

NEW LIFE NEW HOPE

Lá le Bríde (1st of February) traditionally heralds the arrival of Spring. After months buried in cold dark soil, daffodils are shooting up all around us in planned settings as well as in unexpected places. The frost and snow may inhibit their blooming for a while but daffodils in full bloom will soon lift all our hearts.



In the midst of the darkness, distress and fear of our current pandemic, new heroines and heroes are blossoming among us as they bring competent, dedicated and loving care to all of us in our time of need. Much of their heroism is in hospitals and care homes but it is also flourishing in every neighbourhood throughout the land. A new spirit of imaginative respectful cooperation is deepening across traditional conventions. This enduring attitude of creative, unconditional caring love must continue to underpin the new normal of how we share life in our communities and on this planet as brothers and sisters. Each of us is called to be an ambassador of trust-filled hope in the new normal of our time now and in the future.

Ambassadors of hope

- Hope is essential for our well-being; without it, life ends up in arid despair.
- Our hope is founded on the rock of faith in the Risen Jesus and is made vibrant by love received and shared.
- Tá Dia láidir agus tá Máthair mhaith aige.
- Be of good heart. God is very near. He is within us.
- Let no day pass without speaking words of reassuring hopefulness.
- Light a candle of hope rather than talk the negativity of blame.
- Encouraging hopefulness is the path to God's love.
- Do not belittle another's hopes even in your heart.
- Is gaire cabhair Dé ná an doras.
- Hope is the antidote to loneliness.
- Kindness drives out fear and selfishness, enabling us to hope, to serve, to be happy and to love.

Such is our calling.



Fr. Tom Clancy