



Graiguecullen/Killeshin PARISH LINK Sunday 11th December 2022 Third Sunday of Advent



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Parish Team: Fr. John Dunphy, Cathriona Kelly & Suzanne McWey
Priest on Call for Carlow Area: (Emergency Only) Phone: - 087/2588118

Advent season is an invitation to get your mind off the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off the crazy hustle of the season and the sadness that could accompany the different ways some of us may be choosing to observe the holiday season this year. Even when things feel chaotic, we can find peace in Jesus. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who came down from heaven and took the form of a man *so that we might believe*. The **third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday**. Gaudete is the Latin word for **rejoice**, and this Sunday is the time for us to rejoice because Jesus came and died so that we may live forever with him!

Confirmation Programme Masses: next Sunday at 10.15am in Holy Cross Church and 11.30am in St Clare's Church. All young people preparing for Confirmation are expected to attend.

Communion to the sick:- Holy Communion will be brought to the sick and housebound for Christmas this week

Myopic Expectation

It's at this time of year that our children are asking for every new toy they see on the TV. As discerning adults we know the castle that lights up, shoots arrows and transforms into a fire spouting dragon will just be a frustrating lump of plastic once we get it home, with batteries that give up after three minutes. Our children's expectations are unrealistic and it is up to us to buy a toy that we know will be more fun. Today's gospel is all about myopic expectation.

From his prison cell John the Baptist sends word to Jesus. "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answers, "Go and tell John what you hear and see. The blind, receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." It's interesting that Jesus doesn't send back a "Yes I am," kind of answer. Rather he sends a "Work it out yourself," kind of answer. He asks John to look at the evidence. It seems strange that John, normally so certain and so confident should declare a doubt, but perhaps we can understand his disappointment. John has been arrested and thrown into prison. He is feeling tired and disillusioned. It is likely that he'd had misguided expectations of Jesus. Perhaps he'd expected Jesus to come in the manner of a king or of a great warrior with the power to conquer the oppressor. John has some working out to do. John needs to understand that the work of a Messiah is to teach God's love, not just push a few Romans around.

So, what of our own expectations? Do we expect God to sort out all our problems and make our lives easy and comfortable? Or do we believe that God is there to help change us and guide us through our daily choices. Do we understand that God is preparing us for his kingdom or are we guilty of myopic expectation?

Parish Carol Service: Monday 19th Dec 7.30pm 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.

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.

Saint Vincent de Paul Graiguecullen :- Please note that the annual Christmas Appeal church gate collection will be held this weekend 10th & 11th December. Our sincere thanks to all who have supported us throughout what has been a very difficult year. Your support has done so much to help people in our community. We wish all our friends and supporters a very happy and holy Christmas.

An Invitation to Reconciliation- During this season of Advent we celebrate God's invitation to reconciliation. There will be a brief **penitential reflection at all our Masses next weekend 17th/18th Dec**. As it is difficult to get extra priests to attend, our reconciliation service will take a slightly different format this year. **Pope Francis spoke about the importance of the gesture. "Without that initial impulse, the person would not be there. Their being there is testimony to the desire for change. Words are important, but a gesture is explicit"**. In light of this people will now be invited to take part in a gesture of reconciliation by approaching the altar for a brief cleansing rite followed by general absolution.

FIACC'S HOUSE DRAW
Friends of Fiacc's House Annual Draw will take place on this Monday 12th December at 9pm
All Welcome

CHRISTMAS MASSES: -

Anniversaries for Christmas Masses must be in by Wed. 21st Dec. @ 12 noon and can be emailed to gkparish@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE
St Clare's Church

4pm & 5.30pm
(Specially for families with young children)
8.30pm
7.00pm (Specially for families with young children)



Holy Cross Church
CHRISTMAS DAY
St Clare's Church

9am & 11.30am

Holy Cross Church

10.15am

St Stephen's Day

10am Mass in St Clare's

Mon 26th—Fri 30th Dec.

Morning Mass at 10.00am in St. Clare's Church

Sat 31st /Sun 1st Jan

All weekend Masses will have a special

NEW YEAR THEME

Graiguecullen Bingo

on Tuesday 13th December
St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm.
Jackpot on 50 No's €4860
Double No €1230
Lotto €550
Great prizes, bring a friend.

THANK YOU: The Youth Ministry Team are so grateful to everyone who supported our recent Fashion Show fundraiser. We raised **€3,000** for our Youth Ministry fund! Thank you!

