

**Sunday 29th March 2026**

**Mass Intentions.**

**Tourlestrane church**

**Sunday 29th March: 10.30am: Joanne Westwood.**

**Monday 30th March: No Mass**

**Tuesday 31st March: 9.30am**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 9.30am;**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: 8pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: 3pm The Passion of our lord**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April: 9pm: Easter ceremonies**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am:**

**Kilmactigue church**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March: 7pm Johnnie & Maureen Durkin, Culleen**

**Sunday 29th March: No Mass**

**Monday 30th March: 9.30am**

**Tuesday 31st March: No Mass**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April; 7pm**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: No Mass**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April :7pm Stations of the Cross**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April: No Mass**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April: 9am. Easter Mass**

**Lough Talt church**

**Sunday 29th March: 9.20am:**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 12noon: Stations of the Cross**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April: 7am: Dawn Mass**

## First reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

### I did not cover my face against insult: I know I shall not be shamed

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied  
he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21(22):8-9,17-20,23-24

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.'

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet  
I can count every one of my bones.

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me!

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

## **Second reading**

**Philippians 2:6-11**

### **Christ humbled himself but God raised him high**

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **The Word of the Lord**

**Matthew 26:14-27:66**

### **The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew**

One of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty silver pieces, and from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray him.

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Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He replied: “Go to so-and-so in the city and say to him, ‘The Master says: My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples’”. The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover.

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When evening came, he was at table with the twelve disciples. And while they were eating, he said: “I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me.” They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn, “Not I, Lord, surely?” He answered, “Someone who has dipped his hand into the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!”. Judas, who was to betray him, asked in his turn, “Not I, Rabbi, surely?” Jesus answered: “They are your own words”.

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Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take it and eat; this is my body”. Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks, he gave it to them, saying: “Drink, all of you, from this, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. From now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father.”

### **Break**

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After psalms had been sung, they left for the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, “You will all lose faith in me this night, for the scripture says: *I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered*, but after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee”. At this, Peter said, “Though all lose faith in you, I will never lose faith.” Jesus answered him, “I tell you solemnly, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the disciples said the same.

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Then Jesus came with them to a small estate called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Stay here while I go over there to pray”. He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And sadness came over him, and great distress. Then he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me.” And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed: “Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.” He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter: “So you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”. Again, a second time, he went away and prayed: My Father, if this cup cannot pass by without my drinking it, your will be done!” And he

came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy. Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and said to them, “You can sleep on now and take your rest. Now the hour has come when the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is already close at hand.”

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He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them. He had said, “The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge. So he went straight up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi” .and kissed him. Jesus said to him, “My friend, do what you are here for”. Then they came forward, seized Jesus and took him in charge. At that, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck out at the high priest’s servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus then said, “Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father who would promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defence? But then, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?” It was at this time that Jesus said to the crowds, “Am I a brigand, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I sat teaching in the Temple, day after day and you never laid hands on me.” Now all this happened to fulfil the prophecies in scripture. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away.

Break-----

The men who had arrested Jesus led him off to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance, and when he reached the high priest’s palace, he went in and sat down with the attendants to see what the end would be. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus, however false, on which they might pass the death sentence. But they could not find any, though several lying witnesses came forward. Eventually two stepped forward and made a statement, “This man said: ‘I have power to destroy the Temple of God and in three days build it up.’” The high priest then stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, “I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus answered:” The words are your own. Moreover, I tell you that from this time onward you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven”. At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?” They answered, “He deserves to die.” Then they spat in his face and

hit him with their fists; others said as they struck him, "Play the prophet, Christ! Who hit you then?"

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Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean". But he denied it in front of them all, saying: "I do not know what you are talking about". When he went out to the gateway another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." And again, with an oath, he denied it: "I do not know the man". A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "You are one of them for sure! Why, your accent gives you away." Then he started calling down curses on himself and swearing: "I do not know the man." At that moment the cock crew, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, 'Before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly.

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When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound, and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor. When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer was filled with remorse and took the thirty silver pieces back to the chief priests and elders, saying: "I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood." They replied: "What is that to us? That is your concern." And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said, "It is against the Law to put this into the treasury: it is blood-money". So they discussed the matter and bought the potter's field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: *And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me.*

Break

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Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "It is you who say it". But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, "Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?" But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges. At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, "Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him". The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the

crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" They said, "Barabbas!". Pilate said to them: "But in that case, what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said: "Let him be crucified!" Pilate asked: "Why?" What harm has he done? But they shouted all the louder, "Let him be crucified!" Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, "I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern". And the people, to a man, shouted back, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

Break-----

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him. On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, "So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!" The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He puts his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God.'" Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way. From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" That is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, "The man is calling on Elijah".and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said: "Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him." But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

*Here all kneel and pause for a short time.*

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At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, "In truth this was a son of God." And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Break-----

When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. Now Mary of Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.

