

Co Parish Priests of the Pastoral Area

Fr Brendan Duggan 087/0562674

Fr Denis Mullane 087/2621911

Fr Tony Mullins 0872600414

Fr Dan Lane (Retired) 087/2533030

Intentions for this weekend

6.30pm Rhona Danaher, Church Street.

10am Tom Collins Meenkilly Anniv,
James Collins Dromtasna Harnett

Intention for the week.

7pm Mon Timothy & Ellen Healy and son

John Joe and daughter Eily Healy

Paddy Flynn, Main Street Month Mind.

Tues 10am Henry McGill, Ballaugh Anniv

Wed 10am Bridget O'Connell New Street and
deceased family members
Ita & Bill Stemp Anniv.

Thurs 10am Fri 10am

No Saturday morning Mass

Intentions for next weekend

6.30pm Kathleen Wrenn new Street and
deceased family members.

Pats, Bridget, Danjoe & Jeremiah

Murphy Banard Anniv

Nora & William Flynn.

10am Denis Barry, Clash Anniv.

Dick Fitzgerald, Dromtrasna South

12noon Jack Scannell, St Ita's Terrace Anniv.

Deaths

We offer our sympathy to the family of
Paddy Leahy, Banard whose funeral took place on
Monday.

To The family of Jer Roche, Caherhayes whose
funeral took place on Tuesday.

To the family of Michael (Mick Fox) Harnett,
Knockadireen, Dromtrasna Collins whose funeral
took place on Wednesday. May they rest in peace

The parish clerks summer collection take place
this weekend. Thanks for your continued support.

First Communion and Confirmation

Under the current guidelines the celebration of
First Communion and Confirmation are not
permitted for the time being. Parents should note
that the dates we have issued from the parish are
provisional. Hopefully come the end of June
restrictions on these ceremonies will be lifted.

Welcome Back

This weekend we are back celebrating together in our church and rightly so. We have arrived in a good place. The doors are open again to welcome you. It is such an uplifting moment for all of us. Let's treasure it. Let's protect it with a renewed determination, never again to 'slip back'

In sporting terms, we have one hand on the Cup !. But bitter experience tells us, that while this is a great place to be, it also holds great risks. The match is not over yet. The final whistle hasn't sounded. We're always telling our players; 'Play till the whistle' That's the challenge facing us now. We're not there yet. But we are close and we're definitely on the right road.

But as we know to our cost, the only score that's relevant, when the 'long whistle' sounds is the final one. Painful memories of the last five minutes of the '94 All Ireland Final flow back. Winning by 5, lose by 6 ! Defeat snapped from the jaws of victory with all its pain and heartbreak for Limerick. Or we might think of the price of a misdirected kick in injury time in the Six Nations this year or our horse pipped at the post !!

As I said earlier; We have one hand on the Cup but this is NOT the time to 'loosen' our grip on it !! Thanks to all your heroic sacrifices, especially over the last four months. It would be unthinkable that those huge sacrifices could be put at risk now. We have to stay on 'full alert'. If any of us is even tempted to take a risk now, please, please think again. The consequences of a 'slip' now could be lethal. Watching what's happening in other parts of the world, makes your hair stand on edge.

The Virus is not gone away. The guidelines are still in place. They are there to protect us all. Let's keep our shoulder to the wheel and with the strength of our combined determination, please God, we'll get there.

This is a really challenging time for all of us. We've waited so long for it and sacrificed so much. There could be a temptation to 'jump the gun'. That's why we're being asked for one final unified push together, to get us over the line. It is vitally important now we stick to the guidelines and don't drop our guard

Let's not forget, that it's only the other day our church doors were locked. Not so long ago, since less than a dozen could attend their family funeral. We can together ensure the unthinkable doesn't happen. We can't and won't risk going back to those days again

So please, let's all together, stay with the guidelines. Our churches were closed, not because they were unsafe to be in. (They were among the safest places in the parish to be). But they were closed because, the congregating of people on church grounds before or after, posed a real danger of kicking off a 'Super Spreader'. That danger has NOT gone away. Those guidelines re church grounds have not changed.

