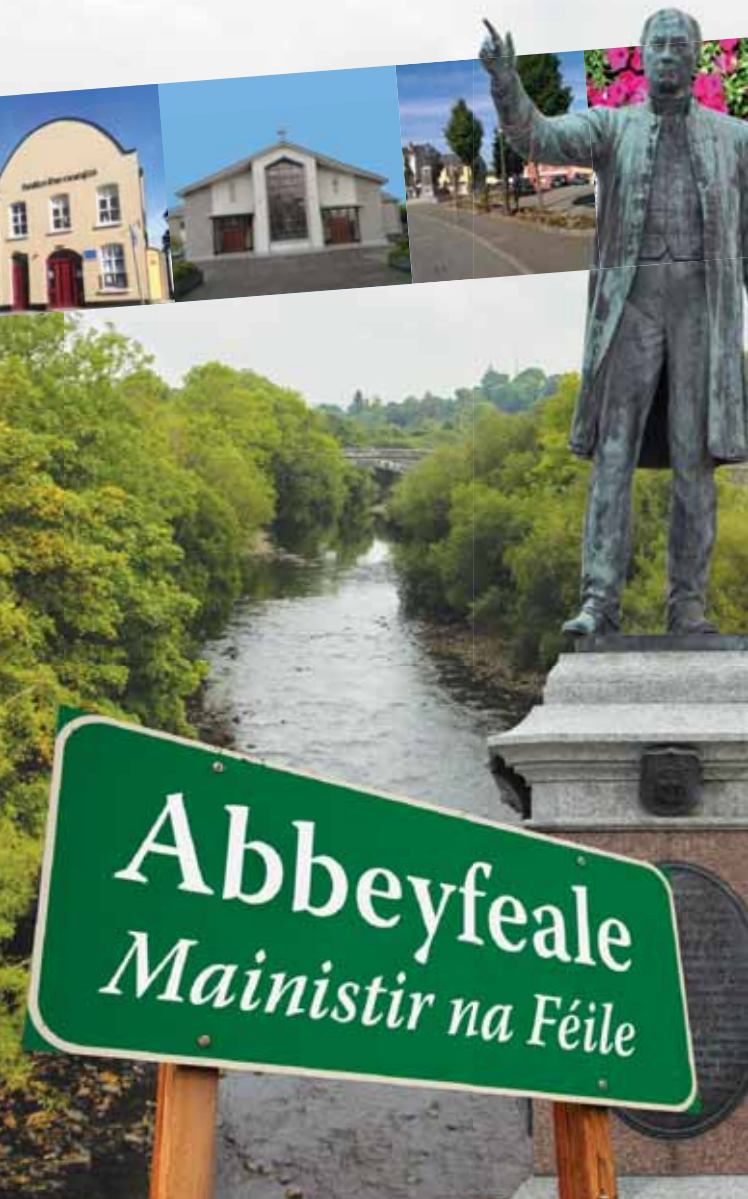




# OUR TOWN

ABBEYFEALE - MAINISTIR NA FÉILE



# Introduction

We have been blessed with a great richness of culture, faith and heritage among the lives of the people in our town and its many beautiful town lands and we felt in this year of Culture in Limerick it should be marked appropriately.

The Parish Pastoral Council of Abbeyfeale undertook to produce this little booklet that will give our visitors a snapshot of our place and the supports, care and concern available to all who live here.

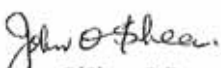
Abbeyfeale (Mainistir na Féile) called after the river Feale and the Cistercian Monastery that was here continues to live up to its name where people are famous for their kindness, welcoming spirit and generosity.

Yes times have changed. We are grateful for the people who have made such a huge contribution to rearing families and educating them in difficult times. We are confident about the future because of the great number of young people who are such a joy in our midst. We pray God's blessing on the present and ask the Lord for the vision and strength to live each day in harmony with each other, with our environment and with our Creator.

We hope you enjoy this booklet and that people living amongst us or contemplating becoming part of this vibrant community will be encouraged by the networks of support here.

A word of appreciation must be expressed on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council to its secretary John Collins who has spearheaded this project and brought it to fruition and to Eileen and Sean in Feale Print for their professional advice and production.

Guímis Rath Dé Orainn

  
Fr John O'Shea P.P.

  
Michael Lane Chairperson

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# The Church of the Assumption in Abbeyfeale

The Church of the Assumption is situated on Convent Street, across from the old convent and the new secondary school. A short tree-lined avenue leads up to the front doors of the Church while, on either side, the spacious church-yard provides parking and plenty of room for church occasions. The large dimensions of the yard serve to create an oasis of calm despite the traffic outside on the busy street. Blessed and opened on Sunday 23rd of June 1968 by Dr. Henry Murphy, Bishop of Limerick. The Church was designed by P.J. Sheehan and built by J. & M. King under the leadership of Philip Canon Enright. It is a fine example of the modern Church building styles that were adopted after the liturgical changes of the second Vatican Council. In the



vestibule, a joyful and welcoming note is sounded by the vibrant yellow drapes and the community notice board that holds notes about current local activities. The Church is built in the traditional cruciform shape yet the new simplification of form and spatial openness creates a lovely light feeling as one enters the nave and this is aided by the light through the stained glass windows that run along the top of each



wall and the warm colours on the beautiful vaulted ceilings.

