

**WEEKEND MASSES**

ARDCATH: 6:30PM (SAT VIGIL)  
 CLONALVY: 10.00AM (SUNDAY)  
 CURRAHA: 11:30AM (SUNDAY)  
 CURATE: FR. STEVE CIUBOTARU 0873379031  
 FRSTEVECC@GMAIL.COM @stefan6gk



**PARISH OFFICE**

TUES & FRI: 1.00PM – 4.00PM  
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 WEB: ARDCATH-CLONALVYPARISH.IE

**PARISHES OF ST MARY'S ARDCATH, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CLONALVY, ST ANDREW'S CURRAHA**  
 PASTORAL AREA OF ASHBOURNE, ARDCATH/CLONALVY, CURRAGHA, DUNSHAUGHLIN, RATOATH AND SKRYNE

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**



Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	MINISTERS OF THE WORD
Ardcath 6.30pm	Imelda Andrews	Trisha Fox
Clonalvy 10.00am	Ann Whyte	Margaret Andrews
Curraha 11.30am	Ann Keogh	Mary Carey

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January The Baptism of The Lord**

Vigil Ardcath	6.30pm	A.V. Kevin Brady DM Brady & McMenemy Families A.V. Gareth McKenna A.V. Mary Tuite (1 <sup>st</sup> )
Sunday Clonalvy	10.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday Curraha	11.30am	A.V. Jo Keogh (1 <sup>st</sup> ) A.V. Mary Canning (1 <sup>st</sup> ) A.V. John Fleming (1 <sup>st</sup> ) A.V. Siobhán & Patricia Carey
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan Curraha	7.30pm	Mick Herron, Con Egan
Tues. 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan Clonalvy	9.30am	Catherine, Philip, Cathline, Rita Collins
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan Curraha	9.30am	Intention
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan Ardcath	9.30am	People of the Parish



**Online Donation and Parish Support.**  
 Please scan code and follow instructions

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Vigil Ardcath	6.30pm	M.M. Rita Collins
Sunday Clonalvy	10.00am	
Sunday Curraha	11.30am	A.V. Mona Sherry & DM of Sherry & Whearity Families A.V. Nuala Keogh

**Parish Collections**

	Ardcath	Clonalvy	Curraha	THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE WORK AND UPKEEP OF OUR PARISH
Offertory	€ 164.21	€167.65	€ 396.82	
Envelopes	€ 60.00	€ 0.00	€ 400.00	
Offerings	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 70.00	

**2026 SACRAMENTAL DATES:** We joyfully announce the 2026 sacramental dates

- CONFIRMATION on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February (Curragha),
  - FIRST CONFESSION, after mass on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February (Ardcath) and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March (Curragha)
  - FIRST COMMUNION mass at 11am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May (Ardcath) and at 11am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (Curragha).
- A sacred journey awaits our young parishioners.



**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** reveals the mystery of divine humility and the gateway to our own transformation. As Jesus steps into the Jordan, heaven opens, the Spirit descends, and the Father proclaims His beloved Son. This moment sanctifies the waters of baptism for all. Spiritually, it calls us to die to sin, rise in Christ, and live as beloved children, walking daily in the light of our divine adoption.



**ONE MONTH (CONFIRMATION):** With just one month until Confirmation, now is the time for candidates to deepen their preparation. Focus on understanding who the Holy Spirit is, the seven gifts He brings, and the profound meaning of Confirmation. Reflect on Pentecost, the celebration of the Holy Spirit's descent, and the sacred ritual that seals you with His grace. Let this final stretch be one of prayer and learning.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2026** (18–24 January) celebrates the theme “Normal Lives, Called to Holiness!” Inspired by Pope Francis and Blessed Carlo Acutis, it reminds us that holiness is for everyone: not just the extraordinary. Catholic schools form students to live with purpose, love, and faith in daily life. Education becomes a path to sainthood, where ordinary acts, done with love, reflect the extraordinary call to live in friendship with Christ.



