



Graiguecullen/Killeshin PARISH LINK Sunday 10th December, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent



Parish Office: 059 / 9141833 / 9182882 Email: gkparish@gmail.com
Web: www.graiguecullenkilleshin.com
Find us on Facebook: GraigueKilleshin Parish
Safeguarding Reps: B Lloyd/S McWey/C Kelly 059 / 9141833
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms Ailish Higgins 085 8021633

In GK Parish, we value and encourage the participation of young people and vulnerable adults in all parish activities. We uphold the utmost standard of safeguarding to create a safe environment for all.

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.

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 invited to attend.

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.

An Invitation to Reconciliation- There will be a brief **penitential reflection at all our Masses next weekend 16th/17th Dec.** Advent focuses our attention on Christ's birth, while anticipating Christ's death and resurrection. During this season we celebrate God's invitation to reconciliation, but this is only the beginning, for as a people reconciled to God, we become a people commissioned to "love the Lord God with all our hearts" and to "love our neighbors as ourselves." The birth of Christ, gives rise to hope and joy regardless of the circumstances of our times. When we accept God's invitation, we receive a call to discipleship, a call to spread the good news of reconciliation to others in a spirit of faithfulness, forgiveness & love.

Parish Carol Service: Monday 18th Dec 7.00pm 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.

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.

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

Saint Vincent de Paul Graiguecullen:- Please note that our annual Christmas appeal church gate collection will be held on this weekend 9th & 10th December. Our sincere thanks to all who have supported us throughout the year. Your support has done so much to help people in our community.

Parish Envelopes:- boxes of envelopes are available at the church doors. 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 maintain our beautiful churches and buildings and develop our pastoral initiatives. The work of the parish is greatly helped by your regular Financial 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.

Newly Baptised: this week we welcome 4 new members into our parish community.
Joleen McCarthy, Helen Michaela, Maksymilian Lis & L J Clarke

FIACC'S HOUSE DRAW: Friends of Fiacc's House Annual Draw will take place on this Monday 11th Dec at 7.30pm. All Welcome

CHRISTMAS MASSES: -
Anniversaries for Christmas Masses must be in by Wed. 20th Dec. @ 12 noon and can be emailed to gkparish@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE	Times
St Clare's Church	4pm & 5.30pm (Specially for families with young children) 8.30pm Mass by Candlelight 10.00pm Mass for the Polish Community
Holy Cross Church	7.00pm (Specially for families with young children)
CHRISTMAS DAY	
St Clare's Church	9am & 11.30am
Holy Cross Church	10.15am
Tues 26th—Fri 29th Dec.	Morning Mass at 10.00am in St. Clare's Church
Mon 1st Jan	New Years Day Mass @ 11.30am in St Clare's Church
Sat 6th	10.15am & 11.30am Feast of the Epiphany

Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 12th December. St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm Jackpot on 42 numbers €960 Double number €390 Lotto €3200

Killeshin GAA AGM will take place on this Monday 11th Dec at 7.30pm in Killeshin GAA Clubhouse. Mass for deceased members @ 7pm. All welcome.