Abbeyfeale Church contains some notable Christian art. An intricate mosaic of the Transfiguration creates a backdrop to the altar and the two stained glass windows on either side depict the story of the Good Samaritan and that of the miracle of Lazarus. The large front window depicts the Assumption of Mary while the window in the right transept represents the healing of lepers and the one on the left also shows Jesus healing the sick. There is symbolism here too in, for example, the hexagonal



shape of the baptismal font beside the altar which signifies the seven days of the Creation and the creation of the new life on a new day. There are shrines to St. Joseph and to Mary built into the right transept while a small Adoration Chapel can be entered from the left transept. This was built in 1991 and contains statues of Our Lady and the Sacred Heart. Five magnificent stained glass windows represent the story of Jesus from the Last Supper to the Resurrection and Pentecost. The small chapel is silent except for the ticking of the clock and the daylight filtering softly through the stained glass creates a tranquil meditative space.

This Church is the fourth in a succession of Churches stretching back to the original twelfth century Cistercian Abbey from which the town takes its name. The predecessor of today's Church was St. Mary's which was built in 1847 and became known as the 'famine chapel'. St. Mary's succeeded a small thatched chapel which had been built on the site of the Cistercian Abbey and was said to have contained some fragmentary remains of it. The past is still linked strongly with the present here as traces from all the old churches were brought forward with each new





building. The statue of Our Lady in the small chapel came from the Famine Church and a cornerstone from it was made into the holy water font that is built into the wall beside the grotto at the right side of this Church yard. The first parish priest registered for Abbeyfeale was Fr. James O'Connor. That was in 1704. His remains are interred at the left side of the Churchyard in a raised narrow burial plot which contains the graves of all the priests who died during their tenure in the parish. The foundation stone of the Church of the Assumption is built into the wall beside the front door and inscribed Hunc Lapidem Primarium ie 'this is the first stone'.



Lewis, S. (1837) A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland

# ABBEYFEALE SCHOOLS



**Scoil Mháthair Dé** - Founded in 1937



**Coláiste Íde agus Iosef** - Opened in August 2011



**Scoil Mhuire na mBuachaillí** - Founded 1900





**Dromtrasna School** - Founded in 1914

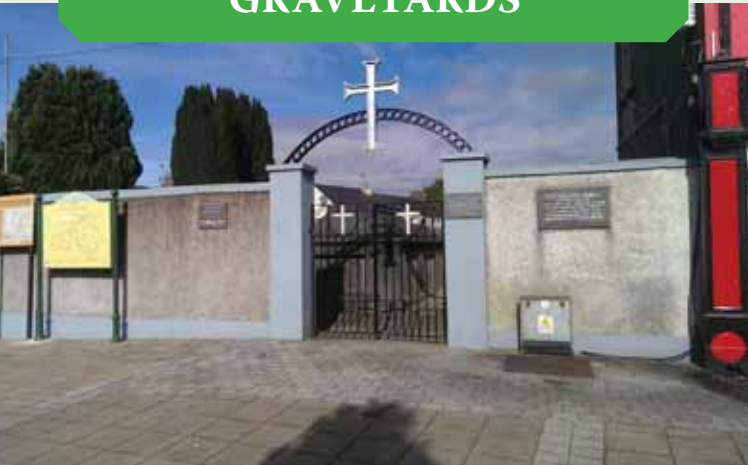


**Meenkilly** - Founded 1915



**Knocknasna** - Old School Founded 1880 / New School 1967

# GRAVEYARDS



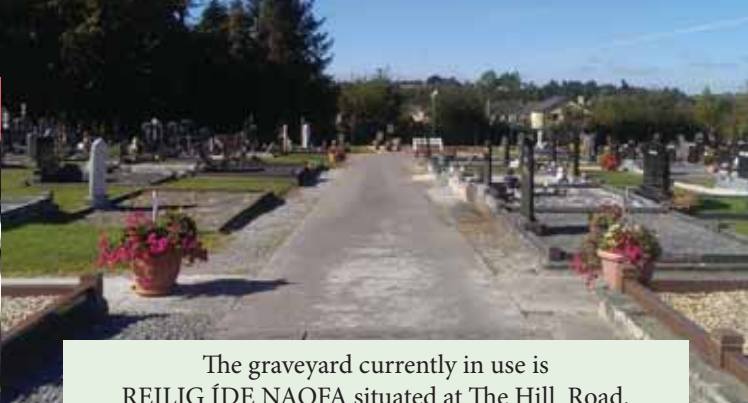
The oldest graveyard in Abbeyfeale is situated in the Square on the site of the first church. This Cistercian Abbey was founded in 1188. This church was burned in the 1580's and another one was built nearby. This church and the burial ground continued to be used until a new church was built in 1846.



**ST. MARY'S CEMETERY** is situated on Church Street. It was located behind St. Mary's Church, where the boys' national school is at present. The first recorded burial in this graveyard is in 1904.

## THE PRIESTS' GRAVEYARD





The graveyard currently in use is REILIG ÍDE NAOFA situated at The Hill Road. This burial ground was opened in the 1960's.



The Protestant Graveyard, no longer in use is on the site of the Church known locally as the Protestant Church in Mountmahon.

# CONVENT OF MERCY



Four Mercy Sisters came to Abbeyfeale from Killarney on 24th September 1871 at the request of Rev. Michael Coghlan, P.P. Abbeyfeale. A house, later known as St. Joseph's was donated by the O'Sullivan family. Though the Sisters initially taught in the mixed pupil school beside St. Mary's Parish Church, Fr. Coghlan decided on a separate school for girls. The Convent Primary School was built in 1875.

A new Convent was built in 1878. A Sisters' Chapel and Public Chapel were added in 1892. St. Joseph's became the original Secondary School, run by the Mercy Sisters as well as the Convent Primary School.

## THE GRAVEYARD





## ST. ITA'S VOLUNTARY HOUSING ASSOCIATION AND DAY-CARE CENTRE LTD.

Located near the Glórach Theatre and the Parish Church in Abbeyfeale, the Day-Care Centre and sheltered housing provides a wide range of services to the elderly residents and visitors from the town and surrounding districts.



Employees on a Community Employment scheme provide daily lunches to residents and to visitors on Open Days, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Community Employment programme is administered by Employment Services and Employment Programmes, which were transferred to the Department of Social Protection in January 2012.

Services provided at the Centre include chiropody (monthly), hairdressing and reflexology (by appointment). Cards, bingo, music, dancing and armchair exercises are encouraged and enjoyed by staff and visitors alike. Newcomers



are always welcome so call us on (068) 51850 or call into the office if you would like further information.

Special thanks must be extended to the following who make it possible for the Day-Care Centre to provide these services – Employment Programmes, the community employment employees, the committee members, the residents, visitors and their families, the volunteers, the musicians and of course all those who have made donations. Without all of the above the Centre would not be where it is today. A huge thank you to you all and we wish you health and happiness in your everyday life.

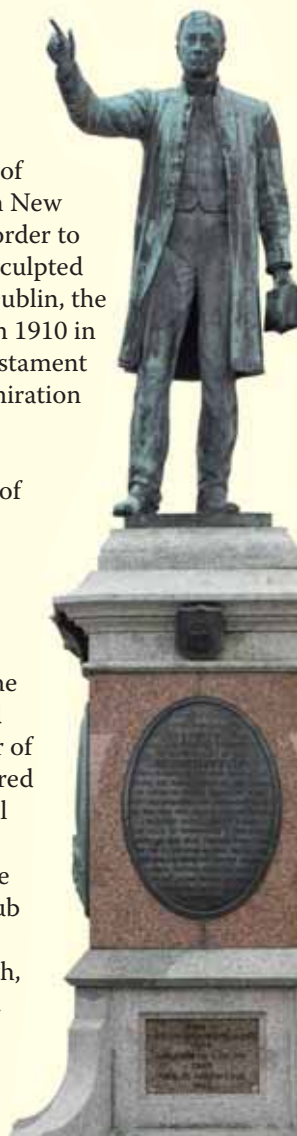
# FR. CASEY, THE SQUARE

Fr. William Casey

Born in Kilbeheny, County Limerick, Fr. Casey served as Parish Priest of Abbeyfeale for 25 years prior to his death in 1907. He was chairman of city and county executives of the United Irish League and president of the West Limerick Executive, an organisation that was formed to champion the cause of struggling tenant farmers. He campaigned for the tenant farmer, supported Irish nationalism and greatly furthered the cause of Irish Independence.

Following the death of Fr Casey, the community for which he had toiled collected subscriptions from the public throughout the parishes of Limerick and Kerry and overseas in New York, Chicago and Washington in order to erect a monument in his honour. Sculpted by MF Sharpe, Brunswick Street, Dublin, the Fr. Casey Monument was erected in 1910 in the heart of the town square as a testament to the extent of the esteem and admiration he had earned.

What is its relevance to the people of Abbeyfeale today? Fr. Casey was a strenuous advocate of temperance. To this day Confirmation pupils in the parish are encouraged and invited to take the pioneer pledge. The story of Fr Casey is taught in the classrooms of our local schools and his monument serves as a reminder of the persecution and suffering endured at that time in our history. The local GAA club which he founded is named in his honour. Young people of Abbeyfeale take pride in their club and their heritage. The Fr. Casey Monument is a reminder of the faith, values and history of our ancestors.





# HARNETT MEMORIAL

## The Harnett/Healy Memorial Cross, Killarney Road

Patrick Harnett was a young postman and he lived with his parents at Bridge Street, Abbeyfeale. His friend, Jeremiah Healy, was an apprentice blacksmith at Batt Begley's forge, next door to the Harnetts home.

It was September 1920, a time of great unrest in the area. There had been an ambush at Mountmahon where a constable was shot dead and the Black & Tans were seeking revenge.

On September 20th at six in the evening, Patrick and Jeremiah went for a walk out the road we now know as Killarney Road. According to The Farmer Harnett they were going to see a horse that was lying dead on the inch, having been shot. As they left Bridge Street they were being observed by a Black & Tan named Thomas Huckerbery who was standing at the barrack door, across the street from the Harnett household. Huckerbery, with a pistol strapped to his thigh, followed the two men and a short time later

shot them both dead. A memorial marks the spot beside Mulcahy's Garage on the Killarney Road. Following their funerals in the parish church they were laid to rest side by side in St. Mary's Cemetery.

They were two innocent, unarmed men who had no political involvement whatsoever. Yet, by their deaths they became a part of Ireland's struggle for independence. Their deaths link the town of Abbeyfeale, the people of Abbeyfeale and especially their families to the birth of our nation.



