Sunday 14th December 2025

Mass Intentions.

Tourlestrane church

Sunday 14th December: 10.30am: John Kelly& deceased of Brennan & Kelly families

Monday 15th December: No Mass

Tuesday 16th December: 9.30am

Wednesday 17th December; 7pm For all who volunteer in our parish

Thursday 18th December: No Mass

Friday 19th December : 7pm Nuala Molloy (Months Mind)

Saturday 20th December: No Mass

Sunday 21st December: 10.30am: Pake & Kathleen Walsh

Kilmactigue church

Saturday 13th December: 7pm Helen & William Haran & deceased of Haran family

Sunday 14th December: No Mass

Monday 15th December: 9.30am

Tuesday 16th December: No Mass

Wednesday 17th December: No Mass

Thursday 18th December: 9.30am

Friday 19th December: No Mass

Saturday 6th December: 7pm Tom Kennedy

Sunday 7th December: No Mass

Lough Talt church

Sunday 14th December: 9.20am : For the Living

Sunday 21st December. 9.20am : James & Nellie Curley, their daughter Mary & son Peter.

First reading

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

God himself is coming to save you

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145(146):6-10

Come, Lord, and save us.
or
Alleluia!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

Come, Lord, and save us.

or
Alleluia!

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

Come, Lord, and save us.
or
Alleluia!

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Come, Lord, and save us.
or
Alleluia!

Second reading

James 5:7-10

Do not lose heart; the Lord's coming will be soon

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Is61:1(Lk4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

'A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen'

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone

else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Offertory Collection

The Offertory Collection for the weekend 7th December was €1,495.07

New Parish Website

The new website for the Parish will be https://www.kilmactigueparish.com/ .It is live now .

New Offertory Envelopes

The new Offertory Boxes are available now at the exit of the churches. Please collect.

Christmas Decorations

The Christmas trees arrived this weekend. We can begin to put up the decorations in the churches. A suggestion: If you wish to put a decoration on the trees, symbolising your present to Jesus Christ, please do so!

St Vincent De Paul

The phone number for the local conference is 087 3549586. The annual collection church gate collection will take place on the weekend of 13/14th December.

Banada Abbey Bingo

Banada Abbey Bingo this Tuesday at 8.00pm. Play in the hall or on-line. New Jackpot GAME for €2,000 now on a MASSIVE 53 calls or less. Game 5 Jackpot €1,000 in 40 calls or less. Prize Fund of €10,500 on offer. Lots of additional ways to win in the hall, including an extra Game. Don't miss out!!

Advent Special gathering

There will be a special Mass on this Wednesday17th December at 7pm in Tourlestrane church for all volunteers who take part in ministry in the parish.

Mass preparation Rota

A rota is being formed in Kilmactigue church for those who will prepare the church for the celebration of Mass on weekends. The more people who volunteer will mean we have to do it less often.!

Pastoral message

This Sunday, Bishop Kevin issues a pastoral message providing an update on the amalgamation of our two dioceses of Achonry and Elphin, Copies of the pastoral message are at the exits of the churches,

Chiropodist

Local chiropodist will be available on Monday 15th December in the Heritage Centre at Joe Dan's, to book an appointment please call Sean on 087 783 5159

Advent Gospel Meetings

During this Advent season there will a meeting for anyone interested in exploring and praying the gospel in Fr John's house on Tuesday at 8pm.

Kilmactigue Christmas Choir

There will be a choir practice in Aclare Digital Hub on Tuesday 16th December at 7pm in preparation for the Christmas masses. All musicians and singers welcome to join.

Lough Talt Carol Service

Carol Service at Lough Talt Church Monday Evening December 22nd 8pm, An Evening of Christmas carols and festive refreshments.
All Welcome

Lough Talt -2026 Calendars

The very sought after 2026 Lough Talt Calendars are now available.This year, the calendar contains many images of Lough Talt which showcases the ever changing beauty of the area throughout the four seasons.Calendars cost €10 and can be purchased at Kennedys shop Aclare, or contact Cian on (087) 9853442 or Theresia on (087) 9872229. A nice present for those at home!!

