Newsletter

Into the Deep

November 2026 Issue 04



We Remember, We Believe, We Hope

November – A Month of Remembrance, Faith and Hope

November is a special month in the life of the Church. It is a time when we remember those who have gone before us, celebrate the lives of the saints, and reflect on the beautiful promise of eternal life. During this month, the Church invites us to pause, remember, pray and renew our hope in Jesus Christ.

At the beginning of November, we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints. We give thanks for the countless men and women who lived their lives faithfully and are now enjoying the presence of God. Their lives remind us that holiness is not something reserved for a few extraordinary people. It is a calling for all of us. We are invited to become saints in our everyday lives through simple acts of kindness, forgiveness, compassion and love.

On All Souls' Day, and throughout November, we remember our deceased family members, friends and all the faithful departed. We think of those whose voices we no longer hear, whose presence we miss, but whose love and memories remain close to our hearts. We visit cemeteries, light candles, offer prayers and celebrate Holy Mass for them. These gestures are more than traditions; they are expressions of our faith and love. As Christians, we believe that death does not have the final word. Our hope rests in the risen Lord, who promises us eternal life.

November also brings the liturgical year to its conclusion with the Solemnity of Christ the King. This celebration reminds us that Jesus is the King of the Universe, but His kingdom is not built on power, wealth or authority. It is a kingdom of love, mercy, justice and service. Christ invites each of us to make Him the centre of our lives and to recognise His presence in those who are poor, vulnerable, lonely and in need.

Towards the end of the month, we begin the season of Advent. It is a new beginning in the life of the Church and an invitation to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. As we move from remembrance to expectation, we are encouraged to renew our faith, deepen our prayer and bring hope to those around us.

November reminds us of three important dimensions of our Christian journey: we remember those who have gone before us, we believe in the promise of the resurrection, and we hope in the eternal life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

May this month be an opportunity for us to grow closer to God, cherish the memories of our loved ones, support one another in times of sorrow, and live each day with faith and hope.

May the Lord bless our departed loved ones with eternal rest and fill our hearts with the joy of His everlasting promise.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

editorial Into the deep



Christ the King: Let Christ Reign in Our Hearts

During the month of November, on 22 November, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, marking the end of the liturgical year. This feast reminds us that Jesus is the King of our lives, whose kingdom is built not on power or wealth but on love, mercy, justice and peace.

He invites us to follow His example by serving others, forgiving one another and showing compassion, especially to those who are poor, lonely and in need.

As we celebrate this feast, let us ask ourselves whether Christ truly reigns in our hearts, our families and our communities. May His love guide our words and actions, making us witnesses of His kingdom in the world.

Pope Leo XIV Announces Theme for the 2027 World Day of the Sick

Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme "They lowered him on the stretcher in front of Jesus: The role of the community in caring for every person" for the 35th World Day of the Sick, which will be celebrated on 11 February 2027, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Inspired by the Gospel of Luke (Lk 5:17–26), the theme recalls the story of a paralysed man whose friends brought him to Jesus, overcoming every obstacle to help him receive healing. Their actions highlight the importance of friendship, compassion and shared responsibility in caring for those who suffer.

The Holy Father invites Christian communities, parishes and society as a whole to reach out to the sick, the elderly, the lonely and those in need. Caring for others is not simply an act of kindness but an essential part of our Christian vocation. Through prayer, companionship and practical support, we can become instruments of God's healing love and bring hope to those who experience suffering.

The message reminds us that nobody should have to face illness or suffering alone. Like the friends who brought the paralysed man to Jesus, we too are called to carry one another with love, faith and compassion.



Pope Leo XIV Urges Young People to Bring the World's Wounds to Christ



In his message for the 2026 World Youth Day, to be celebrated on 22 November on the Solemnity of Christ the King, Pope Leo XIV invites young people to open their hearts to Jesus and bring Him the questions, struggles and wounds that affect their lives and the world.

Reflecting on the theme for the next international World Youth Day, "Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33), the Pope reminds young people that true courage comes not from personal strength but from trusting in Christ, who walks with us through life's difficulties and never abandons us.

The Holy Father acknowledges the challenges many young people face today, including loneliness, anxiety about the future, social pressures and the desire to meet unrealistic expectations. He encourages them not to hide their weaknesses or wait until they are perfect before turning to God. Instead, he invites them to welcome Christ into their lives, families and communities.