# KILLEENAGH WELL

Killeenagh Well is located in the townland of Dromtrasna North on the lands of the Cotter family. To locate the well you would travel up the town and turn right at the Garda station and travel on for approx 4km. Then take the next turn on your left followed by an immediate right. Head in the direction of the Cotter homestead, reaching the Well in 1.5km

The Well is located in its original setting but was renovated in the 1960's. The Well is also known as "Tobar Mhuire" and is dedicated to St. Ita. The Well which is situated in a beautiful picturesque setting dates back to B.C. and is in the vicinity of one of the largest square forts in Ireland. It is said locally that the stone from the monastery gable which fell in the late 1950's was used to build the grotto which exists today.



In the past there was a practice called "The Rounds", where people knelt on slabs of stone in designated areas around the Well. This happened on Saturday evenings in May, but nowadays a rosary is said on Friday nights during May, continuing this tradition. This Well has a reputation that its water can cure sore eyes. Well worth a visit!

# TEACH NA FÉILE

Abbeyfeale's National School for boys was built at New Street & opened in 1913. It replaced the original Boys' School, at what was then known as Chapel Lane (now Church Street ). The site at New Street was donated by the Ellis family, local landlords, who resided at Glenashrone, Killarney Road. The building housed a Junior & a Senior school, in its 4 class rooms.

Rudimentary toilet facilities backed on to the rear surrounding wall of the property -- known as " the Closets.. !

A kitchen garden was established on the site and was maintained by the pupils as part of the school curriculum. An annual levy of 1 penny was expected of each pupil towards the purchase of bogdeal & those who could afford it, brought a sod of turf daily, during the winter season. A parish collection also helped to keep the school fires burning. Adult Irish night classes were taught, by lamp light, by visiting native Irish speakers. There was no electricity!

Over the years the School became the venue for various community groups to meet in the evenings. In 1975 after the School transferred back up to Church Street again, "Teach na Féile" as it is now named, became the town's Community Centre.



# ST. ITA'S HALL

St. Ita's Hall was originally known as the Parochial Hall. It was officially opened on New Year's Night 1928. Fund-raising for the Hall was organised by Canon Jeremiah Murphy, who had been appointed P.P. of Abbeyfeale in April 1924. The building of the Hall was a co-operative effort; all involved giving their services free. This new Hall replaced the Temperance Hall, which was burned by The Black & Tans. In the downstairs area the late Mr. Jim Kelly and his sister Anna commenced their Post Primary School, later to become St. Ita's College in a new location in Bridge Street.

Presently the Hall is a hive of activity – Legion of Mary, Bereavement Support, West Limerick Community Development, Parents' & Toddler Groups and many others. In recognition of Abbeyfeale's proud association with the Irish Language the name over the main door reads "Halla Íde Naofa"



# RAILWAY HOUSE



The railway house in Abbeyfeale was built around the year 1878 the same time as the railway station itself. It was built mainly as a residence for the station Master and his family but also contained storage and office space. Part of the building was the ladies' waiting room where the ladies put on their makeup and adjusted their finery before the long journey to Limerick or Tralee. The last Station Master to live in the house was Andrew Geraghty who moved on when the passenger train stopped passing through in the seventies. When the railway closed in 1976 the house was bought by Paddy Sullivan who was the last man to work there. It continues to this day as a private residence.

# TOWN PARK

Abbeyfeale Town Park (Páirc Cois Féile) is a very important amenity for the people of Abbeyfeale and the surrounding area. It envelops 28 acres and is located on the Killarney Road. It has been developed on land which was purchased by the community in 1992 and it contains a junior playground, a senior playground, a basketball court, an all-weather floodlit playing pitch, a car-park, a duck pond, some forestry, more than a mile of tarmac walks, an administration building and stores.

The park was purchased by the people and is managed by the people with the assistance of a Community Enterprise scheme administered by the Department of Social Protection. Abbeyfeale Community Leisure Ltd. consists of volunteers selected by the people of the area to manage the scheme and to develop the park for the benefit of the community.

The town park serves the whole community and is open to everybody, free of charge, every day of the year. The park incorporates beautiful views of the River Feale and is maintained in a way that supports a large variety of our native flora and fauna. The park promotes many events throughout the year, including a dog show, a family fun day and bat walks. Páirc Cois Féile attracts people from all over West Limerick and North Kerry and contributes greatly to the health and wellbeing of the population.





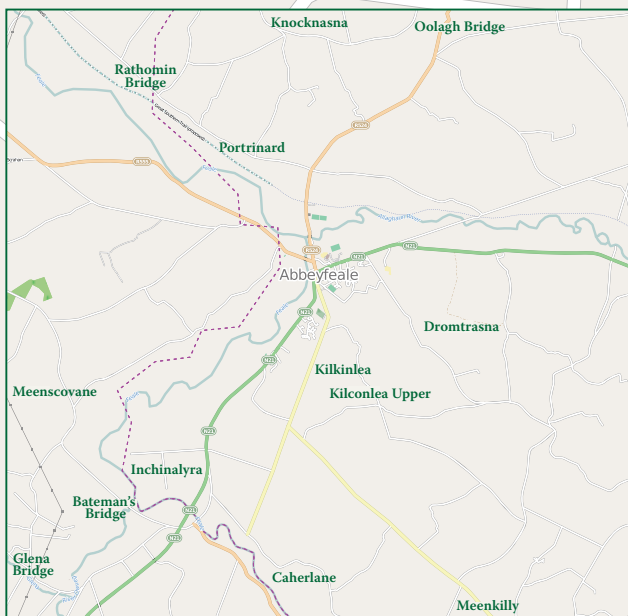
# PÁIRC COIS FÉILE





# OUR TOWN

ABBEEFEALE - MAINISTIR NA FÉILE



# THE GREAT SOUTHERN TRIAL



The Great Southern Trial (GST) is a free amenity for walking, cycling, running and hiking. Accessible from the rear of the Railway Bar, it is situated on the outskirts of town on the Athea road. It stretches 3km westward

