



Diocese of Ossory

9th May 2025.

Re: Good Shepherd Sunday, 11th May 2025

My dear people,

As we rejoice in the news of the election of Pope Leo XIV, we can recall that Pope Francis, in one of his final statements prepared for this Good Shepherd Sunday 2025 - this annual day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life - urged that every effort be made to foster vocations in every sphere of human life and activity. He went on to say that 'The Church needs pastors, religious, missionaries and spouses capable of saying "yes" to the Lord with hope and trust. No one can respond to God's call alone, for all of us need the prayers and support of our brothers and sisters.'

Keen to offer support, the Diocese of Ossory, in union with the Church throughout the world at this special time, prays for and actively encourages young men and women to walk as pilgrims of hope on the path of the Gospel by discerning whether the Lord is calling them to service as priests and religious.

As a Diocese, let us never tire of asking the Lord for new labourers for his harvest, certain that with great love he continues to call young people to proclaim with their lives that following Christ in the ordained ministry is a great source of joy and hope. Anyone interested in finding out more about the diocesan priesthood in Ossory is kindly invited to find additional information at www.ossory.ie/vocations

Please find here a link to a video prepared to mark this Good Shepherd Sunday here in the Diocese of Ossory, where I offer some thoughts on the importance, now and always, of the ministry of priests.

'The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
He has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
To bind up hearts that are broken.' (Isaiah 61: 1)

With every good wish and blessing.

+ Niall Coll

✠ Niall Coll,
Bishop of Ossory.

Ossory Diocesan Office, James's Street, Kilkenny, R95 NH60, Ireland.

Tel: +353 56 7762448 | Email: admin@ossory.ie | Website: www.ossory.ie | RCN: 20015931.