Pope Leo also calls young people to become witnesses of Christ's love in a world wounded by conflict, injustice and division. He reminds them that Christian victory is not about power or superiority, but about loving generously, forgiving others, promoting peace and standing alongside those who suffer.

The message is also an invitation to prepare spiritually for the international World Youth Day, which will take place in Seoul, South Korea, from 3 to 8 August 2027. The Pope encourages young people to open the doors of their hearts and communities to Christ, allowing His peace, courage and love to transform the world around them.

Pope Leo XIV pays tribute to Pope Francis in Buenos Aires Cathedral



During his visit to Argentina, Pope Leo XIV paused in prayer before a memorial plaque dedicated to Pope Francis in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Buenos Aires. The plaque commemorates Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who served as Archbishop of Buenos Aires from 1998 to 2013 before becoming Pope Francis.

In a moving moment, Pope Leo stood in silence before the memorial, remembering his predecessor and the years he spent serving the people of Argentina. Six children from local parishes joined him and placed flowers beneath the plaque as a sign of love and remembrance.

A particularly touching moment came when Pope Francis' eight nieces and nephews presented Pope Leo with a white rose, a flower deeply associated with their uncle's devotion to St Thérèse of Lisieux. For Pope Francis, the white rose symbolised God's love, grace and the presence of St Thérèse in his life.

The family described the gift as a sign of love, faith and continuity, expressing their hope that the tenderness, hope and mercy that Pope Francis shared with the Church would continue to flourish.

The visit was a beautiful expression of respect and affection for Pope Francis, reminding the Church of the importance of spiritual legacy, continuity and the enduring power of love and faith.

Irish Bishops Witness Hope and Reconciliation During Visit to Rwanda



A delegation of Irish bishops, including Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe, recently visited Rwanda on an official aid mission to witness the work supported by Trócaire, the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

During their visit, the bishops met communities involved in peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives, including efforts to support former combatants and help people rebuild their lives following the 1994 genocide. They also visited projects promoting climate-resilient farming, sustainable livelihoods, women's empowerment and local leadership.

The delegation described the experience as both humbling and inspiring, highlighting the remarkable spirit of hope, faith and reconciliation among the people they met. Their visit also recognised the generosity and solidarity of people and parishes across Ireland, whose support helps transform lives in communities facing hardship.

Academic Milestone for Killaloe Seminarians

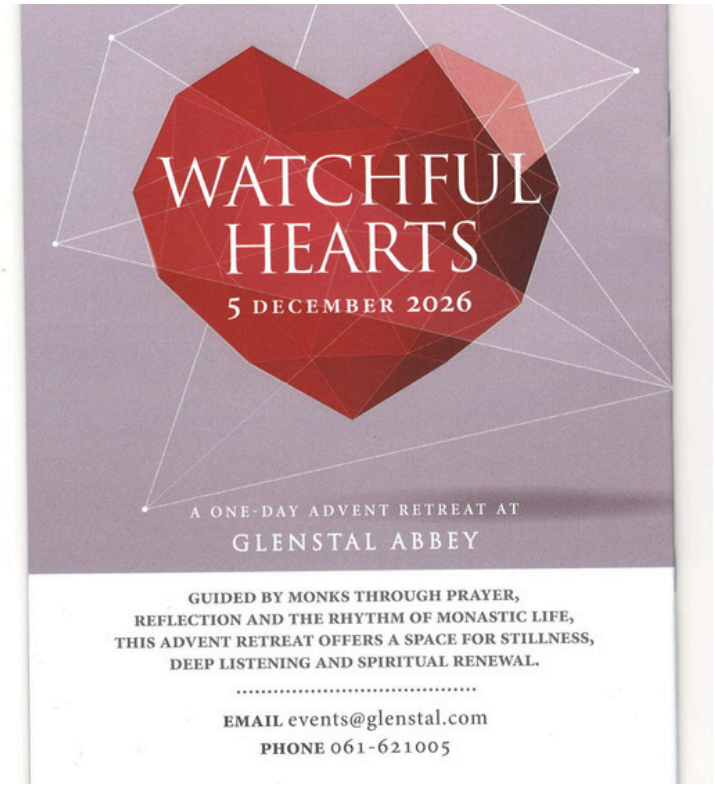


Warmest congratulations to Killaloe Diocesan seminarians Mark Nestor and Brian Tuohy on their graduation from the Pontifical University at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Both were recently awarded the Higher Diploma in Philosophy.