ANNIVERSARIES

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

- Sat 9th 6.30pm** (Noel Byrne, Ballickmoyler)-(Christy Pender, Ballyhide)
Sinead Webber (née Byrne) St. Clare's Road & Coventry
(Patrick & Ciss Brennan, St Clare's Rd)-(Intention Mass)
John & Elizabeth Nash, 9 Church St
Michael Kearns, 21 Oakley Pk & deceased family
Deceased members of the Quinn Family, Kilkenny
- Sun 10th 9am**
Dan Kelly, The Rushes & Mortarstown
(Bernard (Benny) Keating, 95 St Mary's Park, his wife Mary, son Patrick & daughter Mary)
(Bridie Darcy, 48 Oakley Pk)-(Hazel Maughan, Ballina)
- 10.15am** Paddy & Ann Fitzpatrick, Glenside
11.30am Nora Smyth, Mount Clare Court
Michael & Mary Heary, 16 Granby Row also their son Gerard
Colette O'Reilly (née Salter), Bullock Park
Sinead Webber (née Byrne) St. Clare's Road & Coventry
John English, Kilkenny Rd
(Eric Ene, 2 Heatherhill Square)-(Agnes Shaw, 5 Bridge Street)
Christy Walsh, Dun Laoghaire
(James Breen, Dun Laoghaire)-(Eileen Furlong, Dun Laoghaire)
(David Carlyle, Greystones) - (William McKenna, Knock)
Deceased members of the Merrigan & Brady families Northern Ireland
- Tues 12th 10am** Jim Foley, Pacelli Ave
Wed 13th 10am Liz Bolton, Duggan Ave (**Birthday Rem**)
(Agnes Shaw, 5 Bridge Street)-(Jimmy Begley, Dungarvan)
- Thurs 14th 10am** Joan & Michael Lawler, 3 The Numbers also their son Michael
(John English, Kilkenny Rd)-(Pat & Lily Doyle, Coolkenno)
- Fri 15th 10am** John Nolan, Killeshin Rd
Sat 16th 6.30pm (**First Anniversary**) Timothy Gleeson, 112 Beechwood Park
(Paddy Nolan, 62 St Fiacc's Tce)-(Annette Nelson, 142 Sleaty St)
(Jean & Seany Abbott, Knocknagee)-(John Nolan, Killeshin Rd)
Mattie Kearney, Keelogue also his wife Pauline
Thomas & Frances Ryan, 65 Maher Rd also their daughters Clare & Carmel
Gary Lawlor Hearn, 4 Heatherhill Square
Jimmy Murnane, 80 Maher Rd
Liz Bolton, Duggan Ave (**Birthday Rem**)
Harry & Elizabeth Clarke, Maher Rd
Mary Brennan, Curragh Cottage & deceased family
- Sun 17th 9am**
Enda Smyth, Pembroke & St Fiacc's Hse
Elizabeth Byrne, Killeshin
Mary Waters (née Loughman), Sleaty Rd
10.15am (**First Anniversary**) William (Billy) Doran, Ballickmoyler
Paddy Maguire, Clonmore, Killeshin
Joseph & Elizabeth Cummins, Springhill
(John & Nora Fitzgerald, Coolane)-(Kitty Brennan, Coolnariska)
11.30am (**First Anniversary**) Mary Fenlon, St Anthony's, Pembroke
James Dooley, 14 St Josephs Tce, Tinryland
Paudge Murphy, Knockbeg
(Bridget Gaule, Pearse Rd, her daughter in law Una & deceased family)-(Kenneth Howard, Oakley Cres.)



R.I.P.

May Lyons (née Byrne), Clonmore, Killeshin
Patricia Walsh, Weston-Super-Mare formerly Sleaty
Richard (Dixie) Doyle, 8 Pollerton Road, Carlow,
Mary Brennan (née Kelly), Upper Rossmore, Killeshin
Frances Fenlon, Highfield, Dublin Road

R.I.P.

Catherine Nolan and Vera Smith have just returned from their 10th & 17th Building Blitz respectively with Mellon Educate. The ladies were among a group of 32 volunteers who left behind in the township of Kdayelitsha, Capetown, South Africa a total of 20 classrooms, 2 toilet blocks, 2 kitchens, 2 playgrounds and 4 covered shelters for the children to have their lunch. Vera and Catherine would like to thank everyone for their continued support through their clothes recycling fundraiser and for monetary contributions. Catherine 086 8709846, Vera 086 8317940.

Catholics in the South East of Ireland Facebook Group invites you to join our next Book Club Meetup on **Saturday 16th December, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Club House Hotel, Kilkenny R95 DX76.** Book: **Theology for Beginners** by Frank Sheed. Contact Gissell at **087-761-7792.**

St. Vincent De Paul: Local Conference – St. Fiacc's. Tel: 086-1592775

Weekly Collections 31st/1st Dec.
Red Bag: €863
Blue Bag: €1,832
Direct Debits: €127
Tap Donations: €57
We thank you for your support.

Killeshin Pipe Band AGM on Wednesday 13th December at 19.30 in the Pipe Band Room. All Welcome to attend!

Carlow Family Support Group - You Are Not Alone- Drugs and Alcohol abuse affects 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.

Copies of the Book, "Holy Cross Church and its Community" are still available from Pat Whelan @ 086 1657435 and the Parish Centre. An ideal Christmas gift for your friends at home and away.

Rainbows Spring Programmes- Twice yearly, Carlow Rainbows offers a nine- week programme for young people aged 7 to 16 who have suffered the loss of someone close to them, or, the separation of their parents. **A NEW PROGRAMME is now being offered for those aged 13-16.** Held in Askea Parish Community Centre, the programmes are free to participants and will commence on February 5 2024. For further information contact Anne on 0876636499 or email carlowrainbows@gmail.com.

Carlow Older Persons Forum will host a free Christmas Celebration on Tuesday 12th December, 11am-1pm in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel. Festive refreshments, music, dancing & free Christmas raffle for older people. For more info phone Val on (086)0117761.

Black Santa Appeal 2023 comes to Carlow on Wed 13th Dec to Fri 15th Dec 2pm-5pm at Potato Market. All generated funds will go to Carlow St Vincent de Paul Society. 44 years ago, this Christmas, the then Dean of Belfast held a sit-out for charity outside his Cathedral. To keep out the cold, he wore an Anglican black cloak. The response of his appeal was so good that the local newspaper nicknamed him 'The Black Santa', because of his black cloak. This Christmas, local clergy, of all denominations will contribute and participate in the appeal.