to the Kerry border and 35km eastward linking Abbeyfeale with Newcastlewest and Rathkeale. One encounters bridges, streams, woods, a tunnel, various flora, fauna and wild birds. The trail was originally the Limerick to Tralee railway line. The Abbeyfeale station opened 20th December, 1880 and officially closed 3rd November, 1975.

[www.pedalpursuitsbikehire.com](http://www.pedalpursuitsbikehire.com)





# Glórach

Abbeyfeale Parish Culture Project

Glórach Theatre Group

History

Our origin dates back to 1975. A fundraising programme to include plays and concerts, was launched and continues to this day. Limerick County Council gifted us with a green field site and building started. Glórach Community Theatre opened in 2003. Our car park is available to the community with our compliments.

Present activities include plays, concerts and performing arts events both for the adults and the youth of our parish. Glórach Theatre and Cliabhán an Cheoil, now house the Glórach Theatre Group and the Glórach Youth Theatre, and are used by ourselves and others for education, training, rehearsal and personal development activities.





# LOCAL CLUBS



Fr. Casey's GAA



Abbeyfeale R.F.C



Abbey United



# CIVIC BUILDINGS

## - *Abbeyfeale Fire Brigade*



## Abbeyfeale Fire Brigade. A short history.

Prior to 1968 Abbeyfeale had no fire brigade.

During June 1964 a two storey house on the main Street was completely destroyed by fire in the early afternoon. The adjoining two houses were also in grave danger of being lost. The nearest brigades were Listowel and Newcastlewest. By the time they were alerted and arrived on the scene all they could do was to save the adjoining houses. This event was the stimulus for the local population to approach the County Council with the objective of having a brigade formed. With the help of the Local Co. Councillors and other members of the Development Association, the Council, following many meetings agreed.

During mid 1968 an announcement was made at the Masses that a brigade was being formed and anyone interested in becoming a fireman should report to St. Ita's Hall on a given night. A group of about forty attended and practices began at the river, to train personnel on the basics of running out hoses and connecting a pump to the open water. This continued for approx ten nights and the Senior Council staff then chose those whom they considered to be suitable. The personnel chosen were:- Dick Danaher Station Officer, Frank Dennison Sub Officer, Paschal O'Rourke Driver, Firemen- Billy Broderick, Patie Boy Harnett, Jamesie Quirke, Tom Lynch, Railway Road, Patsy Sweeney, Batt Wall brother of Tony Wall St. Ita's Terrace and John Ward Convent Street.

As there was no fire Station in the town the Council entered negotiations with Dan Leahy (Uncle to Batt Harnett) to purchase the site where the Station now stands. A Land Rover, with a trailer and portable pump was provided by the Council. This Land Rover was stored at the rear of "Tom Tobin's Hall" now known as Greyhound and Pet World/David Ward Accountants.

Initial training was held every Tuesday and Thursday night to familiarise the crew with the equipment To call the Brigade one had to phone 999, and the call was routed by the Garda Siochana to the home of either Dick Danaher or Frank Dennison. These two Officers were supplied with phones, and it was crucial that the phone would be answered by one or other of these two Officers (or a member of their families) twenty four hours a day, three hundred and sixty five days a year. They then phoned those others who had a phone or ran to the homes of those who hadn't, day or night.

On the 21st December 1968 a new modern fire engine was delivered and blessed. During 1970, the new one bay Fire Station was officially opened, and a siren was installed alongside the building. Now to alert all the fire personnel all one had to do was to press the button and all within hearing distance would be alerted. This was acceptable by day, but by night caused annoyance to those close to the station who were not in the brigade. In due course alarm bells were fitted in all fire-fighters homes and either of the Officers could activate the bells from their own homes. This was a welcome development.

Today a much more sophisticated call out system is in place. Fire fighters carry a personal alerter. These are activated when a 999 call comes in to a central call centre in Limerick City, which serves all of Munster.

# CIVIC BUILDINGS

- *Library*

## Leabharlann Mhainistir Na Féile Abbeyfeale Library



### Opening Times

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10 to 1 & 2 to 5
Wednesday	1.00 to 5 & 6 to 8.00
Thursday	1.00 to 5 & 6 to 8.00
Friday	10 to 1 & 2 to 5
Saturday	10 to 1 & 2 to 5

The Library will be closed on the Saturday of a Bank Holiday Weekend

- **Free Membership** (photo id required)
- **Books and DVDs** to suit all ages
- **Free Internet Access**
- **Photocopying, Printing and Scanning Service**
- **Daily Newspapers**
- **Application Forms** for Motor Tax, Drivers Licence etc.
- **Exhibition Space** available free of charge.
- **Recycling Centre** for Household Batteries
- **Local History publications** and locally donated material

E-mail: [abbeyfealelibrary@eircom.net](mailto:abbeyfealelibrary@eircom.net)

