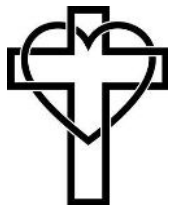


PARISH OFFICE

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 8th December 2024
Second 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

CHOOSE A BETTER WAY

We dig ourselves deep into places from which we cannot climb back out. Suddenly there is no way back from an argument we've had with a relative or a friend. Suddenly there is no way we can get back to feeling good about ourselves because we have made mistakes that seem impossible to rectify. Today John the Baptist tells us "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight". Preparing a way for God in our lives is no different from any other preparation. Before we go Christmas shopping we make a list of people we are going to buy for. Before we cook the Christmas dinner we make a list of what we are going to need right down from the turkey to the tin foil. When we plan to make better paths for God to work in our lives, we need to make a list of holes we need to dig ourselves out of, and how exactly we are going to fill them back in. Holes filled with doubt and worry need to be filled with positive thoughts and fresh determination. Holes that kept us trapped in feelings of guilt and regret need to be filled with belief in God's forgiveness. Where once we struggled with overly burdened lives we need to stop and refocus on what's important. **Rebuilding our lives might not be something we can do overnight, but we can begin with the will to be different and choose a better path.**

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!

GK PARISH BINGO

Tues 10th Dec St. Fiacc's Hall @8.30pm



**Lotto €1,350
Jackpot €4,730
Double Number €3,260**

Monster Christmas Bingo on Sun 15th Dec 3pm

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Sunday 15th Dec at 10.15am in Holy Cross and 11.30am in St Clare's Church. All young people preparing for Confirmation are invited to attend. Don't forget your 'home-work'!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Annual Christmas SVP Church Gate appeal will be held after Masses this weekend *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.*

THURSDAY MORNING CLUB

Thursday morning Dec 12th is the last for this year. Everyone is welcome to join us for tea and a mince pie.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Sun 15th Dec is the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). This is also Bambinelli Sunday where Pope Francis invites us to bless all baby Jesus figurines for manger scenes. Please bring your baby Jesus figurine to Mass for a special blessing on Sun 15th. Then bring it home, wrap it up and place it under the tree to be opened Christmas morning as a family. Place the statue in your crib and say a family prayer.

GK PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Sunday 15th Dec at 6.30pm
St. Clare's Church**
Featuring our seven parish choirs and the Killeshin Pipe Band

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR PRIESTS

Quarterly collection for the support of the priests of the parish will be held at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Envelopes are provided in boxes at all Church doors.

NEWLY BAPTISED

This week we welcome two new members into our parish community



*Éanna Bolton
Sebastian Bolton*

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Communion will be brought to the sick and housebound during this coming week.

**THE FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**



**Monday 9th December
10.15am Mass in Holy Cross
11.30am Mass in St. Clare's**

Many people believe that this feast celebrates Jesus' conception, but in fact it celebrates Mary's Immaculate Conception; because Mary was, from the very first moment of her existence (her conception), without sin, and chosen to be the Mother of Jesus.

FRIENDS OF FIACC'S HOUSE

Annual draw takes place on this Monday 9th Dec at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

EVERGREENS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Happy Christmas to all our evergreens who have their Christmas dinner this Sunday. We hope you all have a lovely day!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER BOX

We invite parishioners to write prayers for and place them in the prayer box beside the crib in St. Clare's. This box will be placed in the crib at Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TREES & WREATHS for sale at Vonnie Bolton's, Springhill, R93 PV05

ANNIVERSARIES

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

SATURDAY 7th
6.30pm

Ellen Healy, Dublin
Fiac O'Rourke, Oakley Park
Sarah and John Farrell, Chapel Street
Sinéad Webber (née Byrne) St. Clare's Road and Coventry
Fergus Keating, St. Lazerian's Tce
Michael Kearns, Oakley Park and deceased family members

SUNDAY 8th
HOLY CROSS
10.15am

Mary Brennan, Rossmore (*First Anniversary*)
Eileen O'Regan, Killeshin Road (*Birthday Remembrance*)

