



Graiguecullen/Killeshin PARISH LINK Sunday 4th December 2022 Second Sunday of Advent

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Safeguarding Reps: B Lloyd/S McWey/C Kelly 059 / 9141833

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms Kathleen Sherry 085 8021633



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

The second Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to **prepare our hearts in faithful waiting**, celebrate the birth of Jesus, and ready ourselves for his second coming. This week, we pause to remember who God is and what He has done for us. When our lives are hurried, we only have the chance to focus on our to-do lists. Making space in our schedules for prayer and meditation helps us to better see God at work in our lives and in our world.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we faithfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception this Thursday 8th Dec (Holy Day of Obligation). Masses at 10.15am in Holy Cross & 11.30am in St Clare's.

Communion to the sick:- Holy Communion will be brought to the sick and housebound on the week beginning 12th Dec. (NB change of date)

Proof of the Pudding

Change is a difficult notion for most of us. Like the Pharisees and Sadducees we probably think we are okay just the way we are. In our youth we might have had a go at some 'character building' but as we age we tend to hope that others will accept us warts and all. Then along comes John the Baptist with his Advent message "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." It seems that staying just the way we are is not an option.

'Repentance' is an unfashionable word, but it simply means a 'change of direction'. It also implies that we should be sorry for our old way of life. But as John points out, saying 'sorry' isn't enough. We must be able to provide the proof of the pudding. Lip service is all too easy. Saying that we are sorry and that we want to change is good start, but unless we put any practical provision into place, our good intentions are going to remain exactly that.... good intentions.

John gives us a piece of very helpful advice for making our good intentions fruitful. In preparing a way for Christ in our lives we must "Make straight his paths." That means identifying the obstacles that have prevented us from getting things right in the past and removing them. If for instance our change of heart means giving more money to the poor we will first have to identify what has stopped us doing that in the past. If our change of heart involves spending more time with an elderly relative we must first delegate some of the work that keeps us from doing that in the here and now. If a character trait such as shyness, laziness or prejudice get in the way of things we would like to do, then perhaps now is a good time to devise some strategies that will help make change possible.

If we are serious about wanting to change, John has more advice to offer. "There is one who is more powerful who is coming after me. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." With the best will in the world our own lack of willpower can prevent us from realising our good intentions. This is where the Holy Spirit can help us. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the vision and the will to produce the proof of the pudding.

St Fiacc's NS Advent Mass of Giving:- this Friday 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.

Saint Vincent de Paul Graiguecullen :- Please note that the annual Christmas Appeal church gate collection will be held next 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.

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.

EVERGREENS CHRISTMAS DINNER in The Talbot Hotel on Sunday 11th Dec 2022 @ 1pm sharp. Tickets available from the Pool Office

Next Sunday the 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.

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

Graiguecullen
MONSTER Bingo
on Tuesday 6th December
St.Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm.
Jackpot on 50 numbers €4,730
Double number €1,160
Lotto €500
Chocolates left & right of the winner.
Great prizes, bring a friend.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

(Please note all Anniversaries can be emailed to gkparish@gmail.com)

Sat 3rd 6.30pm John & Sarah Farrell, 17 Chapel St
Fiaac O'Rourke, 11 Oakley Park
(Katie Kelly, St Clare's Rd (**BirthDay Rem**) also her sisters
Bridie, Nellie & Lizzy)
Noel Byrne, Ballickmoyler
Michael Kenny Jnr, Croppy Place
Nora Smyth, Mount Clare Court
Fergus Keating, 2 St Lazarian's Tce
Eileen Dowling, 11 St Clare's Rd
Eamonn Brennan, 69 Pearse Road
John Joe Cullen, Hollywood (**BirthDay Rem**)

Sun 4th 10.15am Patrick & Ann Fitzpatrick, The Glenside
11.30am Andy O'Keeffe, Ballycarney
Michael Heary, 16 Granby Row also his wife Mary and their son Gerard
Noel & Joan Power, Sleaty Street
Damien Callinan, Keelogue
(Brendan Maddock, 30 Rossmore View)-(Mary Whelan, Dublin Rd)

