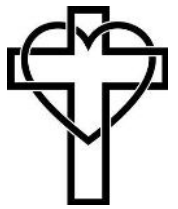


PARISH OFFICE

Open 9.30am - 5pm (Closed 1-2pm)
059 9141833 / 9182882
gkparish@gmail.com
www.graiguecullenkilleshin.com
Facebook: GraigueKilleshin Parish
Instagram: @g_kparish

**Graiguecullen/Killeshin
PARISH LINK**



**Sunday 1st December 2024
First Weekend of Advent - Year C**

PARISH TEAM: Fr. John Dunphy & Cathriona Kelly

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM: Sarah Alsbyury, Isobel Brooker, Hannah Kehoe, Gary Dowling, Aoife Whelan, Amelia Chodorska, Giulia Hutton

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 SAFEGUARDING REPS: Breda Lloyd, Sarah Alsbyury, Cathriona Kelly
DIOCESAN DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON: Ailish Higgins 085 8021633
PRIEST ON CALL FOR CARLOW AREA: (Emergency Only) 087 2588118



Advent - A Time for Taking Stock

The trouble with Advent is that Christmas comes at the end. We know that Advent is a time for taking stock, but with Christmas just around the corner, we are far too busy with shopping lists to think about the state of our souls.

It seems obvious that we should spend our lives in preparation for the final judgement day, but it is all too easy to take our eye off the ball. Life heaps demands on us day in and day out. We spend each and every day taking the children to school, going to work, cleaning the house, shopping, cooking, cleaning, fixing the car and paying the bills. At this time of year in particular it is easy to get swamped in the things that the TV adverts convince us we must do before Christmas. We end up feeling trapped and unable to see the bigger picture. All of a sudden it's too late.

We never get to do the things we know we should have done. Advent is a time of waiting and of looking forward. We are looking forward not just to Christmas but to the second coming of Jesus. The signs of the second coming are there to liberate us from the material preparations of Christmas and the other things that weigh us down. We are invited to take a step back from our fraught lives and take a long-term view. It would be a pity to get to the other side of Christmas only to realise that a host of fake Santa Clauses had distracted us from contemplating the real direction of our lives.

NEWSLETTER NOTES

To guarantee inclusion in our newsletter, all notices and anniversary bookings must be received before 2pm on the Wednesday before publication. Thank you.



PARISH DONATION ENVELOPES

New 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 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.



The parish depends on contributions from parishioners to maintain church buildings, grounds, and services. Contributions to any of our parish collections can still be made in the parish centre or through the parish donate button on the diocesan website www.kandle.ie. Alternatively, contributions can be made directly from your bank by 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 convenient way to contribute and it will make a big difference to our parish.
Thank you in advance!

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Our Confirmation programme continues this coming week with a meeting for both children and parents/guardians on **Wednesday 4th Dec. 7pm in St. Clare's Church.** If you cannot attend, please let Cathriona or Mary know.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Annual Christmas SVP Church Gate appeal will be held on 7th and 8th Dec. Sincere thanks for your support for our work in the community throughout the year. We wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas. Local Conference – St. Fiacc's Contact 086 1592775 for support.

PRAYER INTERCESSORS GROUP

This group is available to pray regularly but individually for the life of the parish as well as specific intentions that arise from time to time. If you have a family member who is seriously ill or is undergoing a major operation or any other special request, please ring the parish office or email gkparish@gmail.com and we will send out a group text to request prayers. To maintain confidentiality, we do not use names in the prayer texts. If you wish to be added to the group, please text 085 1450321.

Our **GK Parish Christmas Concert** will take place on **Sunday 15th Dec at 6.30pm** in St. Clare's Church. All our parish choirs, the Poor Clare Sisters and the Killeshin Pipe Band will perform on the night.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help is needed with putting our Christmas Hampers together on Fri 13th, Sat 14th and the week commencing Mon 16th Dec. If you could spare a few hours, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact the parish office on 059 91 41833.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK Communion will be brought to the sick and housebound during the week beginning 9th December.

FIRST FRIDAY: There will be a penitential service this Friday 6th December during 10am Mass.

ST. FIACC'S N.S MASS OF GIVING

will take place this Thursday 5th Dec at 11.30am in St. Clare's Church. All are Welcome to attend. Each child will bring along a non-perishable food item that will be added to Christmas Food Hampers for those in need.



FINAL CALL FOR EVERGREENS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tickets available from the pool office until Mon 2nd Dec. Venue: Talbot Hotel on Sun 8th Dec @ 1pm. Please note that each person must only collect their own ticket.



KILLESHIN N.S PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Preparations are well on the way for their annual Christmas Hamper Draw. If anyone has any hamper baskets or would like to donate any items to the hampers, they can be left into to school or given to any member of the parents' association.

MONSTER BINGO

Tues 3rd Dec St. Fiacc's Hall @8.30pm
Jackpot €4,600 Lotto €1,300
Double Number €3,190
Over €10,000 in prize money!



Monster Christmas Bingo on Sun 15th Dec 3pm

ANNIVERSARIES

All anniversary bookings must be received before 2pm on the Wednesday before publication.

