

**PARISH OFFICE**

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

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025  
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**



SCAN TO DONATE

**PARISH TEAM:** Fr. John Dunphy, Cathriona Kelly, Mary Dooley

**YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM:** Sarah Alsbybury, Isobel Brooker, Hannah Keogh, Gary Dowling, Aoife Whelan, Giulia Hutton, Amelia Chodorska

**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 Alsbybury, Cathriona Kelly

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

***The Gardener, the Fig Tree and the Promise***



*When people die, especially in tragic or premature circumstances, we are left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. Death simply happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice. In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment! But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of us can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die. At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit and so the master commands that it should be axed. A compassionate gardener begs that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance. For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. The parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise.... something inspirational!*

**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 BINGO**

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March  
St. Fiacc's Hall @8.30pm

**Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,260  
Double number €810 Lotto €600**



**DAFFODIL DAY COFFEE MORNING**

Coffee morning in St. Clare's parish centre on Fri 28<sup>th</sup> March 10.30-12.30 in aid of Irish Cancer Society's Daffodil Day. Your support would be appreciated.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS - MONDAY MORNINGS**

Join us for praying the Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Communion each Monday during Lent at 10am in St. Clare's Church. Praying the Stations of the Cross helps inspire deep prayer. God gives us the grace to contemplate the suffering of Jesus and feel deep empathy and love for Him. As we meditate on the events, they become more vivid and take root in our hearts.

**LENTEN HOLY HOUR - MONDAY EVE**

Our Holy Hour continues on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in St. Clare's Church. When we make a Holy Hour, we remain and stay awake with Jesus. It is a powerful and beautiful way to grow closer to Him. God takes our small efforts and does great things with what we give Him. His generosity is incomparable.



**TRAINING FOR NEW MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister, please contact Cathriona via WhatsApp 085 1450321. It involves three mandatory one-hour sessions before being commissioned.



**PRE-BAPTISM MEETING**

Our next pre-Baptism meeting will take place on **Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> April @7pm** in the Parish Centre. All parents presenting their child for Baptism over the next few months are encouraged to attend.



**CHALLENGE YOURSELF THIS LENT**

- ◆ **Attend our Parish Holy Hour** at 7pm on Mon 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> in St. Clare's Church.
- ◆ **Trócaire Boxes** are available at church doors. Please take one to contribute to those in need.
- ◆ **Support St. Clare's Hospitality** - food can be placed in the barrels at church doors or in the parish centre.
- ◆ **Visit the Lenten space** in Holy Cross or St. Clare's.
- ◆ **Pioneer Lenten Challenge** - Pope Francis invites us to "journey in hope together". A short-term pledge is available via [www.pioneerassociation.org](http://www.pioneerassociation.org) for those who wish to become a "pilgrim of hope" for people who are living under the shadow of addiction.
- ◆ **Follow the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese Facebook and X accounts** (@KANDLEi) for daily posts on how we can be **Pilgrims of Hope** this Lent.



**FIRST CONFESSION**

Children from Killeshin N.S will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Tues 25<sup>th</sup> March @7pm in Holy Cross Church and the children from St. Fiacc's NS on this Wed 26<sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm in St Clare's Church. Please keep them in your prayers during the days ahead.

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



## ANNIVERSARIES

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

**St. Clare's** **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
6.30pm Jim (Seamus) Byrne, Cork, formerly St Fiacc's Terrace – **Month's Mind**  
Martin Curran, Clonmore Killeshin - **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
Ann Doyle, Fr. Byrne Park  
Carmel Pierce, Mount Leinster Park  
Michael Mullins, Coolnariska  
James Mullins, Toronto  
Anastasia Dalton, Dungarvan  
Bridie Hurley, Rossmore View  
Margaret and Denis Helehan  
Thomas Flynn, St. Fiacc's Terrace, and deceased family members



**St. Clare's** **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
9am May Carpenter, her parents  
Paddy and Bridie O'Rourke and brother Seamus