ANNIVERSARIES

Sat 10th 6.30pm **(Months Mind)** Patrick Murphy, Fr Byrne Pk
Liz Bolton, Duggan Ave (Birthday Rem.)
(Harry & Elizabeth Clarke, Maher Rd)-(Margaret Conlon, Armagh
Paddy Nolan, 62 St Fiacc's Tce
Gary Lawlor-Hearns, Heather Hill Sq.
(Jimmy Murnane, 80 Maher Rd)-(James Dooley, 14 Tinryland)
Sinead Webber (née Byrne), St Clare's Rd and Coventry
Michael Kearns, 21 Oakley Pk, and deceased family
Hugh & Elizabeth Brady, Virginia, Co. Cavan
John & Mary McNamara, Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare
Bridie Donnelly (née Kenna), Leighlin Rd, & her husband, William
Sun 11th 9am
11.30am **(1st Anniversary)** Eric Ene, Heather Hill Sq.
(Months Mind) Joe Nolan, Mountain Close, Leighlin Rd
(Colette O'Reilly, Bullock Pk)-(Michael Byrne, 141 Sleaty St)
(Agnes Shaw, 5 Bridge St)-(Kathleen & Alex Porter, Dublin)
Tues 13th 10am (Jim Foley, Pacelli Ave)-(Agnes Shaw, 5 Bridge St)
Ann & Patrick Corcoran, Maura Corcoran, Borris
Jenny, Germany & Matt Lawler, Bagenalstown
Wed 14th 10am (Patrick Nolan, St Fiacc's Hse)-(John English, Kilkenny Rd)
Joan & Michael Lawler, The Numbers, also their son, Michael
Thurs 15th 10am Elizabeth Dowling (Birthday Remembrance)
Sat 17th 6.30pm Jean & Seany Abbott, Knocknagee
Kenneth Howard, 21 Oakley Crescent
Brigid & Tom Slattery, St Fiacc's Tce, also their sons, Tommy &
Jimmy, and granddaughter, Gwen Doyle
(Seany Brennan, 28 Avondale Dr) -(Annette Nelson, 142 Sleaty St)
Christopher Bolton, The Strand, Ballickmoyler
(Bridie Kavanagh, May & Tony Kirwan Intentions of Padre Pio)
Mary Brennan and deceased family members, Curragh Cottage,
(Ann McGrath, Croppy Place)-(Mary & John Slater, Crossneen)
Sun 18th 9am Mary Waters (née Loughman), Cork and Sleaty
Enda Smyth, Pembroke and St Fiacc's Hse
10.15am (Peter Judge, Ballinderry, Co. Meath)-(Elizabeth Byrne, Cappalug)
(Paddy Maguire, Clonmore)-(John & Nora Fitzgerald, Coolane)
11.30am Kitty Brennan, Coolnariska.
(Paudge Murphy, Knockbeg)-(Teresa Wynne, Mt Clare Court)

R.I.P.

Elizabeth (/Betty) Timmons (nee Byrne) Quinnagh & St. Fiacc's Tce
Phylly Brennan nee Power, 135 Sleaty Street

R.I.P.

Sr. Mary McGann Poor Clare Monastery & Belfast
Michael Kinsella, Askea Lawns Carlow and Ballyhide

R.I.P.

Rainbow Programmes Spring '23-Twice yearly Carlow Rainbows Group offer a nine session **Peer Support Programme** for children aged 7 – 12 who have experienced loss through the **death** of a close relative or the **separation of their parents**. Programmes are free to participants. The next programme will commence on **January 23 2023** If you are interested please contact **Anne 0876636499**.

Safeguarding Children: Our parish values and encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, social and intellectual development and will work in a partnership way with parents at all times. Everyone in the Church has an obligation to ensure that the fundamental rights of children are respected. Our Parish is committed to working in partnership with the civil authorities to ensure that all aspects of child welfare are managed promptly, professionally and justly. Further information is available on noticeboards at all church doors or on our website www.graiguecullenkilleshin.com. Diocesan policy and procedures are set out in the publication – 'Kildare & Leighlin Diocese: Safeguarding Children Policy & Procedures'. This document is available on the diocesan website – www.kandle.ie

Parish Envelopes: the 2023 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. Please remember to put your name & address on the first few envelopes this helps with recording donations. Thank You

Weekly Collections 3rd/4th Dec.

Blue Bag (Envelopes): €855.00
Red Bag: €813.00
Direct Debits: €133.00
Tap Donations: €51.00
We thank you for your support.

Priest's Christmas Collection:-

this quarterly collection for the support of the priests of the parish will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. Special envelopes are provided in the envelope boxes or alternatively envelopes are available at church doors.

Catherine Nolan and Vera Smith would like to thank everybody for supporting their all-year-round clothes recycling collection. We will continue our collection in aid of Mellon Educate trips to South Africa, where we build schools in the townships around Cape Town. Vera and Catherine have just returned from working with 260 volunteers, building on 2 schools; 12 classrooms; 2 kitchens; 2 literacy hubs; 2 playgrounds and 2 converted areas for the kids to eat in. Over two thousand children will benefit. Clothes can be left in container at Terry Smith Kitchens, Sleaty Rd, Graiguecullen, Mon to Fri from 8.30am-4.30pm.

Separately, Vera and Catherine spent two weeks working in Nairobi, Kenya, in Mukuru slums with their Street Boys project, run by Sr Mary Killeen (recently featured on RTE news). Catherine: 086 870 9846. Vera: 086 831 7940.

"Holy Cross Church and its Community" a new book compiled by Pat Whelan to coincide with the 200th Anniversary of Holy Cross on sale in the Parish Centre and Killeshin Stores. Cost €20

Lá Nua Community Employment Scheme will be hosting their Pottery & Photography Exhibition on Thursday 15th & Friday 16th December in The Shaw room, Carlow County Library 10.30am - 4.00pm.

Admission Free.