

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Barry Condon, P.P. Parochial House, Tyrrellspass, Co. Westmeath, N91Y0A4 (087) 9253366 (044) 9223115

St. Michael's Church, Castletown Geoghegan

Saturday 16th 7.30pm Anniversary Mass for Conor Durkan
Patrick and Mary Seery and their son Peter
Sunday 17th 11.30am Tony and Eileen Linnane
Saturday 23rd 7.30pm Anniversary Mass for Owen, Pat, Nellie and Phyllis Heduan.
Sunday 24th 11.30am Gerry and Mary O'Neill and deceased Family Members.

St. Peter's Church, Raheenmore.

Sunday 17th 9am Joe, Bridget and Jim Maher, New Forrest.
Sunday 24th 9am Special Intention

St. Stephen's Church, Tyrrellspass

Saturday 16th 6.30pm Pauline and Annie O'Brien, Church Road Tyrrellspass
Months Mind Mass for Eithne Carney
Anniversary Mass for Bernadette Hannon
Sunday 17th 10am Anniversary Mass for Alva Keegan. Also Micheal Gleeson.
Thurs 21st 6.30pm Special Intention.
Friday 22nd 10am Special Intention.
Saturday 23rd 6.30pm First Anniversary Mass for Ann Alford.
Sunday 24th 10am Marie Egan nee Feely, also remembering Dominic Feely and
deceased members of the Egan and Feely families.

Parish Baptisms take place on most weekends of the year. Saturday evenings at 5pm in Tyrrellspass and Sunday after 11.30am Mass in Castletown Geoghegan. (12.15pm). If there is more than one child to be baptised on any given day an alternative time will be arranged with the second family. Contact Fr. Barry on (087) 9253366.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confessions available at any time by request or by arrangement with Fr. Barry. 087 9253366.

Young adults retreat (18-40) Saturday 23rd July starting at 10 am with Mass in St Mary's Church Navan and then to Parish Room at rear of Church. A prayerful informative day, with testimonies from people in various Christian vocations: Married life, Priesthood, Single life, Religious life, talk on discernment, Adoration, confession, personal help if desired, walk and chat. Cost is by donation (lunch & tea breaks) Finishes at 5pm Contact Sr Úna 090 6481666 Email :youthretreats@gmail.com or John 087 2478519.

IN MEMORY. Please pray for **P.J. Brady** Kilbeggan and Tyrrellspass.
Ann O'Brien, Coniker Durrrow and Bethany House.

Ordination to the Priesthood of Barry White in Mullingar this Sunday.

On Sunday (July 17th), Rev Barry White, from Rathkenny in Co Meath, will be ordained priest for our Diocese, in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar at 3pm by Most Rev Tom Deenihan, Bishop of Meath. We congratulate Barry and welcome him as Priest of the diocese who may one day be serving in our parish. All are welcome to attend. Priesthood is a gift from God that brings us to God. Without the Priesthood, we cannot have Mass or the Sacraments. May every family in our parish never fear God's call. Let us continue to pray that young men will offer themselves to the Lord in his service. Contact: Vocations Director Fr Tony Gonoude Tel: 044 9373923.

Summer Cover for Priests. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Priests to source other priests who are available to provide holiday cover. Finding a fellow priest to help out with one or two Masses is one thing but trying to find someone to cover a full weekend schedule can be a big challenge (As an example this weekend would involve looking for a Priest to cover 5 public Masses 1 Private Mass, and 2 Baptisms) Funerals may also arise. It is also worth noting that Mass attendance has dropped significantly and traditionally during the summer months many people are also away which causes a further decline. Last weekend there were only 34 people at the Main Sunday Mass in one of our churches. In the short term these changes may result in a reduction of Masses on some weekends throughout the rest of the summer. *In the medium to long term the Bishop has indicated that he intends to visit the deaneries of the diocese in the autumn and that a look will be taken at such things as the numbers of Masses/Mass attendances and other factors with a view to exploring necessary rationalisation. He has indicated that the coming years will see necessary collaboration between and perhaps the merging of parishes. The relatively recent fall off in Mass attendance in our parish and in particular the low attendance of young families and children (Less than 5% of the children who are attending Catholic Schools in our parish are attending Mass) is both worrying and greatly at odds with the large numbers who regularly express a desire to receive the sacraments. In an era when there are many calling for the church to divest patronage of Catholic Primary schools to Multi denominational Patronage, such low practice doesn't help the case for defending the local need for catholic schools status. From a logistical point of view this fall off could not have come at a worse time given that such low attendance could also be a significant factor in deciding where clergy are based/ needed most and also in deciding the number of Masses necessary in any given area. Should the present decline remain or accelerate it may result in more long term significant changes and have much wider implications for our parish.