



# Graiguercullen/Killeshin

## PARISH LINK

*Sunday 8th December 2019*

*Second Sunday of Advent*

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**Web: [www.graiguercullenkilleshin.com](http://www.graiguercullenkilleshin.com) - Find us on Facebook: GraigueKilleshin Parish  
Safeguarding Reps: B Lloyd 0877719368/S McWey 0876216207**

### Choose A New Direction

We embark on a diet and the days of lettuce and low calorie drinks loom gloomily. We embark on a fitness regime and our subconscious whispers, "Fifteen more minutes under a warm duvet versus a jog round a freezing park .... I know what I'd choose!"



In today's gospel, John the Baptist preaches "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The idea of 'repentance' fills us with about as much excitement as a cold shower on a winter's morning, but it doesn't have to be like that.

Repentance doesn't mean throwing ourselves round in fits of Catholic guilt, it simply means having a change of heart, and becoming new and better individuals as a result. There are areas in all our lives that can be improved or turned around. The idea of repentance is actually quite exciting.

John's Advent call for a change of heart is for each and every one of us. We might think we are good enough as we are, but that's probably how the Pharisees and Sadducees in today's reading also felt. True enough they turned up for John's baptism, but had they really turned up in a spirit of repentance? John is clearly suspicious of their motivation, and challenges them to prove their commitment. Declaring our intention to change is all well and good, but our commitment must also 'bear fruit' ... show results.

At this time of year, every year, we are asked to change our lives. For the less optimistic amongst us, the idea reminds us of new year resolutions; easily made, easily broken and all a little bit pointless. John's message is a tough one.

Changing our lives is far from easy. One of the problems of course is that when we try to change we usually rely solely on our own will power, which is notorious for letting us down. John the Baptist reminds us that when we are baptised in the name of Jesus we will receive the Holy Spirit, a divine power that will help us towards God when our will power fails. All we have to do is ask and keep on asking.

Change is not beyond any of us however much you think it probably is. John might have given the Pharisees and Sadducees a hard time but in truth the message is clear. "There is none so lost, they cannot be found, none so helpless that their life cannot be changed."

**Parish Envelopes:** the 2020 boxes of envelopes are available at the church doors and we ask each family to take a box and use the envelopes to make your contribution to our Parish Development Fund and other special collections. We need your financial support to continue to upkeep and maintain our beautiful churches and parish buildings and to develop our pastoral initiatives. The work of the parish is greatly helped by your regular Financial Support

**Youth Mass:-** our monthly youth Mass will take place next Sat 14th Dec at 6.30pm in St Clare's Church. All children preparing for Confirmation and their families are encouraged to attend. **The theme for this Mass will be 'HOPE'.** In the midst of winter, when even nature itself seems to be declaring decay, we gather at this Mass as people of hope. We know in the very darkest hour our God is with us. All our readings and music will be of hope. All are welcome

**Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) is also called "Bambinelli" Sunday.** On this Sunday Pope Francis celebrates an old Italian tradition: **the blessing of the baby Jesus statues for manger scenes.** We are inviting families from our parish to bring their Crib Statues of the Baby Jesus to Mass with them next weekend. During the Mass the priest will ask you to hold up the statue and they will be blessed. We then ask you to bring it home and wrap the statue as a Christmas gift and place it under your Christmas Tree. On Christmas morning open it as the first family present, place it in the manger in your home and say a family prayer.

**Holy Communion to the sick and housebound for Christmas:-** Holy Communion will be brought to the sick and housebound during the coming week.

**Christmas Prayer Box:** we invite Parishioners to write any special prayers or intentions for Christmas and place them in the box beside the crib in St. Clare's. They will be placed in the crib for Christmas.

**St Fiacc's NS Advent Mass of Giving:-** this Mon 9th Dec at 11.30am. All are welcome. Each child will bring a non-perishable food item to the Mass & we will make up Christmas Food Hampers for those in need.

