Sunday 28th December 2025

Mass Intentions.

Tourlestrane church

Sunday 28th December: 10.30am: For the Living

Monday 29th December: No Mass

Tuesday 30th December: 9.30am Michael John & Teresa Conway

Wednesday 31st December; 9.30am For the Living

Thursday 1st January: No Mass

Friday 2nd January: 7pm John Molloy, deceased of Haran & Molloy families

Saturday 3rd December: No Mass

Sunday 4th January: 10.30am: Paddy McVeigh

Kilmactigue church

Saturday 27th December: 7pm For the living

Sunday 28th December: No Mass

Monday 29th December: 9.30am

Tuesday 30th December: No Mass

Wednesday 31st December; No Mass

Thursday 1st January: 9.30am

Friday 2nd January: No Mass

Saturday 3rd January: 7pm Sophie O'Hara Flatley

Sunday 4th January: No Mass

Lough Talt church

Sunday 28th December: 9.20am : For the Living

Sunday 4th January: 9.20am: For the living

First reading

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

He who fears the Lord respects his parents

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127(128):1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Second reading

Colossians 3:12-21

Family life in the Lord

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

The flight into Egypt and the return to Nazareth

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

'He will be called a Nazarene.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Offertory Collection

The Offertory Collection for 21st December was €1,613.13
The Offertory Collection for the 24/25th December was €3,080.33

Sick & Housebound

Fr John will visit the sick and housebound on Thursday and Friday of this week at around the usual times

New Parish Website

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

Web Cam

The number of contacts made to our web cam site was 10,700 so far this year,

New Offertory Envelopes

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

Readers Missals 2026

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

Recent Deaths

Please pray for Ann Regan, sister of Maureen Lehany, who died this week. Pray also for Eddie Brennan, father of Lorcan Brennan, Principal of Banada National School who died this week.

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/

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!!

Enrolment at Castlerock N.S.

Enrolment is now open at Castlerock N.S. Enrolment forms are available on request by emailing castlerockns@gmail.com or by contacting the school on 071-9181234 or 086-6096439. Our Admission Policy is available on our website at www.castlerockns.ie where you can also view life at Castlerock NS!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Rite & Reason: True growth can be found in a Church faithful to the mission given to it by Jesus Christ

As someone who is serving as a bishop in today's Ireland, I am painfully aware that many people no longer look to the Church as being significant in their lives in the way they once did. From my experience of pastoral ministry for over 28 years, I am also mindful of the existential questions deep within many hearts at this time of volatility in the world and our society.

In response to these realities, the Irish Catholic Bishops in 2021 invited people to reflect upon the question: "What is God asking of the Church in Ireland at this time?" It was envisaged that the Irish Church would explore this question and it would lead to an assembly or assemblies where the fruits of the reflection could be teased out together and guide us along the road of renewal.

Coincidentally, shortly after the Irish Bishops' announcement, the late Pope Francis called on the Universal Church to set out on the Synodal Pathway under the headings, "Communion, Participation and Mission".

The word "synodal" has been somewhat difficult to grapple with as it is unfamiliar language to many. In essence, it means "walking together". By calling on the Universal Church to "walk together" on this journey, Pope Francis invited us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and discern how we can enter into deeper communion with one another and to encourage more participation in the life of the Church.

All of this was to be carried out in the context of the mission given to each one of us in Baptism. Even though many saw this as something new, in essence Pope Francis's dream of a synodal Church was not something novel, as it is firmly rooted in the vision of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). One of the major themes emerging out of the Council was the model of

Church as the “people of God”. “Synodality” is a living out of this model in the day-to-day reality of the Church’s life and mission.

With this as a backdrop, 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 of the Gospel today.

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. This was discussed by a gathering of 240 lay, religious and clerical delegates from the four corners of the country last weekend at a pre-Synodal assembly in Kilkenny. It affirms the many challenges we face but also the great possibilities.

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.

In response, some within the Church are calling for radical reform, while others prioritise caution and fidelity to more traditional ways. Between invitation and expectation, between renewal and continuity, the tension is real.

However, Baptised and Sent offers us hope. It proposes Baptism as the great unifying paradigm; the truth that every Christian, lay or ordained, is equally valued, called and sent on mission. Flowing from this, seven Spirit-led priorities have emerged from our four years of listening to and reflecting with people in our parishes. Namely, they are: belonging, co-responsibility and lay ministry, family, formation and catechesis, healing, women, and youth.

These priorities point to a Church that is faithful to the mission given to it by Jesus Christ. They point to a Church that welcomes, that listens, that challenges, that shares leadership, that accompanies families, that forms disciples, that heals wounds, that cherishes and empowers women and men and engages with young people.

Our recent gathering in Kilkenny was another step on this journey together, challenging us to respond to these priorities with courage. It was a prelude to the first National Synodal Assembly which will take place in October, 2026.

Karl Rahner, the late German theologian, reminds us: “Any attempt to look into the future is difficult and inevitably comes up against what is obscure and vague; but such a look into the distance is necessary if we are not to be cowards, remaining comfortably stuck in the present and only passively awaiting the future. But this glance into the future can be one of faith and hope.”

As the Irish Catholic Church glances into the future, may it do so with courage, “without remaining comfortably stuck in the present”. We are called as a community of disciples to set out without fear, to rediscover the joy and the challenge of the Gospel.

May this continuing journey of renewal, despite its struggles, questions and sometimes frustrations, enable us to witness Christ’s message of love, hope and joy in the new reality of today. As we take this road together, may it open up new possibilities for mission and engagement with faith in a world where many are asking soul-searching questions in a fragmented age.

Bishop Paul Dempsey is Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin