

PARISH OFFICE

Open 9.30am - 5pm (Closed 1-2pm)
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**GRAIGUECULLEN/KILLESHIN
PARISH**

**Sunday 2nd February 2025
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



SCAN TO DONATE

PARISH TEAM: Fr. John Dunphy & Cathriona Kelly

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM: Sarah Alsybury, Isobel Brooker, Hannah Keogh, 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 Alsybury, Cathriona Kelly

DIOCESAN DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON: Ailish Higgins 085 8021633 **PRIEST ON CALL FOR CARLOW AREA:** (Emergency Only 087 2588118)

St. Brigid

Brigid is one of Ireland's three patron saints. The other two are St Colmcille and St Patrick. Her feast day falls on February 1, which is also the Celtic first day of spring, also known as Imbolc. Brigid was born in Faughart, Co. Louth. According to legend, Brigid set up her first convent in Kildare. In fact, the town owes its very origins to St Brigid.



She set up in Kildare, at the foot of Croghan Hill. From there Brigid moved to Druin Criadh, where under a large oak tree she erected her famous Convent of Cill Dara, translated as, "the church of the oak". Kildare Cathedral now stands there. The St Brigid's Cross-This is the custom of making crosses out of rushes and placing them in homes on the feast day. The custom has its origins in the legend of Brigid's conversion of a dying pagan. She fashioned a makeshift cross by plaiting rushes strewn on the hut floor. Throughout the country rushes are still blessed and made into crosses. The crosses are blessed and then hung on the house to provide protection for the rest of the year.

Brigid is reputedly the only female bishop there's ever been, this would not have been uncommon or raised any eyebrows back in the 5th century. Brigid died in Kildare, but her body was exhumed and removed to Downpatrick, for burial beside the remains of

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.



**GRAIGUECULLEN
MONSTER BINGO**

Tuesday 4th Feb
St. Fiacc's Hall @8.30pm
Jackpot on 45 numbers €1,350
Double number €320 Lotto €550

LOURDES INVALID FUND

Table Quiz in The Thatch on Fri 7th Feb, 9pm. Table of four €40. Your support is greatly appreciated.



HOME VISIT

If you are housebound and would like a visit from a priest once a month, please contact the parish centre.



ST. BRIGID'S CROSSES - YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER



A big thank you to all the people who collected rushes for us and the many people who came into the parish centre again this week to make crosses. We hope everyone was able to get a St. Brigid's cross, if you didn't and would still like one, please get in touch with the parish centre. Our Youth Ministry team will do all they can to get one to you during the coming week.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

This Monday 3rd Feb at 7pm, there will be a short service to commemorate St. Blaise who is the patron saint of throat illnesses. The blessing of throats will take place during this service.



CELEBRATING ST. VALENTINE

We invite all couples to a special Mass in St. Clare's Church on **Fri 14th Feb at 6.30pm** to receive a special blessing. Any couple who is celebrating a special milestone anniversary this year and would like it celebrated at the Mass are asked to contact the parish office. If you have a photo from your wedding day, please send it via WhatsApp to Cathriona on 085 1450321 so we can display it on our screens during the Mass.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
GRAIGUECULLEN**

Our monthly collection for February will be held on the 8th and 9th Feb. We will be reverting to the first weekend as usual from March.

FIRST FRIDAY

There will be a special penitential service during the 10am Mass in St Clare's this Fri 7th Feb.

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK
AND HOUSEBOUND**



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

CARLOW FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP Drugs and Alcohol abuse affects families regardless of status in life. You did not cause it; you cannot control it, and you cannot cure it. Help is available for those who live with this dreadful disease. Call 085 7872730.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Tuesday 11th Feb is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the sick. To commemorate this feast there will be a special blessing of the sick with holy oils at all our masses next weekend. If you know anyone who is sick, please encourage them to attend to receive this special blessing.

ANNIVERSARIES

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

SATURDAY 1st

ST. CLARE'S
6.30pm Brendan Brady
Julia and Philip Seymour, Church Street, their sons Melvin and Sean
and great-grandson Christopher
Katie and Paddy Dowling, Crossneen
Willie Murphy, Henry Street
Peter and Una Hoolan, Pacelli Avenue
Johnny Timmons, Bestfield and deceased family members
Michael Lawler, Fr Byrne Park, (21st Anniversary) deceased members of
Lawler and Moore families

SUNDAY 2nd

ST. CLARE'S
9am Christopher Lawlor, Pierce Road and his parents Michael and Greta
Jonathan Byrne, Tomard, Leighlinbridge
Chrissie Watchorn, St Clare's Road