**A big thank you** to Kathleen Doogue who donated flowers for the altar for our Remembrance Mass and Michael Mc Donagh who donated the flowers for the altar for the 90th Anniversary celebration of St Clare's Church.

**Parish Carol Service:** Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm in St. Clare's Church. All Parish Choirs and Killeshin Pipe Band will be taking part. Admission is free but a collection will be taking up to support the local St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

**Friends of Fiacc's House Annual Draw** will be held this Monday night 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. Cards are available in St. Fiacc's House. Lines €10 each - full card €100. Entertainment from 8pm.

**Graiguercullen Monster Christmas Bingo**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December @ 3pm**  
**Great prizes to be won. Chocolates left and right of the winner.**  
**In house Lotto Draw for 2 Turkeys, 2 Hams & 3 books.**  
**Bring a friend.**

Commissioning of the new young Eucharistic Ministers this Monday 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in St. Clare's. The young people have just completed the training course & we thank them for their service.

**Meals on Wheels Service:-** are in urgent need of volunteer drivers. If you can help please contact Fiacc's House between 9am-2pm Monday-Friday 0599143892.

**Christmas penitential service will take place at all Masses on the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> of December.**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm (First Anniversary)** Sinead Webber (née Byrne), Coventry & 114 St Clare's Rd)-(Noel Byrne, Ballickmoyler) (Sarah & John Farrell, Chapel Street)

Michael Kearns, 21 Oakley Pk and all deceased members of Kearns family, Ballynultagh (Fiacc O'Rourke, 11 Oakley Park)-(Nora Smyth, Mount Clare Court) John & Brigid Kearns, Sleaty Rd also their sons & daughters Hugh & Elizabeth Brady, Virginia, Co. Cavan Mary & John Mc Namara, Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare Tony Leonard, London and all his deceased relatives and friends May Whelan, Dublin Rd, also her husband Paddy & deceased family

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 9am** Jimmy Murnane, 80 Maher Rd  
**10.15am** Eileen O'Regan, Killeshin Rd (**BirthDay Rem**) Josephine O'Rourke, Old Derrig

Briget & Thomas Cummins, Bagenalstown, also their daughters Mary, Elizabeth & Jean  
**11.30am** Colette O'Reilly, Bullock Park

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> 10am** The sympathisers of Edward Ned Hughes, 82 St. Clare's Road

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup> 10am** (Katie Kelly, St. Clare's Rd (**BirthDay Rem**) also her sisters Nellie, Bridie & Lizzie)

**Thu 12<sup>th</sup> 10am** Jim Foley, Pacelli Ave

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm (Month's Mind)** Joan Culleton, 56 St. Fiacc's Tce (**Month's Mind**) John Joe Brophy, Duggan Ave Elizabeth Dowling, 55 St. Fiacc's Tce (**BirthDay Rem**) Gary Lawler, 4 Heatherhill Square (**BirthDay Rem**) (Paddy Nolan, St. Fiacc's Tce)-(Mary Farrell, 18 Chapel St) (Peg & Charles Rettmeier, Maher Rd & New York)-(The Hayes Family, The Numbers) (Matt & Maggie Nolan, 1 Morrins Lane)-(May Slater, Mullins Lane) (The Hogan family, St. Fiacc's Tce)-(Tom & May Finn, The Numbers) Joan Lawler, The Numbers also her husband Michael and son Michael Norman Haughney, Oakley Park and all deceased family

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 9am** Mary Waters, (née Loughman), Sleaty Rd & Cork (Paudge Murphy, Knockbeg)-(Ellen & John Carroll, Centaur St) Bernard (Benny) Keating, 95 St. Mary's Pk also his son Patrick & daughter Mary  
**10.15am** John & Nora Fitzgerald, Coolane, Killeshin)-(Una Gaule, 95 New Oak Est)  
**11.30am** (Kenneth Howard, Oakley Crescent)-(Thomas Bolger, 12 Chapel St) (Mattie Kearney, Keelogue, Killeshin)-(Annette Nelson, 142 Sleaty St)