**Tel: 068 32488**



## CIVIC BUILDINGS

### Allied Irish Bank Abbeyfeale

The Square,  
Abbeyfeale,  
Co. Limerick

Tel : (068)31132



Opening Hours

Monday: 10am - 5pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am - 4pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

### Bank of Ireland Abbeyfeale

The Square,  
Abbeyfeale,  
Co. Limerick

Tel : (068) 31142



Opening Hours

Monday: 10am-5pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am-4pm

Wednesday: 10.30am-4pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Closed for Lunch 12:30 - 1:30pm

## CIVIC BUILDINGS

### Abbeyfeale Credit Union

Bridge Street, Abbeyfeale, County Limerick

Telephone: 068 31885 Fax: 068 32283

Website: [www.abbeyfealecu.ie](http://www.abbeyfealecu.ie)

Email: [info@abbeyfealecu.ie](mailto:info@abbeyfealecu.ie)



#### Opening Times:

Monday to Thursday: 10am-4pm

Friday: 10am-7:30pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

### Abbeyfeale Post Office

Church St., Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. (068)31171

**Opening Hours** - *Closed for lunch 13:00-14:00*

Monday - Friday: 9am-5:30pm

Saturday: 9am-1pm

Sunday: Closed



## Abbeyfeale District Search and Rescue

Abbeyfeale District Search and Rescue ( ADSAR) is now in existence since February 2005, and is a fully active organisation. In the lifetime of the organisation, the average call out has been one every three months. The need for a professionally trained and co-ordinated organisation is an essential element in community life.



The organisation has a core membership of twelve highly trained teams, (60 volunteers) and a team of base operators, co ordinators, liaison officers and skilled map readers(Over 20 people). It also has a large network of active members. (approx 50 volunteers) It is the biggest inland Search and Rescue group in the country.

Headquarters are located at Killarney Rd., Abbeyfeale

Telephone: 068 30431

Email: [info@adsarhq.com](mailto:info@adsarhq.com)

Website: [www.adsar.org](http://www.adsar.org)

List of 24/7 numbers on window of the HQ.

## Abbeyfeale Garda Station

Convent Road,  
Abbeyfeale,  
Tel No. 068 31100



# EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

## JANUARY

January 1 New Year's Day  
January 6 Little Women's Christmas  
January 15 St. Ita's Day, Raheenagh  
Annual parish retreat in Ardferf

## FEBRUARY

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – Blessing of the Sick  
February Mass for deceased Kostal workers  
West Limerick Set Dancing W/E in Devon Inn  
Ladies in Red/ Men in Black St. Valentine's weekend  
Fundraiser

## MARCH

Lifelong Learning Festival at the Adult Education Centre  
Abbeyfeale Drama Group annual play  
Lenten Series of Talks  
St. Patrick's Day  
Lectio Divina in the Sacristy for Lent

## APRIL

Palm Sunday Walk to the Well  
Good Friday Family Fast in aid of Trócaire  
Youth Clubs Passion on Good Friday  
Holy Week Ceremonies  
Divine Mercy Sunday  
Abbeyfeale Initiative 6th Class programme

## MAY

May Bank Holiday Fleadh by the Feale  
Alzheimers' Tea Day May 1  
Rosary at Killeenagh Holy Well every Friday evening  
Mass at Killeenagh Holy Well ( last Friday of the Month)  
Annual Dog Show at Town Park  
Darkness into Light walk for Pieta House  
Pilgrimage to Lough Derg

## JUNE

Legion of Mary Pilgrimage to Knock  
Clean Up of Reilig Íde Naofa  
Pilgrimage Walk Up Croagh Patrick  
Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 21-26



National Charismatic Conference  
Celebration of Light in Town Park in aid of Recovery Haven  
Horse and Pony Racing at Relihan's Inch (4th Sunday)  
Parish Outing  
Redemptorist Novena in Limerick  
Great Southern Trail Annual Walk  
Pilgrimage to Lough Derg

## **JULY**

Pilgrimage to Lough Derg  
Naomh Íde Faith Camp for 5-12 years old children  
Seisiún in the Devon Inn every Thursday night July/  
August  
Rathfredagh Garden Fete

## **AUGUST**

Parish Outing  
Heritage Week (usually last week)  
Pilgrimage to Annual Novena in Knock  
Mass in Reilig Íde Naofa  
Procession in honour of the Assumption of Our Lady  
Youth 2000 Summer Festival

## **SEPTEMBER**

National Grandparents' Pilgrimage to Knock  
Abbeyfeale for Africa Walk  
Harvest Fair for Milford Hospice  
Sagart Pilgrimage to Lourdes 22-27  
Listowel Race Week

## **OCTOBER**

Abbeyfeale and District Initiative Annual Seminar  
Month of the Rosary

## **NOVEMBER**

First Sunday Prayers in Graveyard

## **DECEMBER**

Carol Service in Church  
Christmas Eve Carols and Midnight Mass  
St. Stephen's Day St. Ita's Wrenboys fundraiser for  
Fr. Tim Galvin and Fr. John Moloney

## ABBEYFEALE PARISH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Abbeyfeale Parish Community Garden is located at the side of the Curate's House. The Farmers' Market approached the parish for the use of the disused garden to hold organic vegetable growing classes in 2009, these continue every Spring since. Students from the Horticulture Class in the Adult Education centre also use the garden for their practical work where they set and grow a large variety of vegetables.