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Next day, that is, when Preparation Day was over, the chief priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate and said to him, "Your Excellency, we recall that this impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I shall rise again.' Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before. "Pilate said to them: "You may have your guard. Go and make all as secure as you know how." So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.

### **Parish Cluster Penance Service**

There will be a gathering for all parishioners from Tubbercurry, Curry, Achonry and Tourlestrane Parishes for a joint Penance Service on Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in Tubbercurry church. Our parish have taken responsibility for the liturgy.

### **Penance**

The role of the Church in penitential practices is not to be neglected. Encouragement is to be given to pray for sinners The faithful are to be reminded that both according to law and tradition, they should approach the sacrament of penance during this season, so that with purified heart they may participate in the paschal mysteries. It is appropriate that during lent the sacrament of penance be celebrated according to the rite for the reconciliation of several penitents with individual confession and absolution, as given in the Roman Ritual.

### **Trocaire Boxes.**

Please return your Trocaire Boxes to the church during this week.

### **Sick and Housebound**

Fr John will visit the sick & Housebound this week. Those he usually visits on Fridays will be visited this week on Wednesday. The Thursday visits will still be on Thursday.

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Eucharistic Ministers are invited to renew their promises at Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening at 8pm Mass in Tourlestrane.

### **Adoration**

There will be an opportunity for all to spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday after evening Mass at 8pm until 12midnight.

### **Stations of the Cross;**

The Stations of the Cross harmonise with the Lenten season. They will be prayed this year in the Lake church on Good Friday at 12noon and on Good Friday at 7pm in Kilmactigue church.

### **Fast & Abstinence**

Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence .

### **New Parish Website**

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

### **Family Mass**

The next Family Mass will be this Sunday 29th March ( Palm Sunday) at 10.30pm in Tourlestrane church.

### **Chrism Mass**

Chrism Mass takes place on Monday March 30th in Ballaghaderreen Cathedral at 7pm this year. All welcome.

### **Easter Activity Camp**

Easter Activity Camp (Baking & Art & Crafts) for 4-6 year olds taking place in Castlerock National School on Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st March from 10am to 1pm each day. €30 per child - discount for siblings. To book call 086-6096439 or email [castlerockns@gmail.com](mailto:castlerockns@gmail.com)

### **5k/3k Walk (or run!)**

Castlerock N.S. are having a 5k/3k Walk (or run!) on Saturday 18th April at 11.30 a.m. with ALL proceeds in aid of Sligo Cancer Support Centre Tubbercurry. Registration from 11am at the school. Please come along to support this worthy cause and join us in the school afterwards for refreshments, music, games and fun!

### **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 41 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!!

## **Tourlestrane GAA**

Family Quiz Night on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6.30pm in Banada Abbey Hall. All welcome!.

### **Confessions**

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

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> May at 11am  
First Communion will be celebrated in Lough Talt church for the children in second class in Castlerock NS on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.

### **Date of Confirmation.**

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

### **theway.ie**

The Irish Bishop's Conference has launched a new on-line platform called theway.ie to help people to discover, live and pass on the Catholic faith. Please "like and subscribe" to their content on Facebook, Instagram, Spotify and You Tube and pass the word on.

### **New Offertory Envelopes**

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

### **Readers Missals 2026**

The new Missals for 2026 for readers are still available from Fr John

### **St Vincent De Paul Collection**

The phone number for the local conference is 087 3549586.

### **Parish Safeguarding Handbook.**

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

### **FRC**

Summer Garden Retreats this May 13<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> with Tubbercurry FRC. Nature retreats are a relaxing half day immersion highlighting our immediate environment and celebrating its beauty. Expect a wide range of activities and experiences such as gardening tips and sowing your own tray of microgreens, learning to forage and using spring herbs to create culinary treats and herbal teas, mindful exercises in nature, i.e. the art of journalling and dawdling, creative nature hands-on-activity, wellness through hydrotherapy (get those feet wet - optional). Bookings to 0719186926.

South Sligo Social Club will meet Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am-12.30pm. This Social group is for people with Alzheimer's, Dementia or memory loss and their Family/supporters. If you are a carer/supporter, feel free to pop along by yourself

or bring the person you are caring for also. A warm and welcome environment and the all-important cuppa awaits. Contact the FRC for more information or to express interest.