*R.I.P.* Damien Callinan, 4 John St., Carlow Town, Carlow / Killeshin, Carlow  
 John Dempsey, Croydon, London and formerly of Portlaoise *R.I.P.*  
 Franciszka Korus, Poland

**RehabCare Carlow** presents The Brexit Blues a musical comedy based on Brexit on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at 8pm in the RehabCare Resource Centre on the Castlecomer Rd. On Mon 9<sup>th</sup> The Graiguecullen Men's Choir are special guests and on Tues 10<sup>th</sup> we have The Nolan Sisters. Your support would be greatly appreciated and all monies raised will go to the Carlow Centre. (Please note change of date from 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> as printed in the Co Carlow festive family experience brochure)

**Christmas Rambling night in Oisín House** on the Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 8pm songs stories and music, tea, cakes & scones, coffee. Looking forward to seeing you there in your Christmas attire

Carlow Voices will hold their Christmas concert *Remembering Decembers* at 4.30pm on Sun 15th Dec in St Mary's Church, Haymarket. Adm is €12, €10 concession while children are free of charge. Tickets are available from any choir member or call 085 7352791

**St. Clare's Hospitality:** committee wish to thank everyone who helped with the Bag Pack last weekend. We raised €4,001.69. This would not have been possible without your help. Thanks to the management and Staff of Dunnes Stores for their support and all who contributed for their generosity.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Appeal: is being held this weekend 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Teresa Ramsbottom would like to thank her family, neighbours & friends for all their good wishes, get well cards & lit candles and all the people who called to the house. Greatly appreciated. The Holy Scarifice of the mass will be offered for all your intentions.

There will be a Celebration of Christmas Variety Concert in the Arboretum Garden Centre, Leighlinbridge, on Wed 11th Dec at 8 pm. in support of the Eist Cancer Support Centre, Carlow. The special guest country singer, Derek Ryan. The Castlecomer Male Voice Choir, Paprika & other guests. There will be a mulled wine reception at 7.30 pm. There will also be a door prize. Tickets @ €20 are for sale at the Eist Centre 059 9139684 or at the Arboretum Garden Centre.

**READERS – ST CLARE'S**

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> December.**  
**6.30pm:** Amelia Chodorska, Katie O'Sullivan & Damian Korus  
**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December.**  
**9am:** Denis Ryan, Jim & Gerard Carthy  
**11.30am:** Jack King, Sean & Danielle O'Driscoll  
**READERS – HOLY CROSS**  
**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December.**  
**10.15am:** Cara Maher, David McDonald & Jack Brennan  
**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**  
**ST. CLARE'S**  
**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> December.**  
**6.30pm:** Danny Brennan (C), Elly Kelly, Ellen Dunican, Katie Ffrench, Abbie Graham, Aimee Watchorn  
**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December.**  
**9am:** Frank Horohan, Cem Crowe & Deborah O'Brien  
**11.30am:** Jenny Hutton (C), John Hovenden, Laura Horohan, Emily Dunican, Alicia Gordon, Jenna Dempsey  
**HOLY CROSS**  
**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.**  
**10.15am:** June Farrell, Aoife & Eadaoin Cawley

**Annual Goose Club will take place this Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm.**  
**Your support is greatly appreciated. In St. Fiacc's Hall.**

**Weekly Collection**  
 Red Bag: €877.00  
 Blue Bag: €1,426.00  
 We thank you for your support.

**Parish Calendar of Church Services and Events for Advent and Christmas 2019 is available at all church doors.**

**A Carol service will take place in St Abban's Church, Killeen, Maganey on Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec @ 7pm.**  
 Everyone is welcome.

**Graiguecullen Bingo**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 8.30pm**  
**Jackpot 45 numbers €1,350**  
**Double Number €1,440**  
**In-house Mini Lotto €1,400**  
**in St Fiacc's Hall**  
**Great Prizes to be won.**  
**Bring a friend**

The Hughes Family, St Clare's Rd wish to thank everyone for their support and Mass Cards on the death of Edward (Ned). A mass will be celebrated for your intentions.