

Dear Father, Deacon, Sister, Brother

I am writing to you to inform you about a nationwide initiative for the Jubilee Year called the Jubilee Sacred Heart Crusade of Love and Hope - inspired by the Holy Father's recent encyclical letter 'Dilexit Nos' (celebrating also the 350th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart revelations at Paray-le-Monial).

This mission is being launched in our diocese this Sunday, March 2nd Temperance Sunday, when Our Primate, Archbishop Eamon will officially welcome one of the four pilgrim statues which His Holiness Pope Francis blessed on Wednesday, January 8th at the Vatican to help rekindle faith in the love of Jesus, represented in the Sacred Heart devotion, and to offer all a 'heart to heart' encounter with His most Sacred Heart.

Our hope is that these special statues will visit as many churches as possible in the various dioceses of each of the provinces throughout this Jubilee Year, especially those churches named and dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The high point of the celebrations will take place at Knock on June 22nd, where His Grace, Archbishop Eamon Martin will be the chief celebrant on the day and where he will renew the consecration of Ireland to the Sacred Heart.

It is proposed that after the pilgrim statue has been welcomed officially this Sunday by the Archbishop, it then travels to various parish clusters or parish churches and perhaps even schools, particularly those dedicated to the Sacred Heart, over the next few weeks. If you are interested in booking the statue for a visit for your parish cluster, please feel free to contact me on: **00 353 868611531** and I will try to accommodate you where possible.

Booklets with a suggested format for a Holy Hour with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, will be brought along with the statue. The format is merely a blueprint from which the Clergy are welcome to draw from - each being free to choose whatever method they would like to use, but it is a resource that may be helpful and inspirational. This booklet may also be downloaded on the website and further information about the crusade is also available on: www.sacredheartcrusade.ie.

May this be a grace-filled time for our diocese and may the Sacred Heart touch the hearts of all who reach out to Him in love and hope.

Yours Faithfully,
Deacon John Taaffe