

***Remembrance Service  
St Luke's Hospital  
Carlow Kilkenny  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021***



***WORDS OF WELCOME***

*A very special welcome to you all this evening as we gather at St. Canice's Church, Kilkenny. Although physically apart from each other, we are present with each other and united in a common purpose, that is, to remember with the utmost love and respect all those young lives, your sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, grandchildren and relatives who died before birth, at birth or in early infancy or childhood years. While their stay was all too short, yet their span of time here and their going from us will never be forgotten. We remember them this evening, we express our love for them, we give expression to the grief we feel and we ask God during these Easter days to fill our hearts with hope and peace, as he filled the hearts of his disciples after the death and resurrection of Christ.*

*We hope that our ceremony this evening brings some light and joy into your lives and we thank you for joining us via the St Canice's Church webcam.*

## *Opening Hymn*

## *Introduction*

*Opening Prayer.*

## *Liturgy of the Word.*

*First Reading:*

*A reading from the letter of St. John.*

Think of the love that the father has lavished on us by letting us be called Gods children, and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God, but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed. All we know is that when it is revealed, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he really is.

*The Word of the Lord.*

*Responsorial Psalm – (Sung)*

*Second Reading.*

*A reading from St. Paul to the Romans.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Jesus. Even if we are troubled or worried or being persecuted or lacking food or clothes or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this; neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power or height or depth, nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The Word of the Lord.*

*Gospel Acclamation: (Sung)*

*Gospel:*

*A reading from the Gospel according to Mark*

People were bringing children to Jesus for him to bless them. The disciples turned then away but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and he said to the disciples, 'Let the children come to me and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. I tell you anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he called the children to him, he put his arms around them and he gave them his blessing.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



*Homily.*

### *The lighting of candles:*

You are now invited to light a candle in your home as we light the remembrance candle in the Church. We light these candles for all the children we remember this evening. As you gather around the candle we invite you to listen to a sung reflection.



### *Prayer of the faithful:*

#### *For Mothers:*

We pray for all mothers who have suffered the great pain of losing their child. May they experience the loving protection of Mary, the mother of God. Through her intercession, we ask that mothers be comforted in their sadness and loss and be filled with hope and peace. **Lord hear us.**

#### *For Fathers:*

God, our Father, you know the pain experienced by Fathers. We ask you now to say with all fathers and grant them the acceptance and hope that only you can give. Fill them with your Spirit. **Lord hear us.**

#### *For Families:*

Let us remember in a special way the brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandparents and relatives of the babies and children we remember here this evening. May they know that your love is great at their time of loss.

**Lord hear us.**

#### *For all who suffer alone:*

Lord, we pray for all who suffer in isolation and loneliness as they struggle to come to terms with the loss of their child. Help them to reach out for the help of other people and give them the assurance of your presence in their daily lives.

**Lord hear us.**

#### *For Hospital Staff:*

We pray for all the staff members of the Maternity, Paediatric and Special Care Baby units at St. Luke's Hospital who care for us at all times and especially in times of loss. May God give them the strength they need to continue their good work.

**Lord hear us.**

# ***Blessing of the Book of Remembrance***

## ***Final Blessings***

### ***Prayer of blessing for all Parents and Families***

In the light of the Father of light, may you see the way forward.

In the courage of Jesus, who risked everything, may you be heartened and enthused as you go from this place. In the joy of the Spirit among us, may you rejoice in Gods presence at work in your lives each day.

May the God of new beginnings lead you forward.

May the God who brought us new life in Christ fill you with joy this day.

May the God who consoles and protects, soothe any heartache you may have.

May the God who desires an abundance of life for his people renew your spirit this day.

Amen.

### ***Prayer of blessing for the Maternity Staff, Paediatric Staff, Special Care Baby Unit Staff and all Staff Members of St Luke's Hospital.***

Creator God, in the work of our hands, our minds and our spirit, may we constantly reflect the work of your Kingdom. Grant us the courage to be your instruments of peace and hope to all we meet. May we willingly embrace the mantle of servant. May God bless our work today and always, Amen.

## ***Final Hymn***