Free Guided Walks will take place with Tubbercurry FRC and Martina Kilian of Nature Inspires this April & May. Walks include a dark sky walk at Lough Talt April 22<sup>nd</sup> 8.00pm-10/10.30pm, meeting at Lough Talt Church car park at 7.50pm (moderate 5k). Knocknashee Hill walk will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup>, meeting Knocknashee base at 10.20am (5k Moderate-Difficult). For more detailed information and booking contact the FRC on 0719186926

Baby Bonding: a six week course will take place in the FRC starting April 14<sup>th</sup> for 6 weeks. Each session lasts one hour. Enjoy simple, gently, playful activities to help build a strong relationship with your little one. Suitable for expectant mums 28+weeks and babies up to 8 months. Cost €15pp. Booking essential to 0719186926.

### **Guided Prayer Afternoon**

Join the Fr Peyton Centre for Guided Prayer Afternoon on Thursday, April 9th from 2pm to 4.30pm. The afternoon will include: rosary, meditation, silent time and Mass. For information contact: Fina 096 45374 / 087 681 6821

### **Annual pilgrimage to Knock**

"The Church as the People of God, a priestly, prophetic and royal people" - **Saturday 18th April.** See [www.catechism.ie](http://www.catechism.ie) for more information

### **Youth 2000**

A Youth 2000 day retreat takes place on April 25 at Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo. Youth 2000 provides an opportunity for young people (16-35) to develop their relationship with God, learn more about the Catholic faith & meet other young people. Talks, testimonies & donation only. Check out Youth2000.ie to register or contact [connaught@youth2000.ie](mailto:connaught@youth2000.ie) for more information. ""

### **Trocaire**

The family on the Trócaire box this year are involved in the 'Climate Just Communities' (CJC) a Trócaire partner in Rwanda. The CJC is run by local partners and empowers marginalised groups to adapt to the effects of climate change in their communities. It also supports people to lead and shape solutions that promote long term resilience and sustainability.

### **Ward Agricultural Consultants and Forestry Service**

Ward Agricultural Consultants and Forestry Service Ltd are taking expressions of interest for the new forestry knowledge transfer discussion groups - Focus area B – forest management plans and forest certification. Earn up to €560 to learning all about managing your forestry, this course will also help you draw up a forestry management plan and apply for the forestry certification grant of €1200. Call, text, or whatsapp your name and forestry number to 0879193371. Any question

call the same number. We are also available to help you with your BISS 2026 application.

### **Accord Ballaghadereen**

Accord Ballaghadereen offer a confidential counselling service where couples can explore family relationships. Accord counsellors can help if relationships are under stress. For online counselling please visit [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie). Alternatively, to book a face to face counselling session, please call Accord Ballaghadereen on 0879972503.

### **Self Evaluation Report on our Pastoral Council**

After 3 years in existence, it is appropriate to carry out an evaluation of the work of our parish pastoral council. It is fair to say that the council is still in its infancy and is still learning slowly what is involved in being a pastoral council. The Council was commissioned by Bishop Paul Dempsey in February 2022 in a ceremony in the Cathedral.

Our initial sources of information were two books: “Becoming a Pastoral Council” by Patricia Carroll and “Partnership in Parish” by Fr Enda Lyons. We spent many monthly meetings, especially in the first year, trying to get an understanding of what a parish is, and what a parish does and where a parish pastoral council fits in. We also attended training nights along with other parish pastoral councils. This was time well spent.

Monthly meetings took place about ten times each year. An Agenda meeting between the Presider, Chairperson and Secretary was held in preparation for each monthly meeting. All meetings were well attended.

Items that were discussed at the monthly meetings included

- (A) Correspondence from the Diocese, feedback to the Diocese,
- (B) Discussion regarding the proposed merger of the Diocese and the Diocese of Elphin and attendance at meetings regarding the merger.
- (C) Choosing which parishes we should cluster with was also discussed and the result reported to the Diocese.
- (D) The National Synod was reported on and meetings attended in connection with this.
- (E) Correspondence regarding retreats for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers was also funnelled through the Pastoral council.

Much discussion took place about encouraging Young People in their faith. Contact was made with the local GAA club in the hope of setting time aside for them. In the end nothing transpired from this. There was also an opportunity for a youth leader to be trained that didn't get any candidates from our parish. Various opportunities were offered for young people to do activities together from the Diocese but again they were not taken up. However 4 young people from the parish did take part in the John Paul 11 awards in the Community School. They also attended the “Inspire” night in Tubbercurry. The “Light House”, programme for Confirmation candidates is being introduced this year, where TY

students in St Attracta's Community School will befriend and mentor the candidates. They are being trained in St Attracta's.

