

GRAIGUECULLEN KILLESBIN

- Parish Link -

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Mr Michael Daly 085 802 1633.

Rev. Fr. John Dunphy: Phone: 059 914 1833 | 918 2882.

Priest on Call for Carlow Area: (Emergency Only) Phone: 087 258 8118.

Parish Office: 059 914 1833 | 918 2882. Email: gkparish@gmail.com.

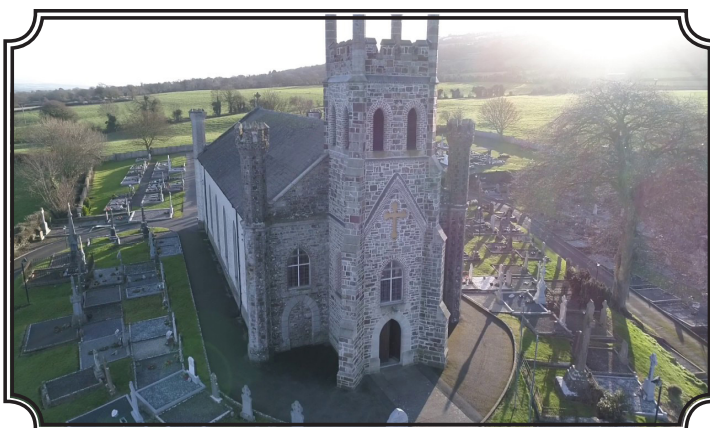
Web: www.graiguecullenkillesbin.com.

Find us on Facebook: Graiguecullen Parish.

Safeguarding Reps: B. Llyod & S. McWey: 059 914 1833.



St. Clare's Church



Holy Cross Church

Laying Down Stones:

God looked down from Heaven and rolled the Stone away! All of us carry burdens that cause us to walk through life with some experience of pain. We all have different times in our lives when these burdens can weigh heavy on our minds, our hearts and our souls. These burdens may come from any area of our lives; family, work, health, covid pandemic or finances. Sometimes the weight of these burdens is too much for us to bear alone. God doesn't want us to carry our burdens alone. He asks us to lay our burdens down at the foot of the cross. He wants us to surrender our heavy load to him. During this season of Lent we invite you to lay down your stone, your burden, on the strength of the Lord. Please take a stone from the sacred space in the palm of your hand and lay upon it the burdens of your life. Place the stone on the pathway to the cross. In this way we are laying down our weights to be carried by Jesus and rolled away like the stone which revealed the empty tomb.

(Please use sanitizer supplied before and after).

What is Lent all about?:

Many of us would confess that we're not quite sure what Lent is all about. We know it's about doing difficult stuff, like giving up chocolate. We know that Lent is about growing closer to God, but can giving up chocolate really get us closer to God? To understand Lent, we need to look to the wilderness story which we are told on the first Sunday of Lent every year. Every year on the first Sunday of Lent we are told how Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days to fast and to reflect on the job he was about to do here on Earth. We are told how he was confronted with temptation and how he overcame it. There are three elements to this story. Jesus withdrew from worldly distractions and fasted, he reflected on who and what he was about, and he overcame temptation. The problem is, we all seem to latch onto the first bit of the story about fasting and forget the two more important elements. Jesus reflected on the importance of the ministry he was about to undertake and he refused to be swayed from it. This is the important bit. This is how we need to understand and live our next forty days. At this time of year we are asked to 'repent'. We are asked to turn away from things in our

