

Parishes of Ardcaith/Clonalvy &Curraha

Fifth Sunday of Lent
21st March 2021

Fr. Brendan Ferris: 01-8350136 Mobile: 087-2204788
Parish E-mail accparish@gmail.com.

Curraha – St Andrew’s Church - currahaparish.ie

Ardcaith– St Mary’s Church Clonalvy St John the Baptist
Church - Ardcaith-Clonalvyparish.ie

Please pray for the soul of Siobhan Murtagh, Ardcaith
and her family. May the faithful departed rest in peace.



Masses will be offered for intentions as requested and will take place in accordance
with Government restrictions online.

21st March Fifth Sunday of Lent
6.30pm, 10.00am, 11.30am

A.V. Peggy, Alice & Bartle Lee & parents
William & Alice. A.V. Kathleen & James McCann
A.V. Vincent Collins & Parents John & Mary Ann
A.V. Christina Hamilton A.V. Tommy Stanners

Monday	22 nd March	7.30pm
Tuesday	23 rd March	9.30am
Thursday	25 th March	9.30am
Friday	26 th March	9.30am

M.M. Fr. Wilton Murphy, Special Intention
Rosaleen Coughlan Victoria Bunce
Andy Dillon, Pauline Hayden
Paddy & Jean Andrews Special Intention

28th March Palm Sunday
6.30pm, 10.00am, 11.30am

A.V. Raymond Reynolds
A.V. Dick Connolly A.V. James Gilsenan
A.V. Paddy McDermott Birth Rem Mary Tuite
A.V. Patrick, Elizabeth & Margaret Plunkett

The Parish envelope boxes have been delivered or will be delivered in the coming week.
Our thanks to our distributors who are so good in delivering the boxes and the letter to
each home. We would like to thank you for your continued support which is so much
appreciated in these difficult times. Please see on the back page of our bulletin a note
from the Bishop’s regarding the re-opening of the churches with a congregation at Mass,
the numbers at funerals and weddings. Your support in this endeavor to get our
Churches re-open would be welcome.

If there is any corrections needed in the details on your box please put a note in your
envelope and return and it will be updated. Fr. Brendan will continue for the foreseeable
future to be in Ardcaith Church from 3.00 to 3.30pm and in Clonalvy from 3.30-4.00pm
each Saturday.

We would love if you joined us and your fellow parishioners for our online Masses
please see parish website or Youtube.

Bishops' statement on the Covid-19 restrictions in Republic of Ireland

Statement released on the second day of the Spring General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference

On 19 February the four Catholic Archbishops had a meeting with Taoiseach Micheál Martin to continue the dialogue about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives of people in our Church. At that meeting the Archbishops affirmed the Church's commitment to the protection of life, health and the promotion of the Common Good. During their Spring Conference, bishops reflected on that meeting and released the following statement:

"We strongly believe that people's freedom to worship publicly should be restored as soon as the current Level 5 restrictions begin to be eased. It is particularly painful for Christians to be deprived, for the second year running, of the public expression of our faith during the most sacred time of Holy Week and Easter. This is especially true given that it has been clearly demonstrated that church buildings are among the safest places for people to gather. We also re-emphasise that the ongoing severe restrictions on attendance at Funeral Masses (currently limited to ten) are causing untold grief to many families.

"Throughout this time of pandemic the approach of the Church has been firmly grounded in the protection of health and life and in the promotion of the Common Good. We recognise that strong restrictions are necessary in times of grave threat to public health. However, such restrictions on personal freedom should be proportionate and for the shortest time possible. Consideration must also be given to people's mental, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. For people of faith, gathering for worship is fundamental to their identity and to their spiritual lives.

Despite assurances from the Taoiseach last month that the concerns expressed by the Archbishops would be given serious consideration, we note with disappointment that none of the issues raised has been responded to. We therefore make an urgent appeal that the following matters be addressed:

- That the easing of restrictions from Level 5 should include the restoration of public worship, albeit in a safe and limited way. For people of faith not to be free to worship until regulations return to Level 2, whilst many other restrictions are eased, is seen as particularly distressing and unjust.
- That the number of mourners permitted at funeral services be increased, with immediate effect, noting that in Northern Ireland this number has not been reduced below 25. The current restriction places immense burdens on grieving families, compounding the pain of their loss.

We strongly believe that allowing these measures would contribute greatly to giving a sense of hope and consolation to many in our Church - in line with the central message of Easter. These measures would be a substantial support to the wellbeing of individuals and parish communities, and ultimately serve the Common Good of all.

We encourage Catholics to make their views on these issues known to their own TDs and local representatives.

We wish to remain responsive to public health messaging. For this reason we are recommending the postponement of the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies for the time being.

We continue to keep in prayer all who are suffering in this time of Covid, and all who contribute so much to their care.