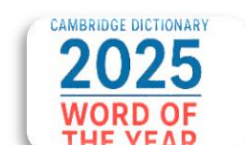
**ONE MONTH (FIRST CONFESSION):** With just one month until First Confession, it's time to prepare hearts and minds. Candidates should focus on understanding the Sacrament of Confession, the nature of sin, and what is a mortal sin. Reflect on the beauty of God's mercy, the steps of the confession ritual, and the sincere Act of Sorrow. This sacred journey is a step toward healing and grace: embrace it with openness and a prayerful heart.

**WPCU:** From 18–25 January 2026, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites all Christians to unite in prayer under the theme “One Body, One Spirit, One Hope.” Rooted in Ephesians 4:1–13, this year's reflections, crafted by Armenian Christian communities, draw on ancient traditions of worship. Across Britain, Ireland, and beyond, churches will gather in diverse ways to celebrate our shared faith and deepen the call to unity in Christ. Resources available online.



**OXFORD'S 2025 WORD OF THE YEAR, “RAGE BAIT,”** highlights a digital culture driven by provocation and outrage. But what if we responded differently? In a world flooded with rage bait, content designed to stir anger, Catholic communities are called to be countercultural. Let's transform reaction into reflection, and outrage into outreach. By grounding ourselves in prayer, Scripture, and the fruits of the Spirit, we can choose peace over provocation and witness to Christ online and off.

**CAMBRIDGE'S 2025 WORD OF THE YEAR, “PARASOCIAL,”** reveals our hunger for connection, even in one-sided digital relationships. But what if we redirected that longing toward something eternal? In a world of curated intimacy and virtual bonds, faith invites us into a real, reciprocal relationship with God. Spiritual connection isn't performative: it's transformative. Let's move beyond parasocial ties and rediscover the joy of authentic communion with Christ and one another.



**JESUS' STORY:** One sunny day, I walked to the Jordan River, where my cousin John was baptizing people. “Why are you here?” he asked. I smiled and said, “To show everyone how much God loves them.” As I came out of the water, the sky opened, and God's voice said, “This is my beloved Son.” A dove flew down: God's Spirit! That day, I showed the world how to begin a life with God.

**WORD OF GOD SUNDAY:** an invitation to rediscover the power of Scripture in our daily lives. The Bible is not just a book; it is God speaking now, shaping hearts, guiding choices, and igniting faith. Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January reminds us that the Word is living and active, calling each of us to listen, reflect, and respond. Let it be the foundation of your spiritual journey every day.



**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**St Andrew's Church** in Curraha are looking for new Ministers of the word. If you would like to become a Minister of the word please contact Lorna in the office on 018350136.

**St. Patrick's N.S. Ardcath** will commence enrolling pupils for the school year 2026-27 from 12th January 2026. Enrolment Forms can be downloaded from the downloads page on [www.ardcathns.ie](http://www.ardcathns.ie)

**Closing date for Application is 06 February 2026.** Admission Policy and Annual Admission Notice are available on our website [www.ardcathns.ie](http://www.ardcathns.ie). If you require further information, please email [info@ardcathns.ie](mailto:info@ardcathns.ie).

**Autism Support Louth & Meath** would like to invite you to an informal coffee morning on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 10:30am in St. Patrick's N.S. This invite is extended to all parents of neurodivergent children or children with additional needs. There will be discussions around benefits, entitlements, school application process, respite and other topics of interest. All are welcome.

**Curragha ICA:** Monday 12th at 12.30pm. Looking forward to another year of great company with a lovely group of women who enjoy interesting talks demonstrations, and outings. If you would like to join or just drop in to see if you would like to join please come along you will be made very welcome.

**Enrolment 2026/2027:** St. Andrew's Primary School, Curraha is now enrolling for 2026/2027 school year. Enrolment forms are available at [www.standrewscurragha.com](http://www.standrewscurragha.com). For assistance or queries, email [office@standrewscurragha.com](mailto:office@standrewscurragha.com). Join a warm, vibrant learning community where every child is encouraged to thrive. Early applications are strongly encouraged.