**HOLY CROSS** **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
10.15am Michael Mullins, Coolnariska  
James Mullins, Toronto  
Anastasia Dalton, Dungarvan



**St. Clare's** **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
11.30am Jim and Denis Moran, Whitney Place  
Nancy Dooley, Pearse Road  
Jackie Behan

**WED 26th** 10am Patrick and Kathleen Bolton, Ballickmoyler

**THURS 27th** 10am Mary Byrne, and her son Brendan, Kildavin  
Ester Hand, St Clare's Road

**ST. CLARE'S** **SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup>**  
6.30pm Mary Clare Burroughs and her brothers and sisters  
Róisín Jowett  
Stasia Dalton (née Mullins) Rossmore



**ST. CLARE'S** **SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>**  
9am Breda (Biddy) Haughney, Crossneen

**HOLY CROSS** **SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>**  
10.15am Liam Doran, Keelogue Killeshin- **First Anniversary**  
John Pheasant, Kent  
Stasia Dalton, (née Mullins) Rossmore  
Ester Ryan, Limerick

**ST. CLARE'S** **SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>**  
11.30am Mary Keating, St Fiacc's Terrace  
Josie Collins, Bestfield  
Martin and Annie Fitzpatrick, Coolenaugh, and daughter-in-law  
June Fitzpatrick, Wexford  
Aiden Power, Pacelli Avenue  
Bernard Keating, Fr Byrne Park

### REST IN PEACE



**Mary Sheehan, Raheendoran**  
**Mary Doogue, Green Road**  
**Teresa Buggy née Fitzgerald, Monteen, Crettyard**

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> March

Blue Bag €1,685 D. Debit Donation €165  
Red Bag €760  
Tap Machine €90

*Thank You*

**OISÍN PLAYERS** present Michael J. Ginnelly's hilarious 3 Act play **Betwixt & Between** on this Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> and again next Fri 28<sup>th</sup>, Sat 29<sup>th</sup>, Sun 30<sup>th</sup> March @8pm in *The Glenside Lounge, Killeshin. Doors open @7pm.*

### CARLOW FLOWER CLUB

Carlow Flower Club are hosting a garden talk by Mary Keenan on "Preparing your Garden now for Summer Colour" on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel. Mary is the editor of "The Irish Garden Magazine" and the owner of Gash Gardens in Co. Laois. This is sure to be a most informative night for all those who garden.

### GRAIGUECULLEN COMMUNITY CHILDCARE

(on the grounds of St. Fiacc's Primary School) have a limited number of spaces available for Preschool in August 2025 for children aged 2, 3, and 4 years of age. Free 2-year ECCE Scheme and National Childcare Scheme places available. For more info, 059 91 37105 / 085 1155646



### PARISH ENVELOPES

We are very grateful for your contributions. If you wish to have your donation recorded please put your name and address on one of the envelopes. Since we are a registered charity, we can claim back tax on your donation and this will not affect your taxes whatsoever.



**LOURDES INVALID FUND ANNUAL DRAW** takes place this Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30pm in The Thatch Bar, Graiguecullen. Please return all cards as soon as possible to Ursula @ The Thatch or to The Parish Centre. A big thank you to all who support us.

### 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

### GRAIGUECULLEN COMMUNITY GAMES

If your child is interest in competing for Graiguecullen community games in Draughts, solo or group singing/dancing, cycling on grass, 5k, art and more, please register your interest on <https://itsplainsailing.com/org/gcg> and visit our Facebook page "Graiguecullen community games" for more information.

### TRÓCAIRE GUEST SPEAKER

At all masses next weekend, Carlow local Jane Mellett, Church Outreach Manager from Trócaire will speak to us on Trócaire's Lenten Campaign for 2025.

### DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus continues on Tuesday evenings in Carlow Cathedral (back entrance) from 7pm to 8pm with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.



### ASKEA SENIOR CITIZENS

holiday to Galway on 6<sup>th</sup> April. New members welcome. Easter party is in the afternoon on Sun 13<sup>th</sup> in The Seven Oaks. Contact Marian 059 91 43010.