



Corona Virus Level 5 Restrictions: With Level 5 restrictions no public Masses are allowed in our churches, with the exception for funerals (10 people permitted) and weddings, (6 allowed).

Funerals: If attending the cemetery, or standing along the roadside to express sympathy, the wearing of a mask and keeping a minimum of 2 metres physical distancing is vital.

Killeen Church: Sunday Mass

Sunday, 14 February 11.30 a.m.
Funeral Mass: Seamus Heneghan
Michael Fadden, Killadoon, 16th anniversary.
Austin and Delia O Reilly, Shraugh.

Masses, Louisburgh

Monday 15 February 10.00 a.m.
Eileen Staunton, Thallabawn and deceased of the Staunton & Garrivan families.

Tuesday, 16 February 10.00 a.m.

Wednesday, 17 February 10.00 a.m.

Thursday 18 February 10.00 a.m.

Jimmy Duffy, Month's Mind.

Friday 19 February 10.00 a.m.

Rosemarie Tiernan, 2nd anniversary.

Samuel and Bridget Ferson.

Sunday, 21 February 11.30 a.m.

Aisling Coyne.

Patrick O Reilly, Shraugh, 6th Anniversary.

John Nicholson, Bunowen, 4th anniversary.

Pat Joe Prendergast, Bunlahinch and his brother John, Chicago.

Sean Corrigan, 6th anniversary, Srahwee

St. Vincent de Paul: If in need of our assistance, please contact 087 921 0885 in confidence

Church Opening Times: The Churches will be open daily for private prayer until 5.00 p.m.

Louisburgh Church webcam

<https://louisburghparish.ie/louisburgh-webcam>

Killeen Church webcam

<https://louisburghparish.ie/killeen-webcam>

Parish Website: www.louisburghparish.ie

Parish Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/kilgeever.parish.77

'Living Christian Faith' Join Fr Eamonn Conway and guests online each Thursday evening at 8.30pm. To watch, simply log on to www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live

Church Stewards – Corona Virus Restrictions.

Sincere thanks to all who have volunteered to act as stewards in our churches. It is not an easy job at any time, and especially now when numbers are severely limited for funerals, (10 mourners), and weddings, (6 people).

It is essential that all people co-operate with the stewards and follow their instructions. They are acting solely to safeguard our community against a spread of the corona virus.

Please remember that families will have chosen 10 to be present at a funeral Mass, with many close family members making the huge sacrifice of staying away from the funeral Mass of a loved one.

Without our stewards the churches could not open at all, even for the very limited occasions that they can at present. Again we express our thanks to our stewards for their dedication and patience and commitment to the community.

Parish Finances - Return of Weekly Envelopes

These may be returned through the letterbox in the front door of the parochial house. There is a facility for anybody who wishes to make a donation by credit / debit card, once off or on an ongoing basis, on www.louisburghparish.ie Many thanks to all who have donated, and continue to donate, in this difficult time.

Monthly Calls: The monthly calls to the sick and housebound by Fr Long were suspended as it is best practice not to have a person visiting multiple homes, and so risk spreading the virus to vulnerable people. However, if anybody wishes Fr Long to visit, or to receive Holy Communion or the sacrament of the sick, please phone 66198 and arrangements will be made for an individual visit, taking all advised precautions. Family members may be appointed as special Eucharistic Ministers to bring Holy Communion to an elderly or ill family member.

Killeen National School Enrolment for September 2021 is now taking place. All information on www.killeenns.com. Please download an enrolment form here and you can forward it by email to killeenns2@gmail.com or post it to the school by Friday 05 March. All enquiries to killeenns2@gmail.com.



Trócaire

Trócaire was established in 1973 as the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The organisation was created as a response to the widening gap between rich and poor and our collective duty to reduce it.

Trócaire's founding document outlines that these duties are 'no longer a matter of charity, but of simple justice'. Trócaire is rooted in the principles of Catholic social teaching.

Catholic social teaching is based on the belief that God has a plan for creation, a plan to build his kingdom of peace, love and justice. In the words of Trócaire's founding document, in which the bishops of Ireland gave the organisation a strong and clear mandate, 'We know that we cannot claim to love God if we do not love our fellow men and women.'

Saint John tells us, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

Pope Francis emphasises the importance of human interconnectedness and social friendship in his recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*.

We will see this come to life through the stories of Awut and Ajak from South Sudan this Lent. Conflict and poverty are a reality for these families, but not everyone in, or from, South Sudan has had this experience. This is only one part of the story of South Sudan, but it is reality for these families.

Please bring home a Trócaire Box.

Trócaire boxes are available in the churches. Please pick up one for yourself.

If you are bringing one to a family member or neighbour please do so in accordance with all corona virus guidelines. Protect yourselves and your neighbours.

Make a sacrifice this Lent; give up something you enjoy and donate the savings to Trócaire to help in parts of the world that need our support.

Last year there was a truly extraordinary response in the parish to the Lenten Trócaire campaign. Thanks again to all who made it possible.

Celebrate Ash Wednesday at Home.

Cardinal Nichols recently wrote: "My suggestion is this: celebrate Ash Wednesday at home, with your family, in the household or 'support bubble' of which you are a part."

"Receiving ashes is an outward sign of an inner step, a movement of the heart towards our beloved Lord. This year I invite you to concentrate much more on this inner, spiritual movement than on its outward manifestation in the imposition of ashes."

In a pastoral letter Cardinal Nichols suggested to mark the beginning of Lent in the home, by starting with a time of prayer:

"Bless each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead. Spend some time praying in a way that you know. But please, make this a prayer of your heart for God's mercy upon this world struggling to cope with the terrible pandemic and the devastation it is bringing."

Prayer of Blessing for Ash Wednesday

Father, on this Ash Wednesday, we seek your forgiveness and ask your help in living our faith. For the times when we have failed to love. Have mercy, Lord.

For the times when we have not noticed the needs of others. Have mercy, Lord.

For the times when we have refused to forgive. Have mercy, Lord.

Remember we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Help us repent, and believe in the Gospel. *(If you have ashes, you may say the following prayer.)*

Bless us O Lord, and these ashes that are a sign of our repentance and make them a sign to the world of our desire to change, and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus your Son. Amen.

St Valentine who inspired the holiday may have been two individuals. As early as 496 a.d. Pope Gelasius referred to the martyr and his acts as "being known only to God." One account claimed Valentine was beheaded near Rome by the emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed. A different account claims Valentine was the Bishop of Terni, also martyred by Claudius. Confusion surrounds the true identity of St. Valentine. However, Happy St. Valentine's Day to all!