You developed a very touching and effective way of conveying your sympathy and support to bereaved families by lining up 'Socially Distanced' on the town footpaths and along the funeral route. It would be really great if we could stay with this, even just for the moment, to ensure our new freedoms are not put at risk again or reversed.

It is so difficult. It goes against everything within us, not to hold a hand, or share a hug at these times. We feel at a total loss to convey our own feelings, or to share someone's deep personal pain of loss. I find it cruel myself.

But we do, have one hand on the 'Cup' at this point. We are almost there!. Don't let it slip from our grasp, now !. Thank God, a family can now have fifty at their loved one's funeral Mass. Whatever we do, don't let us be responsible for taking that away from them again.

How each of us behaves can have consequences for others. Sometimes they can be 'unintended consequences'. That's why it is so important at this time, that we take a moment to weigh up every situation, before we do something, that we'd never have done, if we'd first thought it through.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful team of stewards, and to all those who are giving so generously of their time, to help us keep our churches open, and be together in prayer again.

I know how much you are appreciated and may the Good Lord shower His Blessings on you all.

Thanks a million. **Fr Dan**

The Ascension of the Lord

16 May 2021 o World Communications Day

Go out to the whole world

Today marks the 55th World Communications Day, and the theme for this year is 'Come and See: Communicating by encountering people where and as they are'. In his message to mark the occasion, Pope Francis emphasises the importance of meeting people where they are, just as Jesus did with those he encountered: 'We need to go and see them for ourselves, to spend time with people, to listen to their stories and to confront reality, which always in some way surprises us.' All communication, he says, should strive to be clear and honest, whether in the media, on the internet, in the Church's preaching, or in social interaction.

He has a particular message for all who use social media: 'Thanks to the internet we have the opportunity to report what we see, what is taking place before our eyes, and to share it with others. At the same time, the risk of misinformation being spread on social media has become evident to everyone... All of us are responsible for the communications we make, for the information we share, for the control that we can exert over fake news by exposing it. All of us are to be witnesses of the truth: to go, to see and to share.' It is fitting that this day coincides with the Feast of the Ascension.

Before he is taken into heaven, Jesus issues his final instruction:

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.' Our challenge is to communicate by encountering people, where they are and as they are. 'Teach us to go out and see, teach us to listen, not to entertain prejudices or draw hasty conclusions.'

Pope Francis' message for the 55th World Communications Day

Government guidance on numbers attending Mass and other Church Services

Arising from the announcement by the Government regarding the easing of restrictions on religious services from May 10th the following clarification was issued from the Office of An Taoiseach on a number of issues as follows:

Pods of 50

Where the size of the premises/Place of Worship allows for a capacity of greater than 50 this may be permitted only where: social distancing guidelines are adhered to. the premises can be subdivided into distinct sections (cordoned or marked appropriately) of not more than 50 persons in each section there is a minimum of 4 metres between sections each section having its own entrance/exit route there are separate arrangements for elements of the service involving close contact, for example the distribution of Holy Communion strictly no movement of people between sections before, during or after the service the premises is well-ventilated

Following these guidelines we can accommodate 132 people within the church in Abbeyfeale for weekday and Sunday Masses.

Funerals

There is an increased risk of transmission of the virus where families and communities come together following the death of a loved one. Therefore numbers at funeral services (and Weddings) is capped at 50 regardless of size of premises. Notwithstanding the increase in numbers permitted, funerals are still considered private family events and arrangements should not be advertised in newspapers or on-line. Funeral services should continue to be live streamed to help reduce numbers attending. Attendance at wakes in private homes and at Funeral Homes remains unchanged i.e. immediate family only and people should be discouraged from queuing to pay respects

Singing

As with previous reopening for religious service congregational singing and choir singing is not permitted. Solo singing with accompanist is permitted subject to compliance with detailed guidance contained in HSE Covid-19 Guidance for Religious Services.

Outdoor Worship Outdoor Worship is not permitted in line with Government restrictions on organised outdoor gatherings. Drive-in Religious Services may take place outside places of worship (e.g. church carpark) where all attendees remain in their vehicles and no sharing of vehicle outside of family unit. Use of Religious premises for any other purposes/parochial activities/community meetings etc is not permitted in line with Government restrictions on organised gatherings of people. *Fr Tony*