Saturday 30th
6.30pm Kevin Kearns, Sleaty Rd (50th Anniversary)
Des Coakley, Sleaty St.
Gretta McAssey, St. Fiacc's Tce
Tony McDonald, Maher Road
Nellie and Pat Dowling, Ballylethane Lower



Sunday 1st
HOLY CROSS
10.15am Mai Lyons, Clonmore (First Anniversary)
Ellen Boran (70th Anniversary) her husband Nicholas and all deceased family members of the Boran and O'Reilly families
Baby Realtín O'Reilly, Woodfield, Baltinglass
Paddy and Ann Fitzpatrick, Glenside

ST. CLARE'S
11.30am Laurence O'Rourke, Ballyhide
Kathleen Finnegan, Barrack St.
Frank Nolan, Winterville, Curragh
Patrick (Pa) Walsh, Heatherhill (Birthday Remembrance)

Tues 3rd Brigid Nash, Farnans, Crettyard (30th Anniversary)
Bill and Annie Moran, also their son Liam, St. Mary's Park

Wed 4th Philly Brennan, Sleaty St.
Intention Mass

Thur 5th Deceased members of the Kiernan family
Deceased family members of Patrick Byrne, Cranemore, Kildavin

Fri 6th Mollie Dunne, Dublin Road

Saturday 7th
6.30pm Ellen Healy Dublin
Fiaac O'Rourke, Oakley Park
Sarah and John Farrell, Chapel St.
Sinead Webber (née Byrne) St. Clare's Road & Coventry



Sunday 8th
Holy Cross Eileen O'Regan, Killeshin Road (Birthday Remembrance)

ST. CLARE'S
11.30am Michael Kinsella, Askea Lawns, Tullow Road
Colette O'Reilly, Bullock Park and her daughter Louise, Mountrath
Eileen Dowling, St. Clare's Rd



REST IN PEACE

Frances Anderson, St. Fiacc's Terrace
PJ Conlon, Mountmellick Alice Byrne, Clogrennane
Mary Murray (née Ward), Bagenalstown
Alice Nash, Crettyard

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS 23rd / 24th Nov

Red Bag €791 Tap Donations €57
Blue Bag €1,522 D. Debit Donation €280
Donations €120 Candles €415 *Thank You*

AUCTION IN AID OF KILLESHIN GAA


Killeshin GAA are running an 'AUCTION' on
Sun 1st Dec @2pm in Killeshin Community Hall.
Contact: 085 2109353 / 086 0634949


Graigucullen GAA Club want YOU to become a volunteer/coach/mentor. No experience required
Training & support provided. Contact Finian 086 3969903 / Peter 0871337516 to get involved.

GOVERNEY PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

in association with Carlow Co Council & Carlow County Development Partnership invite you to our annual Lighting of tree at the Croppy on Friday Dec 6th at 6pm. Santa will be there, refreshments served and a Christmas raffle. Weather permitting. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

ENCÔRE AT CHRISTMAS

Celebrate the magic and joy of Christmas with a spectacular night of singing and music with enCÔre. 8pm on Fri, 6th and Sat, 7th Dec in the GB Theatre at Visual, Carlow. Tickets can be purchased online, in person or over the phone at Box Office. 

Come sing for peace with VISUAL'S SING SYNC CHOIR and special guests enCÔre in Askea Church Monday 16th Dec at 7.30pm. EVERY voice will unite in song for 'Silent Night' and rehearse specially composed 'Blazing Sky' by Wexford composer Liam Bates, before being recorded. Check out the song on blazingsky.ie Tickets €8 available at VISUAL Box Office, visualcarlow.ie or 059 9172400. Lyrics will be on screen. Proceeds from ticket sales to UNICEF and Carlow Day Care Centre, Askea. 

CLEANER / CARETAKER POSITION

This position is required for St. Catherine's Community Service, St. Joseph's rd. 6 hours per day, 4-10pm. 4 nights weekly (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri). For full job description or to apply for the position please email your CV to teresad@catherines.ie. Closing date: Mon 9th Dec.

CHILDMINDER REQUIRED for before and after primary school times including drop off and pick up, to begin in January. Two brothers; one junior infant and one senior infant. Please contact 085 7250521

Christmas trees and Christmas wreaths for sale at Vonnie Bolton's, Springhill, R93 PV05.


THANK YOU NOTE

Prayers, hugs and kisses to all who supported us through Hugh's illness with Mass Cards, prayers and kind words. Mass will be offered for you all. Huge thanks. Hugh & Denise, Ballyhide.

CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS

are available from the parish centre. All proceeds will go to St. Clare's Hospitality & SVP.

TAP OR SCAN TO DONATE

 We wish to remind parishioners that there is a tap machine at the front door of St. Clare's Church and a QR code in the porch of Holy Cross Church as well as both porches in St. Clare's. Both can be used for making donations to our parish or for lighting candles. Please know that we do not wish to pressure anyone but instead this option is simply to facilitate those who are now part of our cashless society. People continue to be very generous and supportive to our weekly collections in various ways and for this we are very grateful.

DONATING VIA OUR QR CODE

Open the camera on your smart phone. Hold the camera over the code for a few seconds, this will generate a link that you can follow to donate safely and securely via PAYZONE.



POWERED BY


LIGHT THE TOWN UP TRACTOR RUN



Killeshin Ladies
Light The Town Up Tractor Run takes place Sun 8th Dec.
Registration from 3.30pm at Leinster Mart, Killeshin Rd, departing at 5pm. Fee: €20.
Our new route will bring the Christmas cheer through town this year and back to Killeshin. All vehicles are welcome!

THE GOOSE CLUB HAMPER RAFFLE

takes place in St. Fiacc's Hall on Sun 8th Dec 7pm sharp. Come along for a fun evening with a series of raffles, lots of hampers, vouchers and much more.
All proceeds go towards Graiguecullen Community Games and Graiguecullen Ladies Football Club.