**Notice for Newsletters**

Because 2020 has been a year like no other, the Diocese of Killaloe, in collaboration with the Anglican Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert,  has decided to hold a **Day of Remembrance** on November 20th for those who have died in 2020.  This Day aims to acknowledging those who have died this year and those who have been bereaved through the death of loved ones. It includes the remembrance of those who have died as a result of the global pandemic, as well as those who have died from other causes during the year.  The day will help us to remember our own beloved dead but also acknowledge and pray for those whose passing and mourning has been so cruelly affected by the COVID protocols in hospitals and nursing homes and around funerals.

The focus of the Remembrance Day will be on short moments of prayer in which everyone can participate at home. These include the following:

* A short radio message and blessing from Bishop Fintan and Bishop Kenneth Kearon (Church of Ireland) will mark the beginning of the day’s prayer. (This will also be available on diocesan and parish websites, on Facebook and other social media platforms).
* A Diocese-wide moment of silence and individual prayer at 12 noon to remember the dead and bereaved. The angelus bell will be a reminder of this moment.
* A short prayer time to be broadcast on Clare FM and Tipp FM on Friday evening around 7 p.m.
* People are invited to light candles and place them in the window in the evening as an act of remembrance.

**Note to Priests/Parish Pastoral Councils**

**Please consider how you can publicize this day and encourage people to become involved.**

Parishes can help draw attention to the day through some of the following:

* **Publicising** the Day of Remembrance on newsletters and speaking about it at liturgies
* **Bell-Ringing** to accompany the moment of silent prayer at 12 noon.
* **Bell-ringing** to accompany the moments of prayer on the radio.
* **Yellow** appears to be now the recognised ‘colour of Covid’ – those parishes which have the capacity to **floodlight** their churches could floodlight them in yellow.
* **Ribbons:** tying yellow ribbons to church railings or prominent trees by the front of the church is another way to mark the remembrance. (It has been suggested that floristry ribbon is very robust during the winter months.)
* **Candles-Lighting**: Encourage the people of the parish to light a candle in their window in the evening as an act of remembrance.
* **Bulbs**: The planting of spring bulbs as a symbolic act of hope. Some parishes have green space by their church where people who have lost someone this year could be invited to plant a snowdrop or crocus bulb. There could also be large pots for planting by the church door which, come the spring would be filled with flowers. The parishes could distribute bulbs to those they know have lost someone.