Tues 6th 10am (Marie & Vincent Halloran, USA)-(Special Intention Mass)
Mollie Dunne, 8 Dublin Rd & her children Eilish & Sean
Ellen Healy, Dublin

Wed 7th 10am
Thurs 8th 10.15am Eileen O'Regan, Killeshin Rd (**BirthDay Rem**)
11.30am Bill & Annie Moran, St Mary's Park also their son Liam
(Mary, Jim & Dan Pender)-(Sarah & Peter Jordan)
William, Kathleen & Tom Murphy
Intention Mass

Sat 10th 6.30pm (**Months Mind**) Patrick Murphy, Fr Byrne Park
Liz Bolton, Duggan Ave (**BirthDay Rem**)
Harry & Elizabeth Clarke, Maher Rd
Margaret Conlon, Armagh
Paddy Nolan, 62 St Fiacc's Tce
Andrew O'Keeffe, Killian Heights, Ballycarney (**10th Anniv**)

Sun 11th 11.30am (**Months Mind**) Joe Nolan, Mountain Close, Leighlin Rd
(**First Anniversary**) Eric Ene, Heatherhill Square
Colette O'Reilly, Bullock Park
Michael Byrne, 141 Sleaty St



Weekly Collections 26th/27th Nov.

Blue Bag (Envelopes): €650
Red Bag: €950
Direct Debits: €272
Donations: €150
Tap Donations: €82
We thank you for your support.

Killeshin GFC AGM on Wed 7th December in the Clubhouse following Mass for deceased members at 7:30pm.

Remembering Liam Bradley: To celebrate happy memories Liam and his family enjoyed in this parish over the years, his family have provided lights at Chapel St. corner. Liam loved Christmas and all the joy and goodwill created for everyone.

Christmas Mass Bouquets:- are now available from the parish centre. Cards cost €5 with €4 from each card going to charity. This year all profits from the cards will go to our local St Vincent de Paul Society and St Clare's Hospitality Food Kitchen.

Amazing Christmas Gifts now available in our parish centre shop after all Masses this weekend.

Governey Park Residents Assoc would like to invite everyone to the annual turning on of the Christmas Tree lights at the Croppy on Friday December 9th at 6pm sharp. Santa will be at this free event. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all residents of Governey park for their continued support and we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Friends of Fiacc's House Annual Draw will take place on Monday 12th December at 9 pm. Cards available now from Fiacc's House or by phoning 086 3981213. New promoters welcome.

St Clare's Hospitality are seeking volunteers for a bag pack in Dunnes Stores on the 15th/16th/17th December. If you can spare an hour or two please contact the Parish Office.

Safeguarding: If you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children or vulnerable adults contact Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) – Ms Kathleen Sherry:
Ph: 085/8021633
E-mail-dlp@kandle.ie

RIP Noel Nolan, Fr. Byrne Park, Graiguecullen formerly Friarstown, Bennekerry *RIP*

IDEAL PRESENT: Give a special book this Christmas. The family of Fr. John Cummins, who served in Carlow town and who died tragically in 2019, have published his thoughtful writings in a book costing only €10, "My Life in Your Hands". An ideal Seasonal gift for use throughout the year. Available in the Parish Centre.

"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

Revenue Charitable Refund Scheme:- our parish received almost **€18,700** from revenue under the refunds to charitable organisations scheme, in the last financial year. **This is a very simple way for the parish to benefit financially from your donation without affecting your income tax.**

Examples of how the Income Tax Rebate works for Graiguecullen/Killeshin Parish

YOUR ANNUAL DONATION	REVENUE REBATE TO PARISH	TOTAL VALUE OF YOUR DONATION
€250.00	€112.32	€362.32
€500.00	€224.64	€724.64
€750.00	€336.96	€1,086.96
€1,000.00	€449.27	€1449.27

For the Parish to benefit from an Income Tax Rebate, the parishioner must return a completed CHY3 or CHY 4 Cert to the Parish, and must have paid Income Tax in that calendar year. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to Fr Dunphy or contact the parish office.