The Pastoral Council are also heartened by the Children's choir and Adult's choir in Tourlestrane church, by the number of servers in the parish, and the children and adults in Lough Talt church choir.

A support programme for parents of children making their first Communion is being run by two parishioners. A few nights for scripture reflection or Lectio Divina was offered to anyone who wanted to attend in Fr John's house. Numbers were small.

There was a special blessing ceremony for parents of children baptised over the last three years. Bambinelli Sunday was celebrated during Advent.

It should be noted that the Pastoral Council encouraged the formation of the parish baptismal team, the church committee in Kilmactigue, formed for the painting of the church, the choir in Kilmactigue, the introduction of emergency sacristans in the event of a visiting priest.

There was feedback regarding liturgies eg, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Season of Creation ( blessing of animals) . The Pastoral Council was involved in the Masses celebrated by Bishop Paul Dempsey in the parish. It also took a hands-on approach to the Mass with Stephan Giblin as guest speaker, Youth Diocesan Director.

Prayer During meetings: How and when we pray during the meetings has evolved over the years. We now open with an opening prayer and close with a blessing. Our main prayer time is at the centre of the meeting. It now consists of focus, scripture, reflection ( with music) , prayers of petition, Closing prayer. At the moment Fr John is the person in charge.

Hospitality: We have the cup of tea as we arrive for the meeting, before we start .We also have a meal together at Christmas.

### **A mission statement for the pastoral council.**

After many monthly meetings in our first year we agreed on what is the mission statement of our pastoral council.

**Kilmactigue Parish Pastoral Council endeavours to build and support a vibrant parish, inclusive of all ages. We hope to facilitate a structure of shared responsibility for the future, with active participation and which fosters a caring, welcoming and faithful community. It will assist in active listening, prayerful consideration, co-ordinating, planning and evaluation of**

**parish needs, that centres around strengthening our relationship with Jesus Christ.**

**How we operate:** We, the Parish Pastoral Council of Kilmactigue Parish, take responsibility to see that the aim and mission of the parish is being achieved. It will do by listening to the people of the parish, by considering prayerfully on what they say, by deciding what to focus on in light of the gospel and what the people of the parish are saying, by formulating a plan for the people of the parish to carry out, and by evaluating on what is happening periodically . In doing so, we hope that the proclamation of the message of Christ by the people of God in our area will reach all people in a clearer and more tangible way, that is relevant to their lives and the present age. ( Draft).

### **A Mission Statement for the Parish.**

Our first step was to listen to the people of the parish. We circulated a letter to all households asking them what they would like to see happening over the next five years. We received some replies back. We arranged meetings in the three church areas where people could discuss what they thought the parish needed to do..

Second step. We considered prayerfully at our meetings what we had heard.

Third step: We decided on what to focus on, in the light of the gospel and what the people had said. Our focus was to be on three items: To be a community united around the Lord. ,attractive to younger people who wish to become involved, and able through modern means of communication, as well as old fashioned talking, to reach out to bring the good news to all willing to listen.

Fourth Step: This is where we are in difficulty! We are to formulate a plan to bring about these goals with objectives along the way.

Fifth step: To evaluate what we have done (in written form)

### **Parish Vision Statement.**

Kilmactigue/Tourlestrane Parish sees its overall purpose as evangelisation, that is, to make the invisible Christ more visible, and to help bring about the kingdom of God.

We see ourselves as a prayerful community with Christ at its centre, which welcomes, appreciates and reaches out to all people.

We hope to be a parish marked by the joy, energy, strength, resilience and compassion which comes from our relationship with Christ.

We hope to be united around the Lord, attractive to younger people who wish to become involved, and able through modern means of communication, as well as old-fashioned talking, to reach out to bring the Good News to all willing to listen.

***The parish priest, and parish pastoral council according to their appropriate roles share responsibility for visioning, planning, empowering, and evaluating.***

This “descriptor” should be the main focus of a pastoral council. There is still work to be done.

### **A walk down Memory Lane with the Phoenix Players**

A spectacular exhibition of memorabilia will be on display April 25th in St Brigids Hall, offering a unique look at the groups history.

For now if you have any old memorabilia — photographs, props, programmes, clippings or any other items — we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch so these treasured pieces (which will be returned post exhibition) can once again become part of our shared history. Please contact Caitriona on 087-6783819. Thank you.