The produce is sold at the Market on summer Fridays and the proceeds are used to cover costs. Since 2009 raised beds, a polytunnel, a glass house, an insect hotel and a beehive have been constructed including the planting of a wild flower meadow to increase biodiversity. There is an old well in the garden and the water from it is used in the tunnel. All waste is composted and used in the raised beds. Native trees have been planted as well as fruit trees, blackcurrants, raspberries and strawberries, the fruit of which is picked every summer and made into a selection of jams. It is hoped that the garden would be a learning resource for the community showing the value of composting, reducing, reusing and recycling as well as teaching the skills of growing. Part of the garden is also used for a memorial for deceased students of Abbey Heritage, the local training initiative based in St. Ita's Hall which offers second chance education. A link has been established with a community garden in Fr. Tim Galvin's Mission in South Sudan and every autumn a sale is held of vegetables, jams and flowers outside the church after Sunday Mass and the money raised is donated to Fr. Galvin so that he can purchase seeds, tools and compost. The Community Garden has been very lucky to have a Tus worker allocated to help with the watering, weeding and maintenance.



# Community Groups & Services

Abbeyfeale & District  
Search & Rescue  
087 745 2110

Abbeyfeale Anglers  
Tel: 087 2213876

Abbeyfeale  
Community Development  
Association  
Tel: 087 9639775

Abbeyfeale Drama Group  
Contact 087 9394026

Accord Marriage  
Preparation Courses  
069 61000  
Limerick 061 313287

Marriage Counselling  
061 313287

Abbeyfeale  
Red Cross & First Aid  
First Aid Training Courses  
Tel: 086 0757680

Adapt Services & Refuge  
Domestic Violence  
Freephone 1800 20 05 04 if  
you need someone to talk to

Adoration Blessed  
Sacrament Chapel  
Mon, Wed, Thurs  
6-8pm  
Tue & Fri  
8.30-10pm

Al-Anon  
Group Meetings for  
anyone troubled by  
someone else's drinking.  
The drinker may or may  
not be still drinking.  
Parish Office Abbeyfeale  
on Tuesdays at 8.30.

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Limerick AA  
General Service Office  
Tel: 061 311222  
061 8143425  
Wed 3pm, Fri 8pm  
& Sunday 10am  
Parish Office, Abbeyfeale

ARA  
Active Retirement  
Association  
Over 50's meet every  
fortnight at VEC Building  
Tel: 087 6542685

AWARE  
operates a helpline service  
providing a listening ear for  
people in distress and their  
families  
10am-10pm  
Tel: 1890 303302

Athletics Club  
087 6315169  
  
Badminton Club  
087 7403277  
  
Basketball Club  
087 9560165

Bereavement Group  
Meet in St. Ita's Hall  
Contact 068 31203

Bridge Club  
7.30  
Railway  
087 3344909

Butterfly Club  
Social Club for children  
with special needs  
age 3 and up  
Tel: 087 6804191

Limerick Social Service  
Counselling  
Mondays  
Parish Office  
Tel: 061 411643  
061 314111

Child Safeguarding  
Safe Guarding Director  
Mr. Ger Crowley: (087) 3233564  
Gardai: 061 212400  
Health Service Executive:  
061 482792  
More Info Aoife Walsh: 061 400133  
Childline: 1800 666 666  
Samaritans: 1850 609 090

CHOIRS  
Adult Parish Choir  
087 2825577  
Male Voice Choir 087 2581440  
Youth Choir 087 2534349

Community Alert  
Set up in 1999  
Provides security systems  
for the elderly  
Contact: 087 2064577

Community Garden &  
Farmers' Market  
Contact  
087 6866450

Community  
Welfare Officer  
069 48841

Console Living  
With Suicide  
Helpline  
1800 201 890  
email: [info@console.ie](mailto:info@console.ie)

Coursing Club  
Tel: 086 3755787

CURA  
1850 622 626  
[www.cura.ie](http://www.cura.ie)  
[curacares@cwa.ie](mailto:curacares@cwa.ie)

Feale Life  
Environment Association  
Tel 089 4392897

Fealeside Players  
Tel: 087 663 6405

Gather By The Feale  
Tel: 087 8045013

Glórach Studio  
087 11383940

Glórach Youth Theatre  
Tel: 085 7753096

Graveyards  
There is a committee in  
place for all graveyards in  
Abbeyfeale

Health Centre  
Colbert Terrace  
Tel: 068 31309

HSE Drugs Helpline  
1800 459 459  
[www.drug.ie](http://www.drug.ie)

Irish Country Women's  
Association  
Tel: 068 32127

Legion of Mary  
Meets every Mon 8-9.30  
in St. Ita's Hall  
New Members Welcome

West Limerick Singing Club  
Meet 1st Thursday of every  
month  
Ramble Inn Bar



LTI  
Local Training Initiative  
(early school leavers)  
068 51790

Men's Shed  
Meets in Adult Education  
Centre  
Every Monday  
6pm  
087 649 7671

Narcotics Anonymous  
Meet every Monday  
Parish Office at 8pm

Wednesday Club  
Wednesdays - 087 9707989

Crafty Corner  
at Adult Education Centre  
Knitting & Crochet  
Arts & Crafts  
Tuesdays - 7-9 pm

Parent Support Worker  
068 31019  
Abbeyfeale & District  
Initiative  
068 31019

Parish Office  
  
068 31133  
11-1pm Tue-Fri  
[www.abbeyfealeparish.ie](http://www.abbeyfealeparish.ie)  
[fealechurch@eircom.net](mailto:fealechurch@eircom.net)

Parish Website  
[abbeyfealeparish.ie](http://abbeyfealeparish.ie)  
[fealechurch@eircom.net](mailto:fealechurch@eircom.net)  
Office: 068 31133  
Church: 068 51915  
Presbytery: 068 31157

Pastoral Council  
The main purpose of the pastoral council is to investigate, reflect and assist the priests in reaching conclusions in pastoral matters by offering them their advice and participation for the good of the Church. The Pastoral Council can be contacted through the Parish office at: (068) 311 33  
Email: [fealechurch@eircom.net](mailto:fealechurch@eircom.net)  
Open 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. Tues. – Fri.