lives that are not working well or are wrong. That will be different for all of us, so we need to sit down in a quiet space and work out what we need to do. How we need to change should be something more important than those new-year resolutions we all make and break. Next we need to identify the barriers that stop us making those changes. Withdrawing from worldly comforts might be part of this barrier which is where fasting or giving up TV might come in. Lastly we need to resist the temptation to give up on plans to change ourselves and the world around us, and that's the hardest bit of all. As children today's gospel is presented to us with an accompanying illustration of the devil complete with huge bat like wings a scaly tail and horns. How easy to resist temptation packaged so obviously as a 'bad choice'. The trouble with temptation is it rarely comes packaged as a 'bad choice'. Often temptation comes as a fairly harmless choice or even as an attractive or intelligent option. How harmless does it seem to sip half a glass of wine when you're supposed to be quitting. How harmless does it seem to 'borrow' a little cash from the office tea fund ... you can always pay it back later. There's a lot of talk about what is classed as a temptation and what isn't. In the context of the first Sunday of Lent, a temptation is anything that takes you further away from God. If having an extra cream cake takes you further away from God, then it's a temptation ... if having an extra cream cake has nothing to do with your relationship with God then it's totally unimportant. When it comes to temptation, a simple rule of thumb is to ask yourself in each of your daily decisions, "Will this decision bring me nearer to God or take me further away?" Knowing who you are and what you are trying to achieve in life not only helps you to identify your temptations, but also gives you a reason and strength of character when it comes to resisting. Today is the day we start giving the devil a hard time. Tempted?

Important message from An Garda Síochána Crime Prevention Unit:

Gardaí are receiving an ever increasing number of complaints in relation to fraudulent and illegal scams. The scams can come in the form of texts, emails, telephone calls to your mobile or landline or even through social media. They can be difficult to spot as the correspondence claims to come from a reputable organisation such as your bank, card issuer or even a government department such as Revenue. The message can appear within a genuine thread of text messages that you may have received from a legitimate organisation. Please see www.graiguecullenkilleshin.com for full notice from An Garda Síochána.

Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board – are running 2 Free Online Courses:

1). How to Get Your Garden Ready for Spring Course Day: Wednesday Time: 11.00am – 12.30pm Start Date: February 24th for Six Weeks.

2). Tai Chi -- Have you ever wanted to give Tai Chi a try. Now you can do so from the comfort of your own home. Course Day: Monday from 7.00pm – 8.30pm or Tues from 11.00am – 12.30pm Start Date: Monday March 1st and Tuesday March 2nd for Six Weeks.

If you would like further information or if you would like to book a place on the course please contact Fiona at fdunne@kcetb.ie

Carlow County Development Partnership CLG:

Carlow County Development Partnership CLG invites you to join us for an energetic talk on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7 pm when we will explore the life of St Columbanus and how his work could help us to navigate modern-day challenges. The webinar will be held on Tues. 23rd of Feb at 7pm via Crowdcast. The registration link is as follows <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/stcolumbanus/register>

Parish Office:

Unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions the Parish Office is now closed. If you wish to put in an Anniversary Mass or a notice into the newsletter please contact 0599141833 and leave a message. Alternatively you can ring 0599145411, text 0876216207 or email gkparish@gmail.com.

Helplines:

The Samaritans - 116123

Pieta House – 0818 111 126

Crisis Text Line Ireland – Confidential messaging support for anyone going through a mental health or emotional crisis, either big or small. Txt: 3TS to 50808 or Txt: Spunout to 50808

Mental Health Information: - 1800 111 888

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People::

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

A very big thank you to everyone who continues to support the parish during the Covid 19 lockdown.:

Contributions can be made directly from your bank by direct debits/standing orders. The parish account details are: Account Name: Graiguecullen Church | BIC: BOFIE2D IBAN: IE12 BOFI 9065 3123 3222 21. Please put your name and address in the reference box. This is a really easy way to contribute to your parish!

