

Clonard Monastery 1 Clonard Gardens
Belfast BT13 2RL Northern Ireland



September 15, 2023

Dear Father,

Prayerful Greetings from Clonard Monastery, Belfast!

This year the Redemptorist Community at Clonard Monastery, Belfast, has been asked to host an ecumenical prayer service for all those whose lives have been touched, in one way or another, by cancer. The service is organized by the UK-based charity, *Pause for Hope*. Further information about *Pause for Hope* can be found at: www.pauseforhope.org.uk

As we know, at least one in three people nowadays will develop some kind of cancer. For most people a diagnosis of cancer will come as a shock and will follow a period of investigation which, as well as being unpleasant in itself, brings with it a worrying sense of uncertainty and an apprehension of the possible outcomes, together with a stark awareness of one's own mortality.

The aim of Pause for Hope is to help people affected in any way by cancer, or in its management and care, by **bringing together in prayer:**

- those who have or have had cancer and,
- their loved ones and,
- those who care for them,
- doctors and nurses,
- those with special skills involved in the investigation and treatment of cancer,
- those in authority who have responsibility for providing resources,
- our scientists trying to find a cure.

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In the light of this, we invite you and the members of your congregation to join us here at Clonard on the afternoon of **Sunday, October 22, at 3:30pm** for this service of prayer. It is our hope that by coming together all will experience a sense of peace and hope in the midst of the difficulties of coping with a serious illness.

Attached you will find a short announcement that we ask you to post in your Newsletter / church website / social media page for the two weeks prior to the day of the service.

Following the service, light refreshments will be provided, along with an opportunity to share stories and experiences with others in a similar situation.

With every good wish,

Brendan J. Kelly, C.Ss.R.
Rector
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