



From the Archbishop: The Family (39th) and Care (40th) Amendments to the Constitution Voting is a way to show that we care about making society better. In Catholic social teaching, it's important to take part in the democratic process. The Catholic Church says that everyone should vote responsibly for the common good. (*Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine*, 189). We need to think about our Catholic values when we vote and choose policies that respect human dignity, help everyone, and protect those who are vulnerable.

I would like to take this opportunity to share the church's ideas about marriage, family, and care. The church has a strong tradition of valuing families as the foundation of society. Families teach us about love, responsibility, and solidarity, which prepares us to be good members of the community. Families also support and care for each other through tough times and help everyone grow emotionally and spiritually. The Catechism says:

The family is the original cell of social life ... Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honour God, and make good use of freedom (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2207).

Marriage is a foundation stone of family. One of the goods of marriage is that it is a public commitment to the service of family. It is vital then to society that it supports and protects marital families. It should not be neglected and side-lined. At the same time, I recognise that all families should be helped in ways that especially supports the vulnerable, and those most need of care.

From the point of view of faith, it is families that in which values, teachings, and practices can be passed down through generations, creating a place of prayer, love, and moral development within the home. The family is a domestic church which says that faith is not just within the wider church community but is lived out in the intimate relationships and interactions of daily life.

I would strongly encourage you to read the statement of the Irish Episcopal Conference ([click here](#)), which raises

some legitimate concerns which it asks people to bear in mind. These reflections are offered to encourage people to vote and to bear these perspectives on the common good in mind when they do so.

It is clear that there are legitimate differences of view on the proposed referendums: some believe they will have little influence on policy and practice; others believe an opportunity has been lost to frame amendments which would have such impact; while others again argue that the impact of the proposed amendments are uncertain. It is the duty of citizens to consider and evaluate these arguments and to take the opportunity to inform themselves on the issues.

It is important that there should be an informed, dispassionate and respectful debate on the issues. Constitutional amendments are too important not to be a considered and evaluated on their own merits.

Whatever the outcome of the referendums, there will continue to be a moral obligation on governments and public policy to protect the institution of marriage and to support, vulnerable citizens and their families. The ongoing public discourse regarding policies and priorities will continue to need the active engagement of all citizens and a continuing focus on the common good, including the priority to be accorded to the needs of the most vulnerable.

The debates before the votes are a chance to talk sensibly about what values our society should follow and what rules we need to keep those values. I encourage you to inform yourself more about the issues involved and the values of the Catholic tradition as you vote. + **Dermot Farrell**.

"Why go on Pilgrimage?" The idea of going on pilgrimage goes back hundreds of years in the Church. In the Middle Ages, crusaders went to Jerusalem try to liberate the Holy City. Later on, we have the tradition of pilgrimages to places like Santiago de Compostella commencing in Dublin, as many of you know, from St James Gate at Guinness brewery. Closer to home we know from our history books about great monastic saints such as Columbanus going on great journeys across dangerous seas and oceans with the aim of spreading the faith. Some of us may have been fortunate to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land but for many our pilgrimage destination may be nearer to home such as Lourdes, Fatima and, of course, our own beloved Marian shrine of Knock. Pilgrimages provide us all with a bit of space to step out of our ordinary lives for a short time and to make a spiritual journey in the footsteps of those who have travelled the same road many times before us. We have

TIMES OF MASSES: WEEKDAYS 10AM: MON, WED, THURS and FRI.

SATURDAY: 6.30PM (VIGIL), SUNDAY: 10.30AM. and 12 NOON. BAPTISMS 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS AND AT THE EASTER VIGIL (SOME EXCEPTIONS AROUND CHRISTMAS AND EASTER.). CONFESSIONS SAT. AFTER 6.30PM MASS, AFTER DAILY MASS (UNLESS THERE'S A FUNERAL), OR ON REQUEST.

a great devotion to Knock in Portmarnock parish and this year we will once again go on **pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday April 27th**. Please leave your name with our Parish office Tel: 01-846 1561 if you are interested in travelling. This year we celebrate the 145th anniversary of the apparitions in 1879, so it might be a good time to think about going. One of the good things about a pilgrimage is that it gives us an opportunity to step out of our daily lives and try to gain some fresh perspectives on the challenges that we face and to try to learn a bit more about ourselves. It's also a good opportunity to reflect on our faults and failings, as we all have them, and to ask Our Lady to pray to her son Jesus to help us to overcome them. Whether we go on pilgrimage to a near or far destination in the coming year, let us pray for the grace to be inspired, in the words of St Ignatius of Loyola, "to serve God better in the future." **Deacon Gerard** (*Director of the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock*)

COLLECTIONS

First Collection	€ 1,597
Share	€ 1,000

We are very grateful for your continued support.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Anne Carr, Carrickhill Heights

Sat. 6.30p.m. Josie Lawler (Month's Mind)

Michael McGlynn (1st. Anniv)

Ciarán May (2nd. Anniv)

Sun. 10.30a.m. Tom Gibbons (1st. Anniv)

Michael & Mary McCarthy

Eddie McConnon (Anniv)

Sun. 12.00 noon Larry Smith (1st. Anniv)

John Donnelly (3rd. Anniv)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

DURING LENT

Confession for Confirmation Candidates:

Parents/Guardians who want their Confirmation Candidate Children to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in advance of Confirmation are invited to

bring them to the **weekly Confessions after 6.30pm Mass on Saturday** or to the second specially scheduled pre-Confirmation Confessions on **Saturday 9th March from 12noon – 1.30pm**. Please note that these Confessions will not be organised by the Schools but at the discretion of each Family.

FIRST CONFESSIONS continue on Wednesday afternoons 6th and 13th March from 3pm at individual time slots advised to Families by St. Helen's JNS.

Congratulations to the Children of St. Marnock's NS who made their First Confessions over the past two Wednesdays of Lent with the help of Parents, Guardians and Teachers.

Individual Confessions are heard in St. Anne's each Saturday evening after the 6.30 Vigil Mass.

Confession will also be heard during Lent after each 10.00a.m. weekday Mass except when there is a funeral or on request.

PARTNERSHIP LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

Saint Sylvester's, Malahide will host the Partnership Area communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a Penance Service on the **Monday of Holy Week, 25th March at 7.30pm**.

GOOD GRIEF' LENTEN GATHERINGS:

It was wonderful to experience a time of Lenten Prayer and Reflection for the past two Wednesdays of Lent with members of our Partnership of Parishes and of St. Andrew's Church of Ireland Parish. Sincere thanks to Marie Gribbons, a Parishioner of St. Anne's and former Chaplain to St. Francis Hospice, Raheny, for her insightful reflection last Wednesday in St. Anne's. This coming week the focus will be on grief in children and what supports are available. **Each Service will start at 7.30pm and will be followed by Refreshments.** All are welcome.

Wednesday, 6th March Sacred Heart Yellow Walls

Wednesday, 13th March St. Sylvester's Malahide

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Will take place on the **15th – 19th September 2024** accompanied by Canon John Flaherty, Spiritual Director. Please contact Pauline Geoghegan, 087 6293744.

MEDUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

5th to 12th June 2024 with Marian Pilgrimages

To be included in our group please contact Derek & Anne Farrell, 0862573824, or 0879224077.

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