Memory Trees

Following on from what has become a lovely tradition, two memory trees will be blessed & lit in the Sanctuary of Lough Talt Church throughout the Christmas period. Each name will placed on a hand crafted star & shine bright throughout the Christmas. Those who wish to have a name included (for both living & deceased) can do so by placing a name along with €10 in the labeled envelope.
Envelopes can be got at the back of the 3 churches & also at Kennedys shop Aclare.

Parents of children attending Primary Schools

For Attention of Parents of children attending Primary Schools or have yet to start. The Department of Education is currently conducting a Primary School Survey that will determine the future provision of Primary Schools and crucially could lead to lasting changes in **your** school. In simple, direct terms, you are being asked if you want your school to stay a Catholic school or if you want that to change. Don't leave it to others, have your say before 16 December 2025

See - https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: Tourlestrane 7pm,
Christmas Eve: Kilmactigue 9pm
Christmas Day: Lough Talt 9.15am
Christmas Day: Kilmactigue 10.45am
Christmas Day: Tourlestrane 12noon.

Camino

Have you ever dreamed of walking the Camino de Santiago? Breakthrough Cancer Research are taking on the final 100KM of the 'French Way', Sarria to Santiago from the 13th - 20th of April 2026 and would love for you to join them. Many people choose to walk the Camino with Breakthrough Cancer Research for deeply personal reasons. Some take part to honour a loved one, others to fulfil a bucket-list dream, and many simply wish to share a meaningful experience with a friend or partner - all while helping to raise vital, life-saving funds for cancer research. Starting in the charming town of Sarria, experience camaraderie and reflection as you walk toward Santiago de Compostela, creating lasting memories on this historic pilgrimage. For more information, please contact Edel, edel@breakcancer.ie or phone 021 422 66 55 for more details.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE - Your final chance to enter our fundraising draw for a Nissan Qashqai Hybrid. Draw takes place on Saturday 20th Dec in Cill Aodain Court Hotel, Kiltimagh. Tickets €20 available from usual outlets and online at victimassistance.ie or call 1800 277 477. All monies raised go towards supporting victims of crime and trauma. A ticket will make an ideal Christmas gift while also helping those in need of support in our community. Thank you.

Exodus 90 is a 90-day spiritual program designed for Christian men who wish to deepen their faith through prayer, fraternity, and self-denial alongside other men. Participants read the Book of Exodus, listen to reflections, practice self-denial, and meet weekly. The programme starts 5th of January and runs for 90 days to Easter Saturday. If you are interested, please call or text Damien at 0861729064 for more information about a local group, or visit www.exodus90.com (https://www.exodus90.com).

1. Creative Writing. Want to write your memoir? Create poems or stories? Craft plays or films? Or see your writing on screen or stage?

World class teaching on your doorstep this January 2026. Weds 8-10 from 14 Jan. Booking - €219.99 / Concessions. 0876007100 www.martinkeaveney.com

2. Give Hope This Christmas with Double the Love: Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to more than 3 million children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future. It costs just €22 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. Thanks to the Tom Cunningham Trust, donations will be doubled until 12th January 2026 or until the match funding limit has been reached. Together, through Double the Love, we can transform the lives of many more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals. To donate, go to www.marysmeals.ie or phone 01 853 5163. Every donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Parish Safeguarding Handbook.
The Parish Safeguarding handbook is available on
http://achonrydiocese.org/safeguardinghandbook/

Mavka: The Forest Song

Mavka: Free Family friendly screening of the Ukrainian animated film *Mavka: The Forest Song* in the Art Deco Theatre, Ballymote Saturday 27th December at 3.45pm . The film will be shown in Ukrainian with English subtitles, making it a lovely opportunity for cultural sharing and for the wider community to come together to experience a piece of Ukrainian storytelling. Thanks to generous support from CYPSC and Ballymote Family Resource Centre, tickets are free, but must be booked in advance via the booking link on our Facebook page.

Exhibition of Stars

Exhibition of Stars: Visit the exhibition of stars on display at Tubbercurry Community Library until December 17th created by a number of local women's groups as part of an arts initiative connecting communities across Ireland in Solidarity against Domestic Abuse and all forms of violence. Each star woven represents light, hope and solidarity and each point on the star represents "Healthy Love "and what a healthy relationship looks like". More information is available as part of the exhibition.

