

Diocese of Limerick gets virtual makeover as new website is launched

Diocesan Administrator calls for us all to reconnect ‘off-line’ in this time of need

Monday, 21 November 2011: Some 60 parishes, 110 clergy, a myriad of support groups representing 184,000 parishioners have come together under the largest virtual roof in the Limerick region as the Diocese of Limerick tonight launched its new website.

Over one year in the making, the new website - www.limerickdiocese.org – was launched by Diocesan Administrator Fr Tony Mullins at an event attended by over 150 guests at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

The website is a one-stop information resource on all aspects of Diocesan activities, from a simple introduction to ‘Being a Catholic’ to mass times across the Diocese and contact details and information on various Diocesan backed support organisations.

Launching the website, Fr Mullins said that the website is a wonderful 360° reflection of the incredible community that is the Diocese of Limerick.

“The rebuilding of our website has been a very valuable process for us. This is not just because it is going to strengthen our connection with this vast community we are at the centre of but the process itself has been an opportunity for us to take stock and appreciate, once again, the wonderful sum of all parts that the Diocese is.

“Rebuilding our website was a renewal of sorts for us in the Diocese and a very worthwhile one at that. Morale in the Church has been greatly challenged over recent years but all of us involved in this project have been given a timely reminder of just how much good is done across this Diocese, by the clergy, by the laity, by organisations of many different hues.

“Our website is the shop window for all of this and despite the many difficulties we have faced as a Church over recent decades, when we look into this window today and see the breadth of work done, we can indeed be pleased.”

Fr Mullins said that the Church must embrace the worldwide web as a resource for reaching, and being reached by, its congregation, particularly those in need. However, he said that it is also time for us to start reconnecting in person with each other.

“The virtual world is a vital tool for sharing of information in our broad community but true community will not be found within the confines of the virtual world itself. Unfortunately, more and more people have retreated from the real community over recent years. At a time when society is probably on its knees more than ever, there’s no plus in this.

“We all benefit from prudent use of the internet but it will never do for us what a friendly smile, an offer of support, a simple visit will do for a person in need.

“There is probably someone out there we can all think of who could do with that visit right now. It may be an elderly person living alone; someone who lost their job; someone who has lost a loved one; someone who has lost their confidence or, indeed, their faith. And their sense of loss is even greater at this time of year, as we move towards Advent, the season of preparation and anticipation for the celebration of the birth day of Jesus, Christmas Day.

“So, as we celebrate the new tonight here with our website launch, let’s reconnect with one of the oldest values of our Church and, indeed, Irishness, the value of community. Let’s make an effort to connect in the best way possible – in person.”

Ends

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