



## KILLEEN & LOUISBURGH NEWSLETTER

29 May 2022  
098 66198

The Ascension of the Lord  
www.louisburghparish.ie



### Live Streaming of Masses on Webcameras [www.louisburghparish.ie](http://www.louisburghparish.ie)

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29 May</b>	
<b>Killeen</b>		10.00 a.m.
Katie Keane, Martin & Mary Needham, Aillemore and their grandson, Martin. John & Sarah Needham Devlin. Patrick and Bridget Davitt. Morrison family, Devlin. Kathleen and Paddy Armstrong & son Tom, Altóir		
<b>Louisburgh</b>		11.30 a.m.
Johnny Duffy, Bridge Street, 19 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sally Gavin and deceased family. Jerry, Nancy and Sharon Houlihan.		
Monday	30 May	No Mass
Tuesday	31 May	10.00 a.m.
Wednesday	01 June	10.00 a.m.
Thursday	02 June	10.00 a.m.
Friday	03 June	
<i>Wedding Mass in Killeen Church</i>		12.30 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>05 June</b>	
<b>Killeen</b>		10.00 a.m.
Mary Egan, Derrygarrow.		
<b>Louisburgh</b>		11.30 a.m.
Patrick O Malley, Main St. Month's Mind and his parents Paddy & Kay and sisters Mary & Ann. Chris O Grady, Tully, 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary and deceased family. Patrick and Kathleen Kitterick. Martin and Sheila Kilcoyne, Crickeen, 10 <sup>th</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> anniversaries. Sheila, Fr. John, and Colm Henaghan.		

#### Liturgical Ministries,

Louisburgh, Sunday, 05 June

Eucharistic: Breege McCormack,

Mary B Durkan.

Reader: Marie O Grady.

Killeen, Sunday, 05 June

Reader: Paraic O Malley.

#### Holy Communion for those with Coeliac disease

If people with coeliac disease wish to receive Holy Communion under the form of wine, they should inform the priest before Mass.

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

**Eucharist Ministers and Readers** lists have been sent out by email and will also be displayed on Church notice boards.

**Trócaire:** Following this weekend we will finalise this year's contribution from the parish to Trócaire's Lenten Campaign. To date the parish contribution has raised €8,656.

**Donations to the Parish:** With the planned closure of Ulster Bank we are in the process of opening new accounts for the parish. In the meantime people can continue to use the Ulster Bank ibans for direct lodgements to the Louisburgh Parish Account or the Louisburgh Priests Account.



Donations can also be made at <https://louisburghparish.ie/donate> by credit or debit card or by scanning the QR code opposite into a smart phone or tablet.

The weekly envelopes of course will continue in use. Cheques should be made out to either 'Louisburgh Parish' or 'Louisburgh Priests', depending on the collection. Sincere thanks to all who continue to contribute so generously through the weekly envelopes and via electronic means.

**National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage** to Knock on Friday 17 (7.30pm) and Saturday 18 June. Details on [www.eucharisticadoration.ie](http://www.eucharisticadoration.ie)

**Order of Malta:** Church gate collection, Sunday 05 June.

#### Prevention of COVID 19

- Everyone attending Mass or services in church is urged to wear a mask covering nose & mouth at all times.
- Use the hand sanitisers on entry to the church.
- Anybody with any covid, flu-like, or cold-like symptoms, should not attend church.

***Thanks for continuing to wear masks in congregated settings, to help protect those of us who are vulnerable due to age, illness, or compromised immune systems.***

***For us it's not the thought that counts, it's the mask!***

#### Mass Attendance / Number of Weekend Masses

The Corona Virus pandemic disrupted Church life and services like nothing before in our lifetime, and has resulted in changes which may, or may not, be permanent.

I suspect that most of these changes are in fact permanent.

The lockdowns and restrictions have also substantially reduced the number of those who volunteer their services in the various ministries and roles in church. Our thanks is due to all those who fulfilled these roles, often over many years, in the past.

Many other factors in modern Ireland are also affecting if, and how, people now express their beliefs and faith.

We need to re-imagine how we will go on as an active parish community and how we can continue to gather in meaningful ways to worship.

Where we can see one definite change is in the numbers of people coming to Sunday Mass.

At present there is an approximate average of 60 to 70 people at Mass in Killeen, and 140 to 160 at Mass in Louisburgh, on Sundays.

The Saturday evening Vigil Mass in Louisburgh has not been re-introduced, since restrictions lifted, due to these figures and also due to the reduced numbers of volunteers available for the various ministries.

It is being kept under review as we approach peak tourist season.

Two Vigil Masses in each church at Christmas were poorly attended, even allowing that restrictions on numbers were still in place.

So too with the Easter Vigil Mass, though Easter Sunday Masses were full. One other Saturday evening Mass, the Vigil for Palm Sunday had a very low attendance.

This is a considerable reduction of the numbers who used to attend before the pandemic took hold. We are in a fortunate position in that we can compare current attendances with previous attendance due to the extensive survey we did in 2018. The results of that survey are published again at the end of this article.

Before making any decisions for the future we need to take the current situation into account. We also need to take account of the greatly

reduced number of priests, and their age, who will be available to lead the celebration of Mass. It is a fact that priests will have to do so in multiple parishes in the very near future.

When I arrived in this area there were 7 priests between Kilgeever Parish and our neighbouring parishes of Westport and Clare Island; there are now 2, myself and Fr. Charlie McDonnell in Westport.

In any planning, or arranging of Masses and services, we have to keep these facts in mind so that we make best use of the resources available to us.

All our liturgies and Masses should involve the participation of the maximum numbers possible so that they are truly reflective of the faith of a living, and life giving, community. I'm not sure that a Sunday Mass, vigil or day time, in a large church that might be two-thirds or more empty can achieve this.

These are some of the issues that I hope a re-invigorated Parish Pastoral Council will discuss and confront as we go forward together.

We face a very uncertain future, but as a Christian people we do so with hope and with the assurance of Christ, "I will be with you always".

Mattie Long

#### 2018 Survey; Weekend Mass average attendances

Month	Killeen Sun 10.00	Louisburgh Sat 7.30	Louisburgh Sun 11.30	Total
June	142	220	213	575
July	178	192	394	764
August	139	189	215	543
Sept	149	157	220	526
Oct	200	203	344	747
Nov	140	277	276	584
Average	158	206	277	623

**Killeen Community Council:** Monster prize draw on Friday 10 June in P Dan's. Tickets €10 each on sale from Community Council members. Funds earmarked for Killeen Community Centre and Killeen cemeteries. We have set up a gofundme page if anyone wishes to donate online: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-killeen-community-council-fundraiser-2022>