First Responders

Tubbercurry Community First Responders wish to thank everyone for their generous Contribution to our recent bake sale. It was a great success which raised over €2,000. Funds raised will be used to buy 2 Defibrillators for use within the Community.

Drimina NS

Enrolments will close on January 16th 2026. Enrolment forms are available on request by emailing driminans3@gmail.com or by contacting the school 0719186046. A copy of the school's Admission Policy is available at: www.driminans.ie

Enrolment Now Open at Banada N.S.!

We are delighted to announce that enrolment is now open at **Banada National School** for the upcoming school year.

Focus Ireland

This Advent and Christmas, Focus Ireland invites parishioners to host a carol service or festive singalong and help end child homelessness for good. There are currently over 5000 children and their families experiencing homelessness in Ireland. Whether it's a parish choir event, a school performance, or a community gathering, your carols can help bring hope and dignity to those in need.

Family Carers Ireland

National Charity supporting 500,000+ Family Carers Nationwide - recruiting **Community Homecare Workers** to provide support to clients. Flexible work hours based on availability. Essential Requirements: Qualifications – QQI Care of The Older Person and Care Skills Modules completed, must have own car and Full Driving Licence. Please send CV to jobs@familycarers.ie or contact Carol on 049 8511031 or 086 4183949 for more information.

Confessions

Confessions is available on Friday evenings in Tourlestrane church at 6pm to 6.30pm in the adoration room.

Baptised and Sent

Over the past four years the Irish Church and the Universal Church have been on a journey of renewal. Numerous gatherings have been held across every Irish diocese and various other groupings. These gatherings have been carried out in a prayerful way in an attempt to listen deeply to where the Holy Spirit is calling us, the people of God, as we try to respond to the call .The fruit of what emerged from this extended period of reflection and prayer can be found in the Irish Synodal Pathway's document, Baptised and Sent.

Baptised and Sent identifies recurring themes in our conversations. These include the wound of abuse and the demand for real healing and accountability; the call of women and men for leadership roles and a recognition of women's gifts in the life of the Church; the alienation of young people, many of whom find our liturgies wearisome and our witness unconvincing; the discomfort, and sometimes exclusion, felt by LGBTQ+ people; the fatigue of priests carrying too

much on ageing shoulders; and the gnawing sense of a Church that has struggled to speak credibly into the public square and secular culture.

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Date of First Communions

First Communion will be celebrated in Tourlestrane church for the children in second class from Banada NS and Drimina NS on Saturday 16th May at 11am
First Communion will be celebrated in Lough Talt church for the children in second class in Castlerock NS on Sunday 24th May at 11am.

Date of Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated with Bishop Kevin Doran in Tourlestrane church on Friday 8th May at 4pm.

Altar Servers.

Thanks to the boys and girls who have volunteered to be altar servers this year.

Children's Choir.

It was good to see the children's choir beginning rehearsals for the new year. Encourage your children to take an active part in the work of our parish community.

Achonry Pioneers

Achonry Pioneer Total Abstinence Association If anyone in the parish would like to receive their Silver, Gold or Diamond Pioneer pin or become a member, please email achonrypioneers@gmail.com or contact Thomas at 087-2344338

Dementia Support Worker

Join Our Caring Team! Dementia Support Worker (Care in the Community) Looking for meaningful, flexible work? We're seeking compassionate, honest, reliable people to support individuals living with dementia in their own homes in Co. Mayo
Locations: All throughout Co. Mayo
What You'll Do: Offer companionship and social connection. Assist with daily living activities. Support meaningful activities. Give primary carers a well-deserved break.
Flexible hours – work around ***your*** schedule! Make a real difference, one visit at a time.
Essentials: QQI Level 5 modules in **Care Skills** & **Care of the Older Person**
Desirable: Previous experience in caring / QQI Level 5 in Health Care
Interested? Get in touch today! 094 93 64900 or email careers@westernalzheimers.ie

Tusla, Meitheal.

Meitheal is a Tusla led process for children and families who may need support. Meitheal enables families to identify what is working well and not so well in their child or young person's life and work towards changes they would like to see

happen for their child or young person. For more information on Meitheal please contact 0876562844 or email