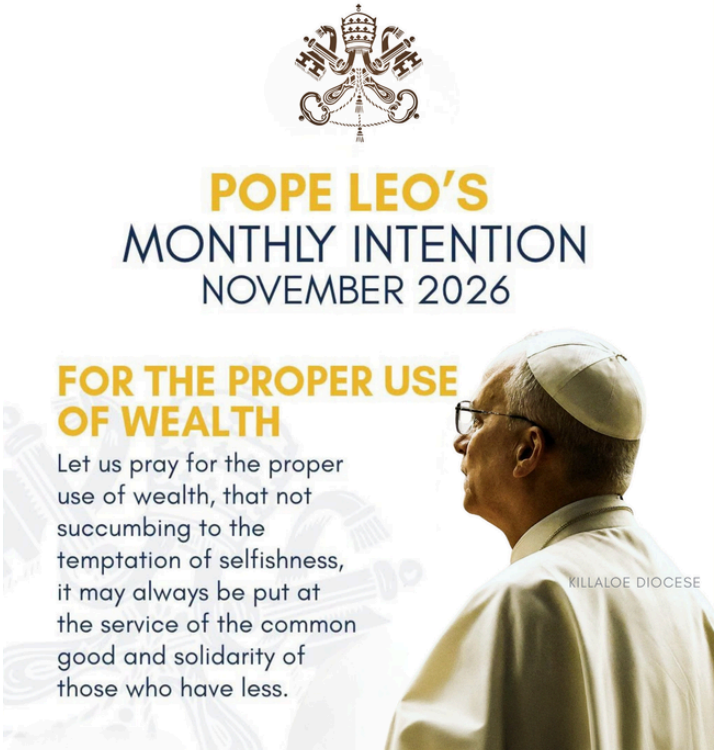
We congratulate them on their hard work and dedication to their studies. We keep them in our prayers as they continue their journey of discernment and formation in preparation for ministry in the Diocese of Killaloe.



Watchful Hearts: A One-Day Advent Retreat



Pope Leo's Monthly Intention- November 2026



Pastoral Area News



Bishop Fintan Monahan celebrated the Novena Mass of Healing and Anointing at St Brendan's Church, Birr, Co. Offaly. The celebration included the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and prayers for healing, bringing together parishioners and visitors in faith and prayer.



St Cronan's Pastoral Area, Roscrea is hosting its Community Mission from 7 to 22 November, with programmes taking place across the different parishes. Fr Enobong, Mission Director, is leading the mission, guiding the faith communities through prayer, reflection and renewal.



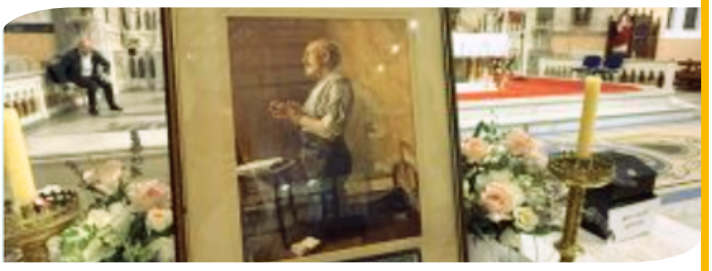
Work is progressing at the Cathedral's main entrance, with new granite steps, upgraded paving and drainage being installed. The front entrance and Columbarium doors remain temporarily closed. Pedestrian access to the Cathedral and Parish Office is available via Station Road through the remaining open entrances.



Children from the Children's Liturgy in Tulla Parish marked the Feast of All Saints with a colourful parade of saints after Mass. The Parish Priest, dressed as St John Bosco, led the procession. The children and their leaders were congratulated for their wonderful participation and joyful celebration, bringing the example of the saints to life.



The Killaloe Diocese Adult Faith Formation Team held an autumn gathering on 24 October at Ennis Cathedral Parish Centre, titled "Let's Have an Honest Conversation About Synodality: Why Do We Need It and How Do We Move Forward?" The event was facilitated by Fr Eamon Fitzgibbon and brought together a good number of participants from across the diocese for reflection and discussion on the future of synodality in the Church.



The 30th Anniversary Matt Talbot Novena at St Senan's Church, Kilrush, opened on Tuesday, 27 October, with Bishop Fintan Monahan. The novena will conclude on Tuesday, 24 November, with Fr Paschal Hanrahan, Head Chaplain to the Irish Defence Forces, leading the final celebration.

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