



KILLEEN & LOUISBURGH NEWSLETTER

16 January 2022

098 66198

Sunday 2 in Ordinary Time

www.louisburghparish.ie



Live Streaming of Masses on Webcameras

www.louisburghparish.ie

Sunday 16 January

Mass Killeen Church 10.00 a.m.

Pat Joe and Nora O Malley, Curracony.

Mass Louisburgh Church 11.30 a.m.

Jimmy Duffy, Falduff, 1st Anniversary.

Sarah and Michael Scanlon & deceased family.

Jonathan Healy.

Monday, 17 January - Friday 21 January

No Mass

Sunday 23 January

Mass Killeen Church 10.00 a.m.

Paddy Jennings, Thallabawn.

Mass Louisburgh Church 11.30 a.m.

P.J Burke, Month's Mind, Bunowen and Wicklow.

Bridie O Toole, Carrowclaggan.

Mary Corrigan, Woodfield.

R.I.P. Pray for those who died recently;

Eileen Cooney, Beaumont, Dublin, mother of Catherine Cooney, receptionist at Louisburgh Medical Practice.

Holy Communion for those with Coeliac disease

If those with coeliac disease wish to receive Holy Communion under the form of wine, they should inform the priest, or ask one of the stewards to do so, before Mass.

Church Opening Time. The Churches will continue to open daily until 5.00 p.m.

Prevention of COVID 19 Anybody with any covid, flu-like, or cold-like symptoms, cough, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, temperature, lack of smell etc. should not attend church but should isolate and phone their G.P. for advice and seek a PCR test.

You must isolate while awaiting PCR test results.

It is absolutely essential that everyone attending Mass or services in church must wear a mask covering nose & mouth at all times. Not to do so disrespects the health and life of all others in church. Please use the hand sanitisers on entry to the church.

St. Vincent de Paul: For assistance, please contact 087 921 0885 in confidence.

Ventilation of Churches: In order to reduce the risk of spreading the corona virus, an airborne virus, the churches are ventilated as best we can when congregations are present. To facilitate airflow windows and doors are open when possible. As a result it is difficult to heat the churches as we would like at this time of year but perhaps better to be a little cold than very sick with covid.

Please, do not close doors if they are open when you enter the church.

Monthly Calls: The monthly calls to the sick and housebound by Fr Long were suspended due to the corona virus pandemic.

With the present high number of infections nationwide and locally it is still safer for all not to make multiple house-calls in a short timeframe. 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.

Saving the planet:

As part of their project to establish energy usage, Louisburgh and Killeen Sustainable Energy Community are seeking to prepare a register of all houses in the parish that have obtained Building Energy Rating certificates (BER). Any person willing to assist in this project by giving details of their BER is asked to contact Jim Campbell at 087 284 7695. Your information will remain private and will be used to create future projects whereby energy usage may be lowered.

Louisburgh LGFA invites expressions of interest for the role of Louisburgh LGFA Intermediate Club Manager. Please send details to louisburgh.mayo@lgfa.ie Closing date is Monday 31 January.

Killeen Community Council are hosting an Operation Transformation walk this Sunday 16 January at 1.00 p.m. Park and meet at Killeen. Duration approximately 1 hour. High visibility clothing required. No dogs. Don't attend if you have any Covid Symptoms.

Archbishop Francis Duffy – delivered at his installation as Archbishop of Tuam last Sunday.

Today I assume my responsibilities as Archbishop of Tuam. I come here knowing very few and so I really look forward to getting to know the priests, religious and parishioners as I move around and meet a great variety of people.

One topic often raised with me is the decline in vocations. We know that over the decades, in the West of Ireland, many have answered the call to priesthood and religious life for service at home and abroad. You know them, they are your family members, friends and neighbours. The number answering that call has plummeted in recent decades. We have heard all the facts and figures. We just have to look around and see parishes where there were two or three priests there is now one and increasingly there are none, with parishes sharing a priest. This is not because of any diminishment of what people think of priests and their work. If anything, the value put on priests' pastoral work, and liturgies, and the appreciation of their presence, is higher than ever.

Yet, the decline continues. Consequently, there are not enough priests to maintain the present parish arrangements. Structures have already been modified to meet the current needs and more changes will be necessary building on good developments that have already taken place and also to accommodate and facilitate very positive new developments that will arise.

Without a doubt the future of the Catholic Church depends, as always, on the parishioners, as well as the diminishing numbers of clergy and religious. It depends on your faith, your enthusiasm and on how the Holy Spirit moves through you. That is part of the baptism call of every person, not just clergy or religious, but of all the baptised.

It is timely, it is good and it is exciting that Pope Francis has moved the Church, worldwide, on to a synodal path, and done so with great enthusiasm and conviction. There have already been synods and synodal type practices for several years internationally and at home. Many dioceses continue to travel that road, it isn't always easy, it can be challenging and it can be energising. The Holy Spirit is present and who knows where that combination of listening, walking together and prayer and discerning

will lead? It presents a way being Church and of living out our baptism. It is not an instant solution. We have to remember it is a pathway not a runway. But, it is the way to go....

It is a pathway, a journey accompanied by a great variety of people. We will continue, listening, discerning and planning as we walk together and with the Holy Spirit; I see no alternative....

Of course there are the personal pathways that each one of us travel, sometimes very happy and joyful, sometimes relentless in sadness and anxiety and loss. These personal journeys are where we can encounter Jesus and be aware of his presence, often through others. The life of daily living, the routine, the happiness and sadness of it all, the quiet life that we all lead, just like Jesus and the thirty hidden years in Nazareth. Pope Francis commented on Jesus' hidden years as being "... a fine message for us: it reveals *the greatness of daily life*, the importance in God's eyes of every gesture and moment of life". The ordinary life that is at the same time extraordinary, that is all of us, that is where Jesus can be at home with us and we at home with him.

Tragically for some people daily life was anything but happy or joyful. Judgement prevailed and set the scene for harshness, not homeliness. Human dignity was not there for the living or the dead or the bereaved. In November I stated "to move forward we must listen to all who have been hurt by their experience of Church".... Truth and justice are important and, in pursuit of both, I am willing to listen and to learn.

Today we have reduced considerably the number of guests at this Installation Ceremony because of current risks arising from the terrible journey we have all had due to the virus. Many people have suffered greatly during the last two years. Sadly, for some there has been death and bereavement, illness, loss of employment, risks and isolation. The experience of the lockdowns, the continuing threat and the restrictions have had a very negative impact on many people. We have also witnessed good neighbourliness, and those who continue with essential services and help keep us safe and keep life going as normally as possible...

May the Holy Spirit guide, enlighten and give us great hope.

Please pray for me and for my ministry.