HOLY CROSS
10.15am

James Ryan
Edward and Elizabeth Gaskin, Cappalug
Michael O'Rourke, Clogrennane
Tim Rowan, The Strand
Mark Anthony Dunne, Monure, Killeshin Road
John and Maureen Whelan, Keelogue, their granddaughter
Sharon Murphy, Rossmore View
Pat Scully, Killeshin
Teresa and Dinny Doran, Keelogue



ST. CLARE'S
11.30am Michael Lawler, Fr Byrne Park, (21st Anniversary) deceased members
of the Lawler and Moore families
Sam Byrne, Mortarstown

Tues 4th **10am** Frank Hayden, Ballickmoyler Road & Hayden and Walsh families

Thurs 6th **10am** Edward Ryan, Fr. Maher Road

Fri 7th **10am** Mick Kenny, St Fiacc's Terrace (Months Mind)
Michael and Anne Ivory, Castle Hill

SATURDAY 8th

ST. CLARE'S
6.30pm Sarah Hennessy, husband Paddy and sons Paul and Pat
Joseph Egerton, Church Street
Joe Walsh, Cill an Oir, formerly The Numbers
Nell Dowling, St Fiacc's Terrace and deceased family members
Denis and Mary Hayden, Pacelli Avenue

SUNDAY 9th

ST. CLARE'S
9am Jim Lawler, Oakley Crescent

HOLY CROSS
10.15am Brigid (Patty) O'Regan, Killeshin
Matt Mc Donald, Old Derrig

ST. CLARE'S
11.30am T.V. Stafford, Pitcairn Lodge, Crossneen



REST IN PEACE

Rosa Dillon (nee Gonzalez), Burrin Road & Spain

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – 'A CALL TO ACTION!'

The celebration of Jubilee 2025 has now begun throughout the universal Catholic Church on the theme: 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Everyone is invited to participate in this special year of faith. Specifically, Pope Francis is encouraging each of us to be messengers of hope in our very troubled world during this holy year. In our Christian tradition, the Jubilee has a strong focus on reconciliation and renewal, including reaching out to people on the margins. It is normally celebrated every 25 years, so that more people can experience it at least once in a lifetime. In dioceses and parishes around Ireland people are celebrating specific jubilee occasions both locally and in Rome. Reflecting the Jubilee Year in the Universal Church, the Irish Synodal Pathway will also focus on hope ahead of the national pre-synodal assembly in Kilkenny on 18 October next. For further information on Jubilee 2025 Year of Hope, see www.CatholicBishops.ie for all Jubilee-related updates, including a live calendar featuring events happening across the island.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS 25th / 26th Jan

Red Bag €890 Donations €700
Blue Bag €1347 D. Debit Donation €265
Tap Machine €75 Thank You

GRAIGUECULLEN WATER AEROBICS

Graiguelcullen Swimming Pool
Mondays at 8.15pm. Wednesdays 8pm.
Only €8. No pre-booking required.



A NOTE FROM VERA SMITH AND CATHERINE NOLAN

Our clothes collecting has been suspended for the foreseeable future. We wish to thank all who have supported us, and we hope to be back collecting in the middle of 2025. Any queries call 086 8317940.

DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

Volunteers are needed in advance for Carlow
Darkness Into Light Walk which will take
place in May 2025. Please contact: Nerissa
on 086 7380842 if you can help out.



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME VACANCIES

Killeshin GAA CES-2371448
Crettyard Soccer CES-2361194
Killeshin Soccer CES-2361197
Oisin Park CES-2371447



Anyone interested in a position the application is available on Jobsireland.ie or you can contact MDCE Project directly on 056 4442711 or email us at mdceproject@gmail.com. Also, if anyone over 50 and signing for credits are interested in a position on the CE Scheme please get in contact with me.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JENNIFER MURNANE O'CONNOR!

Jennifer has been named Junior Minister in the Dáil. She becomes the first Minister in Government in Carlow in 44 years. Jennifer will be the Junior Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy. We are so blessed to have Jennifer involved in our parish as a Minister of the Word, Eucharistic Minister, and Lourdes Volunteer. We wish her God's blessing in her new role now and in the future.

**DANA'S CROSS & CLOAK CONCERT –
ABBEYLEIX, CO. LAOIS** - Dana's Cross & Cloak Concert in aid of the All-Ireland Sacred Heart Crusade, takes place on Sunday 2nd February in The Manor Hotel, Abbeyleix, Co Laois R32 VE24 (featuring local artists). Ticket €25 (Book on Eventbrite.ie). For more information, contact Antoinette 086 0803047.

INVITATION TO MEDITATION

Carlow Meditation Group meets on Monday evenings from 7- 7.45pm in the Cathedral Parish Centre, College St - *excluding bank holidays*.
All are welcome - no experience needed.
No need to book just turn up on any Monday.
For more info contact Noel Keating, 087 2251183.