Perpetual Adoration  
During Lent  
24hrs a day  
Monday to Saturday  
“Watch one hour with me”

Pioneers' Association  
Tel: 068 31405

PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
Scoil Mháthair Dé  
- 068 31701  
Scoil Mhuire na mBuachaillí  
- 068 31699  
Dromtrasna School  
- 068 31822  
Meenkilly  
- 068 31631  
Knocknasna  
- 068 32121

Recovery Haven  
Are you or your family  
coping with cancer?  
Do you need  
someone to listen.  
We are here for you  
Tel: 066 7192122

Samaritans  
1850609090  
email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

Shannon Doc  
1850 212 999

Spiritual Reading Group  
Parish Office  
Last Wednesday of the  
month at 8pm

St. Ita's Sheltered Housing  
Daycare Centre  
Provides a large range of  
services for the elderly.  
Tel: 068 51850

Stammering Association  
1st Thurs of every month in  
KDYS Tralee Youth Centre  
Tel: 01 8724405

Tidy Towns Committee  
Tel: 087 777 2770

Toddler Group  
in St. Ita's Hall  
Every Tuesday  
10.30-12.30  
Tel: 087 9382883

Vincent de Paul  
Meet Tues in Parish Office  
Tel 087 1213560

Youth Clubs  
Contact Kate  
087 6210490  
Fri & Sat  
8-9.30pm

Young Priests' Society  
Meet in the sacristy first  
Tuesday of the month  
at 7:30pm  
Tel: 068 32471

Secondary  
School:

Coláiste Íde agus Iosef  
068 30631



**OUR TOWN**  
ABBEEFEALE - MAINISTIR NA FÉILE

# *Come Home To Abbeyfeale*

(SEAN MCCARTHY)

The golden corn is high my love,  
where wild winds whisper free.  
But I must take the lonely road  
that leads down to the sea.  
You sleep upon the towering Hill,  
where twilight shadows steal,  
And hear the wild wind whispering;  
“Come home to Abbeyfeale.”

The New York lights are shining love.  
Her streets are cold and grey.  
A man must leave the dying hours,  
to greet the new born day.  
My memory roams wild and free,  
as I await an alien dawn.  
Of Mary B who walked with me  
to greet the summer morn.

Is the harvest moon still shining bright  
upon The Feale`s gold stream?  
Do stars o`er Meenahaela  
light up the meadows green?  
Do maidens glide the riverside  
and dance the four-hand reel?  
And do lovers stray Dromtrasna way,  
near my town of Abbeyfeale?

Do you remember Mary B  
when cold-eyed strangers came?  
They came down from the bleeding hills  
to play their murdering game.  
But side by side, with burning pride,  
we faced their alien steel.  
And we raised the flag of freedom high,  
o`er my town of Abbeyfeale.

Where are they now, that gallant band  
that fought with awesome skill?  
Brave Larry Ellen Harnett,  
Bomber Foley from The Hill.  
Jimmy Joy and Jimeen Collins,  
I can but name a few.  
They made their stand, that freedom grand  
might hail the morning dew.

Oh, I remember, Mary B,  
the times when hope ran high.  
We walked the lanes with twisted names,  
the lovelight in our eye.  
To marry in the winter time.  
The church bell's lovely peal.  
And now you lie, 'neath a lonely sky,  
near my town of Abbeyfeale.

The New York dawn is here my love.  
Her streets are cold and grey.  
My feet are on this city street,  
but my dreams are far away.  
Soon I'll fly the starlit sky,  
and when twilight shadows steal,  
Then you'll walk with me in my memory,  
near my town of Abbeyfeale.

## *Dearest Home On The Banks Of The Feale*

Dearest home of my youth,  
oh how painful, it is to be parted from thee.  
There are others who loved you as I do,  
and do seek for a home o'er the sea.  
But no matter where e'er I may wander,  
my thoughts I will never conceal.  
I will always think of you the fonder,  
dearest home on the Banks of the Feale.

On the cliff by the side of that river,  
a hundred feet over the strand,  
They erected a number of tombstones,  
where the ruins of the Old Abbey stand.  
Where oft our departed forefathers,  
from the Sassanach Foe had to steal,  
To hear Holy Mass on a Sunday,  
in the churchyard at sweet Abbeyfeale.

And when I'm in the land of the stranger,  
away far away o'er the foam.  
If in safety I wander, or danger,  
my thoughts will fly back to my home.  
And when life's weary journey is ended,  
I know that contented I'll feel,  
To be laid in the ruins of that Abbey,  
in the churchyard in sweet Abbeyfeale.



Feale Print & Design 068 30498



# OUR TOWN

ABBEYFEALE - MAINISTIR NA FÉILE