

Parish Newsletter

30th August 2026

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

No: 2059



Mt 16:21-27

Glendalough Pilgrimage, 22nd August 2026



A pastoral letter from Bishop Denis to the lay faithful, priests, religious and deacons of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

Pastoral Letter – 25th August 2026

Dear Friends,

I am writing this Pastoral Letter in response to the new reality that now faces us in Kildare and Leighlin Diocese. The decline in the number of priests, as some are recalled by their own orders or returned to their own dioceses, continues to present significant challenges. I am also very conscious of the age profile of our priests, many of them serving parishes, long beyond the acceptable retirement age in the secular world. While we continue to earnestly pray for vocations to the priesthood, we also must deal with these stark realities.

I acknowledge and appreciate that when a priest is moving on from a parish it can be difficult, both for the priest himself, and for parishioners with whom a relationship has been built. Following the recent announcement of diocesan changes, I want to once again thank all those priests involved in

the changes this year for the great contribution they have made to their parishes and to their previous appointments - a contribution that is deeply appreciated by all.

Change is never easy, particularly when it involves those close to us or impacts our own lives in a very real way. This is very acute in the parish setting. Our diocese has 56 parishes and 117 churches who find their home now within 11 Pastoral Areas. This year's diocesan changes will require adjustments, greater cooperation and a willingness to do things differently at Pastoral Area level.

The shortage of priests inevitably sharpens the focus on parish schedules and workloads. This will necessitate a deeper look at the sacramental activities in each parish, the Mass times, particularly where Mass times clash, optimum locations, the different chaplaincies (schools, hospitals, nursing homes etc) and how services can be delivered more efficiently by working more closely together. With any discussion on the number of Masses, there is



also the fear of a reduction in income, so I thank you for your generosity and ask you to continue to find ways to support your parish. All this will have obvious implications for the individual parishes within each Area and I urge all priests and people to engage wholeheartedly in this process in which these difficult decisions are discerned and acted upon.

I am aware that our priests carry an enormous burden of responsibility and are expected to be available 24/7 to cope with all kinds of situations, meet all kinds of challenges and attend so many gatherings and functions beyond their normal sacramental duties – more than that could be too great a challenge. I ask parishioners not to make unreasonable demands or to have unrealistic expectations of their priest. The pastoral needs of parishes are centred around the sacraments and the Eucharist, and these must be the top priority of every priest.

I have ordained 16 permanent deacons and we have 25 lay pastoral ministry students, who are about to begin Year II of their two-year Diploma. Both are and will be tremendous assets to parishes. Lay involvement, with the support of priests and deacons, is one way in which we can continue to nourish the faith of all and sustain our parishes as vibrant faith-filled Gospel communities. Lay-led prayer services, funeral and baptism ministries, sacramental preparations and volunteerism around the liturgical life of the church are essential. Supporting each other in these tasks is double edged – priests/deacons need to allow and encourage lay involvement in an even greater way than is happening right now and lay people need to step up into greater roles.

I believe we must now pause and step back while thinking about more available and sustainable solutions, praying that the Holy Spirit will help us understand *‘What is God saying to the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin at this time?’*

The synodal journey our Church has embarked on in recent years, reminds us that the most important sacrament is baptism – our baptism. It is out of a deeper and richer understanding of what our baptism means that we all begin to find our place in the Church today.

What we are experiencing in Kildare & Leighlin is no different to any other diocese in Ireland. However, we must never forget the Church belongs to Christ whom we serve and, as St. Oscar Romero reminded us, *“we may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own”*. I see this as a time that is certainly challenging but is also hope-filled. There will always be changes in life, but there are realities which do not change and that is our faith in God *“who can do immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine”* (Eph.3:20).

+Denis Nulty

Registration for children who wish to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion or Confirmation in 2027 is now open on the Parish Website and App.

