Do This In Memory Programme next Sunday 11am Mass.

Are you? Struggling with Anxiety or Depression? Finding Life Difficult? Isolated?
GROW is here to help you: Our Mental Health Support groups are free and confidential and open to all, no referral or booking needed. Meeting times are: Tuesday @ 10am. Wednesday @ 8pm.
Friday @ 10.30am. Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny

Did you get time to look at is www.catholicireland.net. It describes itself as ‘an online source of information and inspiration’. This week you will find some further good reading on www.catholicireland.net. Why not have a look at the website of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference. There is a lot of information on the Bishops’ Conference – they meet regularly at Maynooth and seek to work as a team, under the chairmanship of the Archbishop of Armagh, Eamon Martin.

Church Unity Octave: for many years these days, from the 18th to 25th January, have been designated as a week of prayer for unity among the Christian Churches. This follows the prayer of Jesus, ‘that they all may be one’. So, throughout the world the Christian Churches will be praying for and promoting unity. In the past we focused on our differences, on what kept us apart. Nowadays the focus has changed, to what we have in common. The theme chosen for this year’s week of prayer is ‘justice, only justice you shall pursue’. This is taken from the Book of Deuteronomy (chapter 16, verse 18). You will find information on this week on the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference website.

World Youth Day takes place this week, 22nd to 27th January, in Panama City. Like the World Meeting of Families and the Eucharistic Congress, each time these events come around a different venue is chosen. Pope Francis will attend the gathering in Panama next week. Let’s see what kind of coverage the Irish media gives the event.

Remember the various Synods which take place in Rome, every few years, when Catholic Church leaders gather to discuss a certain theme, and from the gathering present a Document……. From 3rd to 28th October bishops gathered in Rome, with young people from many countries, to talk about Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment. Significantly, since Francis became Pope, each Synod has had a period of preparation when Churches have been invited to discuss the Synod theme. The results of the preparatory discussions were sent to Rome, collated, and when the people gathered in Rome this document was used as a basis for further conversation. From that conversation, the Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment has been published, and can be accessed on the website of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference. Have a read of it. It is described as a ‘roadmap’, to guide the way forward for the next number of years. The process marks the style of Pope Francis, calling for a Synodal Church, a Church of ‘people journeying together along the road of life, listening to and supporting one another on the way. That’s the kind of Church he calls for in each diocese and parish also.

Family Carers Ireland: Are currently recruiting for homecare workers in the Thomastown area. Applicants should have at least 2 years’ experience in a relevant care setting, an up to date patient moving & handling cert & have completed QQI level 5 in Healthcare Support or equivalent. Applications can be sent to mwalsh@familycarers.ie

MABS: The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is a free, confidential and independent service funded thorough the Citizens Information Board. MABS assist people who have debt problems, who are in difficulty paying a mortgage or who are facing legal action because of debt. They also provide information and access to Insolvency Services. For more information contact MABS on: www.mabs.ie or call Kilkenny MABS on 0761 072610.

Parish Prayer: We pray for our Parish, families, neighbours and friends; that we may be inspired to make a difference, to change our own lives and reach out to help others who are trying to change their lives too.