ST. CLARE'S
11.30am

Eileen Dowling, St. Clare's Road
Brendan Maddock, Rossmore View
Michael Kinsella, Askea Lawns, Tullow Road and formerly Ballyhide
Colette O'Reilly, Bullock Park and her daughter Louise, Mountrath

Tues 10th

Margaret Conlon, Armagh

Thurs 12th

Jim Foley, Pacelli Ave (*60th Anniversary*)

Fri 13th

Liz Bolton, Duggan Ave (*Birthday Remembrance*)
Agnes Shaw, Bridge Street

SATURDAY 14th
6.30pm

Patrick Nolan, St. Fiacc's Tce
Gary Lawlor Hearn, Heatherhill Square
Noel Byrne, Ballickmoyler
Joan and Michael Lawler, The Numbers and also their son Michael
Christy Pender, Ballyhide
Jimmy Murnane, Maher Road
Annette Nelson, Sleaty St and her husband Seamus Nelson
Mary Brennan, Curragh Cottage, Killeshin & deceased family members
Una Gaule and Bridget (Bridie) Gaule, Pearse Rd & deceased family



SUNDAY 15th
9AM

Paddy Maher, St Clare's Road (*Month's Mind*)
Enda Smyth, Pembroke and St. Fiacc's House
Mary Waters (née Loughman), Sleaty
Bernard (Benny) Keating, his wife Mary, son Patrick,
daughter Mary, St. Mary's Park

HOLY CROSS
10.15am

Kitty Brennan, Coolnariska
William Doran, Ballickmoyler
Joseph and Elizabeth Cummins, Springhill
John and Nora Fitzgerald, Coolane



ST. CLARE'S
11.30am

Paudge Murphy, Knockbeg (*20th Anniversary*)
Esther Reddy, Pinewood Ave, Carlow (*Month's Mind*)
Una Gaule and Bridget (Bridie) Gaule, Pearse Rd & deceased family
Kenneth Howard, Oakley Crescent
John English, Kilkenny Road
Teresa Wynne, Mount Clare Court
Mary Fenlon, Pembroke
Matthew Kearney, his wife Pauline, Keelogue & Governey Park



REST IN PEACE

Seamus Scully, Tallaght, formerly St. Fiacc's Tce

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS 30th Nov / 1st Dec

Red Bag €1,010 Tap Donations €66
Blue Bag €1,537 D. Debit Donation €94
Donations €50

Thank You

GRAIGUECULLEN 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.

Carlow County Development with Carlow Older Persons Forum extend a warm invitation to older people to attend their annual

FREE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

Tuesday, 10th Dec 10am-1pm in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel. Carol singing, entertainment, refreshments and information stands from local agencies. Raffle, goodie bags and



KCLR will broadcast from the event.

Contact Cecilia on 086 0679306.

Come sing for peace with VISUAL'S **SING SYNC CHOIR** and special guests enCÓRe 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.

Tickets €8 available in person at VISUAL Box Office. 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.

LIGHT THE TOWN UP TRACTOR RUN

Killeshin Ladies **Light The Town Up Tractor Run** takes place this 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 this Sunday in St. Fiacc's Hall at 7pm sharp. Come along for a fun evening with a series of raffles, lots of hampers, vouchers and prizes. All proceeds go towards Graiguecullen Community Games and Graiguecullen Ladies Football Club.

KILLESHIN NS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW

will take place on Wed 18th Dec with over 30 hampers. The 1st and 2nd Hampers are to the value of just over €400 with the rest ranging in values with the last one to the value of over €50. Tickets €5. Tickets are available from Killeshin School, Killeshin Stores, members of the Parents Association & from every family in the school.

REVENUE CHARITABLE REFUND SCHEME

In the last financial year, our parish received over €17,000 from revenue under the refunds to charitable organisations scheme. This is a very simple way for the parish to benefit financially from your donation without affecting your income tax. Here are examples of how the Income Tax Rebate works for our 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 our Parish to benefit from an Income Tax Rebate, parishioners must return a completed CHY3 or CHY4 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.