



FAITH & POLICY UNIT

Indoor Members

Dear Díoc IMC,

What strange times we have experienced during the last few months! We have had to cancel our usual Holy Communion services and Tea Parties which were enjoyed by so many of our older members. Many of our IMs have been cocooning /shielding and are apprehensive about going out. They have appreciated shopping and medicines being delivered and being kept in touch by letter and telephone. For those living alone, the telephone has been a life line and some have been able to keep in touch with family and friends using modern technology - FACE time. Sadly we have not been able to visit those in residential care yet.

During lockdown, I sent some prayers, readings and patterns for knitted hearts and prayer squares (mini prayer shawls) which could be used not only by Indoor Members. I know that some of you did some knitting. I found that it was a great way of using up those odd balls of wool. I sent them to people who live on their own and they were very touched by the idea and phoned to thank me. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please let me know. Some of you have kept in touch with your IMs by sending cards and also by phoning.

We often look for suitable booklets to give to our IMs. Ruth Dobson one of the IM Contacts in Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh, sent me a copy of a very useful little booklet containing prayers and readings. These booklets are free and can be obtained from Ruth Gyves ruthgyves@gmail.com You might like to order one for yourself to see if it would be suitable for any of your IMs.

Monthly updates of any changes of address or those who have significant birthdays, wedding anniversaries are very helpful to me. Cards signed by our All Ireland President are greatly appreciated by members especially in recent times when our active members have been confined to their homes. So far this year, we have had 4 members who have celebrated 100th birthdays. One of them developed Covid-19 and recovered well and still lives in her own home. Unfortunately we couldn't visit her due to the present restrictions but did see a lovely photo of her on the diocesan website.

Some Diocesan IMCs send cards to MU members celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. Cards were sent to 2 couples marking 60 years of marriage and 3 couples marking 50 years of marriage.

Just a reminder - an Indoor Member can be any age but a member does not automatically become an Indoor Member when they reach 90 years of age. I'm sure we all know a number of active members who are 90 or 90+.

I trust that you have all been keeping well during the present restrictions and living life as normally as possible,

Yours sincerely,

Norma

All Ireland IM Contact