Trócaire's Lenten Campaign for 2021:

In this year's Trocaire campaign we hear from Father James Oyet Latansio (the General Secretary of the South Sudan Council of Churches) who shares with us the challenges and hopes for the world's newest nation, as they approach the ten year anniversary of South Sudan's birth. Father James tells us about the particular impact of conflict and Covid-19 on the children of South Sudan: 'Children are victims. My prayer is that one day things might change for the better. But this will be a lost generation; these children who are impacted by war, by the conflict, and, even today, by Covid-19. Our children are going through all this, and they don't go to school. The schools were closed to avoid the spread of Covid-19 and we don't have enough internet for children to learn from home. They try and do it through radio, but not all families have got radios. So, it's just a desperate situation. Children become victims. Children become impacted by all these things, and I don't know what the future will hold. However, the hope will never be lost.' Any help you can give to Trocaire and the people of South Sudan will be greatly appreciated.

Samaritans:

Every hour, every day, a Samaritan is waiting to answer your call. This year our volunteers will be here to listen 24/7, allowing you to talk without judgement, to relieve distress and reach a better understanding of your situation. We hear from men and women of all ages who feel stressed, lonely, bereaved, have family or financial worries, or are suicidal. Please don't suffer in silence. We are here today, on freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie. Samaritans Kilkenny/Carlow are 25 years old and we want to thank all our volunteers – past and present - and our supporters for their time and dedication.

Killeshin NS:

Killeshin NS are accepting enrolments for September 2021. Please email: principal@killeshinns.ie

Thank You:

Thank you to everyone who donated to the candles for the church on Candlemas Day. A total of €305 was raised.

Carlow Family Support Group - You Are Not Alone:

Drugs and Alcohol abuse effects families regardless of status in life. You did not cause it, you can't control it and you can't cure it. Help is available for those who live with this dreadful disease call 085 - 7872730.

ANNIVERSARIES



Saturday 20th - Sunday 28th February 2021

(Please note all Anniversaries can be emailed to gkparish@gmail.com)
or call the Parish Centre 05991 41866 | 05991 82882

- Sat 20th 6.30pm (Patrick & Ellen Byrne, 47 St Fiacc's Tce also their sons, daughters and deceased family)
Paddy Looney, Church St also his parents Eileen & James
Katy Doyle, Galway (10th Anniversary)
(Peig O'Gorman, Athy)-(Leo Meaney, Colclough Ave)
(Mary Lawler, Shay & Christina Ryan, & John Moran, Churchtown, Athy)
- Sun 21st 9am (Bridie & Paddy O'Rourke, 116 St Clare's Rd also their son Seamus and daughter May Carpenter)
May Nash, Fr Maher Road
11.30am (Months Mind) Michael Murphy, 113 New Oak Estate
(Adrian Dillon, Killeshin)-(Mary Lacey, Heatherhill Ave)
Tony Fitzpatrick, Clonmore, Killeshin
John Byrne, Lower Rossmore also his parents Martin & Brigid
Mark Anthony Dunne, Monure, Killeshin Rd
(Mary Lanigan Kane, Calgary & Lanigans Lock also her aunt Evelyn O'Riordan, Howth)
Nan Kelly, Monavea, Crettyard
- Mon 22nd 10am (Months Mind) Michael Murphy, 113 New Oak Estate
Annie Nelson, 142 Sleaty St also her husband Thomas
Kathleen McDonald, The Cottage, Grange, Maganey
- Tues 23rd 10am Mary Lacey, Heatherhill Ave
James Rowan, Killeshin Rd & deceased family
- Wed 24th 10am Martin Darcy, Conway Park, Bagenalstown
Jimmy O'Neill, Mountrath
Donal Purcell, Donegal & Quinnagh
- Thurs 25th 10am Michael Woods, Duggan Ave
Seamus Branagan, St Fiacc's Tce
- Sun 28th 9am Michael Lyons, Oak Park Rd
11.30am Michael Scully, The Strand
Margaret Brennan, 42 Oakley Park (10th Anniversary)

R.I.P.

Patrick Dooley, St. Fiacc's House & Killabban, Maganey,
Maureen Phelan, (née Dignam), 91 Pearse Road
Andrew Rowan, 'Glenview', Clonbrock, Crettyard