



Diocese of Down and Connor

Diocesan Curia, 75 Somerton Road, Belfast, BT15 4DE, Northern Ireland
00 44 (0) 28 9077 6185 dcoffice@downandconnor.org

Sunday 5th September 2021

DIOCESAN APPEAL FOR THE DOWN AND CONNOR PRIESTS' WELFARE FUND

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past 18 months the normal rhythm of our lives has been affected in so many ways. Many things we took for granted were no longer readily available to us, and, as families, workers and communities, we sought out new ways to live life.

Our life as a praying and worshipping community was ruptured too. We all felt the absence of gathering as the family of God, but we adapted to new ways of uniting in prayer. We are most grateful for your generosity to your parish and to the diocese at a time when many people faced and continue to face their own financial struggles.

In the diocese of Down and Connor, the Priests' Welfare Fund exists to provide the stipend for each priest in active ministry. Your generosity over many years has ensured that the Fund had sufficient reserves to continue to provide a stipend for each priest, even where parish stipend offerings decreased significantly.

On Sunday 19th September 2021 we are asking for your financial support towards the annual autumn voluntary collection for our priests.

We make this appeal to ensure that the Fund can continue to sustain that support.

We make this appeal in the light of the fact that during 2020 the level of giving across our parishes dropped on average by 35% to 50%. This decrease was experienced across all aspects of financial support for the many services provided by our parishes and the diocese e.g. Pastoral Care and Services and Sacramental Ministries in our parishes; the Living Church initiative, Family Ministry, Vocations Commission, Diocesan Youth Commission, Safeguarding & Vetting, Chaplaincies to Hospitals, Prisons, Universities), Living Youth, ACCORD, Family Care Society and the Diocesan Curia.

Together with the priests of the diocese I thank you for your kindness and ongoing support and for your generous response to this appeal in support of your priests.

I offer my prayerful good wishes to you and to all those who are dear to you.

Yours in Christ,

+ Noel Treanor
Bishop of Down and Connor