is holding a Thy Kingdom Come service which will be available to watch on the [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#) at 2pm on Friday 14th May. Check out the [events page](#) for more details.

MUMS in MAY – '21 in 21'

The Mums in May '21 in 21' fundraising campaign is now underway and sponsorship can be collected by doing anything you like, as long as you do it 21 times – walk 21kilometers (or yards), knit 21 teddies, bake 21 cakes, make 21 jigsaws, read 21 books, paint 21 pictures, eat 21 doughnuts.....the list is as endless as our imaginations.

Remember to also 'Count your Blessings' using the calendar designed by Margaret Jacob, and put some money aside each day in a jar as you do so. At the end of May send whatever you have collected to Margaret, or you can also give to the Mums in May fund via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MumsinMay21.

Although we will focus on the campaign throughout May the fundraising efforts will continue until the end of the year, so there's lots of time to ask friends and family to give to this worthy cause, which our diocese has benefited from greatly in the past few years.



My own idea for raising funds was to dye my hair blue. This is the proof of doing so, although it is not as blue as I would have hoped, because apparently blue dye does not take so well on brunette hair. I have dyed it 3 times now and this is the end result. Thankfully the sponsorship has been very generous (as have the comments about my new look!).

All-Ireland Mothers' Union Competition

Write a **hymn** consisting of three or four verses (maximum 24 lines) to be sung to a well-known tune.

Write a **prayer** for use by Mothers' Union All-Ireland (maximum of 24 lines).



- Entries should be forwarded to Margaret Jacob, Unit Co-ordinator for Fundraising and Communication by Friday 11th June 2021.
- The best five entries in each category will be forwarded for judging at All-Ireland level.
- All-Ireland Mothers' Union will retain the rights to publish/use any of the submitted hymns and prayers.
- For further details see the websites.
- Please note some newer tunes may be subject to copyright.

Letter to Ministers, TD's, Senators and County Councillors

Safe and Secure homes for those who leave domestic abusive situations' REFUGES AS HOMELESS PROVIDERS

Mothers' Union is united in their support for refugees throughout Ireland, which in the Republic are not regarded as 'HOMELESS PROVIDERS'. At present VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE can access rent supplement on referral from Tusla or Tusla-funded providers. Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys, has extended this pandemic initiative until the end of December 2021. This is a welcome TEMPORARY SOLUTION to a PERMANENT PROBLEM, which will continue to exist post-COVID.

It is important that refugees here, as in Northern Ireland, are regarded and funded as homeless providers. We are requesting that the Dept of Housing give local authorities the mandate to support DV homelessness through direct lobbying to provide 'Safe and secure homes for those who leave domestic abusive situations'.



A letter has been distributed to all branches. Please write your name, address and date at the top and sign it at the end. We invite all members to join the campaign by sending the letter to as many Ministers, TDs, Senators and County Councillors as you can by May 31st, in order to create the maximum impact.

Recipe: Herby Spring Chicken Pot Pie



Preparation Time: 10 minutes **Cooking Time:** 30 minutes

Ingredients:

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| 2 tbsp olive oil, plus a little extra for brushing over the pastry | |
| 1 bunch spring onions, sliced into 3cm pieces | |
| ½ small bunch tarragon leaves finely chopped | |
| 250g frozen spinach | 6 ready-cooked chicken thighs |
| 350ml hot chicken stock | ½ tbsp wholegrain mustard |
| 200g frozen peas | 200ml half-fat crème fraîche |
| 1 small bunch parsley finely chopped | 270g pack filo pastry |

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.

Heat the oil in a large, shallow casserole dish on a medium heat.

Add the spring onions and fry for 3 mins.

Stir through the frozen spinach and cook for 2 mins or until it's starting to wilt.

Remove the skin from the chicken (discard skin).

Shred the chicken off the bone and into the pan (discard bones).

Stir through the stock and mustard.

Bring to a simmer and cook, uncovered, for 5-10 mins.

Stir in the peas, crème fraîche and herbs, then remove from the heat.

Scrunch the filo pastry sheets over the mixture and brush with a little oil.

Bake for 15-20 mins or until golden brown.