### **.Trocaire**

Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Irish Catholic Church. We work in partnership with local development and humanitarian actors, to support people and communities to tackle the root causes of poverty, injustice and violence and to use their own power to create positive and lasting change. Trócaire is rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, the social teaching of the Church, which inspires us to live out the Gospel message of inclusion, love, justice and dignity for all. It is inspired by Scripture, the wisdom of Church leaders, and the lived experience of grassroots movements. 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.’ Trócaire has worked through local partner organisations since its foundation. Partnership is at the heart of how Trócaire works. We work with local faith and non-faith-based organisations who share our values and who are working on any or all of our core programme areas of women’s empowerment, resource rights and humanitarian preparedness and response. These organisations understand the needs of their communities and are best placed to work with communities to deliver sustainable long-term change. The theme of the 2026 Trócaire Lenten campaign centres on the story of a multi-generational, female-led household in rural Rwanda. At just 28 years old, Uwamahoro is carrying the weight of three generations on her shoulders. She supports her mother, Verediana, 68, who lives with a disability, her daughter Ineza, 7 and her niece Vanessa, 12. Earning just 60 cent per day working on the land, Uwamahoro is doing the best she can to feed her family and keep the children in school, but it’s never enough. The next storm could destroy everything Uwamahoro has built. Their house is crumbling, the roof is leaking, they live in darkness with no electricity, and with each storm, they fear for their safety. This is not unusual for women across Rwanda, where severe storms are striking faster and more often, before families can recover from the last. We are asking the people of Ireland to help Uwamahoro rebuild her family’s lives and restore their hopes for the future. We wish to thank Bishop Kevin Doran and Pariah Pastoral Worker Mary Kirk for their help in writing this resource.

Trocaire/ Social Justice.

### **Mother and Baby**

The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme launched in March 2024 following the Government agreed actions arising from the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes and certain related matters. The Payment scheme provides financial payments, and health supports to eligible people who spent time in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions in Ireland. Eligibility criteria can be found online, and applications can be made via an online portal (website below) or by post

Visit: [www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/](http://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/)

Contact Helpline: 01 522 9922 (call to request application pack)

All applications are handled with care, dignity and full confidentiality.

### **Bowls at Banada Abbey**

Why not try out this new game at Banada Abbey hall each Thursday at 8.00pm? New players always welcome !!

### **Rite of Reception**

There is a long-standing tradition of welcoming the body of a deceased parishioner into the Parish Church on the evening before the Funeral Mass. This begins with a short selection of prayers and readings called the “Rite of Reception”, following which those present have the opportunity to offer their condolences to the family of the deceased. This is different in many ways from bringing the body of the deceased to a funeral home.

When the coffin comes to the Church, from the family home or from the funeral home, it remains closed throughout the time in the Church. The focus is on bringing the deceased into the presence of God, in the place where he or she prayed and celebrated the Sacraments, as a member of the parish community. The tradition is that the deceased remains overnight, not alone (as people sometimes say), but in the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Funeral Directors and Priests work very closely together in the service of the bereaved, but their roles are different. The policy of the Dioceses is that the appropriate distinction between the Funeral Home and the Parish Church would be recognised. We are aware that, on occasion, that distinction has been unintentionally overlooked.

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M-PACT , a FREE eight-week family programme

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Please contact 071 9150578 / 085 875 9313 or email [sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.com](mailto:sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.com)

## **RADIO MARIA**

Thank God and sincere thanks also to our many listeners and supporters as RADIO MARIA IRELAND continues to grow. As an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station we enjoy commercial free broadcasting - Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies – do join our growing faith family! Here's how you can listen:

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5. Via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).
6. Via DAB Radio in Leinster area.

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### **Spiritual Exercises:**

**5 Day Silent Ignatian Retreat for Men.** Led by Benedictine monks from St. Joseph Abbey, in France. Starts Thursday 30th April (3pm). Benburb Priory, Co. Tyrone (1.5 hrs from Dublin). €450 (all meals & single room included). Daily Mass - Ordinary Form (Latin & ad orientem). Discover the strength that only comes when you stop running and let God speak. **Book at:** <https://soutenir.clairval.com/retreat-benburb-priory>

### **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](mailto:edel@breakcancer.ie) or phone 021 422 66 55 for more details.

### **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](mailto:jobs@familycarers.ie) or contact Carol on 049 8511031 or 086 4183949 for more information.

### **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](mailto: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