1st Saturday Devotion will take place on Saturday in the Upper Room after 10am Mass next Saturday, 5th September.
All are welcome

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

Naas: Development Fund: €3,095 Offertory: €2,750
Online donations (20th - 26th Aug): €134
Tap&Go (20th - 26th Aug): €940
Sallins: Envelopes: €415 Baskets: €435
TMH: €585

Recent Baptisms



Nora Clerkin, Whitethorn Crescent
Lyla Carolan, Arconagh
Amélie Farrelly, The Paddocks
Ríán Cullen Heslin, Jigginstown Park
James Clancy, Blessington Road
Cáit Abrook Ní Cheallaigh, Gleann na Ríogh

The Little Way Cancer Support Centre Fundraising Concert featuring the Queen of Musicals Rebecca Storm will be held on Sunday 4th October 2026 in Westgrove Hotel, Clane. Tickets are €50 including a prosecco reception - available from 045 902996

Age-Action
Age Equality

Getting Started?

FREE: one-to-one digital literacy courses in Naas Library:
Thursdays, 10.15-12.15. To sign up: call 0818 911109 / 01 4756989



Towards Peace

**A Moment of Solidarity with
Victims and Survivors of Abuse**
Church of the Irish Martyrs
10am, Saturday 5th September

Including a short walk, a ceremony in the Church,
tree planting and concluding with refreshments.
All are very welcome.
Please see the poster on the Parish Website for full details.

Naas Parish Weekly Lotto Draw

There was no winner of the €4,900
Jackpot on 26th August 2026.

Numbers Drawn: 11-22-24-28

Lucky Dip winners were: **N. Murphy,
A. Lowe, B. Loftus, B. Larkin**

**You could win the Jackpot of
€5,150 on Weds 2nd Sept.**

Thank you for your support.

Choirs Welcome New Members!

Would you like to join one of our church choirs?
Parish Church Choir or Ballycane Church Choir

- **Ballycane Choir** (10.30am Sunday Mass) resumes practice Monday 7th September at 8pm.
- **Parish Church Choir** (11am Mass) resumes practice on Wednesday 9th September.

We welcome Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Bass.
If you would like to join, you would be most welcome.
For more details please contact
Bernard: [087 235 2545](tel:0872352545).

"THOSE WHO DIE IN GRACE GO BUT TO GOD AND GOD IS VERY NEAR"



RUBY DIVNEY, CHERRY GROVE
DONAL MCALISTER, LADYTOWN
NIAL O'BRIEN, PACELLI ROAD
ANGELA GAFFNEY, ST. MARTIN'S AVE.
MARY BYRNE, SALLINS
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Eucharistic Adoration in Ballycane.

Each Weekday. Can you commit to spending one hour per week with the Blessed Sacrament?

We are particularly in need on Fridays 11-12noon.

Please contact: John: 086 8563773 /
Rosanna 085 7278013 / Maureen 087 2077044



**1st Thursday Eucharistic Adoration
in Ballycane Church**
Thursday 3rd Sept. 9pm - 10pm.
All are Welcome.

Join Alzheimer's Memory Walk:

Sunday, 20th Sept as communities come together in over 40 locations across the country to remember and honour those living with all forms of dementia, and the families who stand beside them every step of the way.

Register now at memorywalk.ie

**Wednesday evening Masses in Ballycane
return on Wednesday 2nd Sept. at 7pm**

**Naas Local History Group: "Escape from the
Curragh ... a war-time drama from mid-Kildare"**
illustrated presentation by Michael Rowley.
Tuesday, 1st September, Town House Hotel, 8pm.
All very welcome.

Collection for the Priests of the Parish will be taken up at all Masses in Naas and Sallins next weekend, 5th/6th September.
Thank you for your support.

Lough Derg: Sept. 6th One day retreat for St Carlo Acutis



Bus from: Naas (post office) at 5.30am ;
Sallins (opp. garage) at 5.40am.

Cost: Island €50; Bus €50 (approx. return)

To book: Deirdre Gleeson 0872467594/
deidregleeson@medwise.ie / www.loughderg.org