

WEEKEND MASSES

ARDCATH: 6:30PM (SAT VIGIL)
 CLONALVY: 10.00AM (SUNDAY)
 CURRAHA: 11:30AM (SUNDAY)
 CURATE: FR. STEVE CIUBOTARU 0873379031
 FRSTEVECC@GMAIL.COM @stefan6gvk



PARISH OFFICE

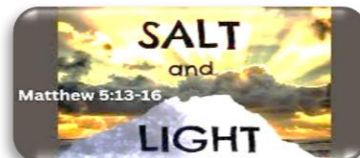
TUES & FRI: 1.00PM – 4.00PM
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 WEB: ARDCATH-CLONALVYPARISH.IE

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8TH FEBRUARY 2026



Sunday	15th Feb	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	MINISTERS OF THE WORD
Ardcath	6.30pm	Geraldine Wall	Lara McCormack
Clonalvy	10.00am	Leta Harford	Anne White
Curraha	11.30am	Liz Keogh	Lorna Battersby

Sunday 8th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil	Ardcath	6.30pm	A.V. Thomas McConnell & DFM
Sunday	Clonalvy	10.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	Curraha	11.30am	A.V. Roisin Kennedy
Mon	9 th Feb	Curraha	7.30pm Mick Foley, Brian O'Connor
Tues.	10 th Feb	Clonalvy	9.30am pro benefactoribus
Thur	12 th Feb	Curraha	9.30am Donal O'Donovan, AV Fr. Ultan Murphy
Fri	13 th Feb	Ardcath	9.30am No Mass
		Curraha	3.00pm Confirmation Mass

Sunday 15th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil	Ardcath	6.30pm	A.V. Pat Byrne & DFM
Sunday	Clonalvy	10.00am	
Sunday	Curraha	11.30am	A.V. Tony Battersby A.V. Mark Mooney A.V. Bridget & James O'Connor & DFM

	Ardcath	Clonalvy	Curraha	THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE WORK AND UPKEEP OF OUR PARISH
Offertory	€ 144.01	€108.20	€ 323.75	
Envelopes	€ 0.00	€ 30.00	€ 170.00	
Offerings	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 345.00	

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.

Day for Religious in Diocese: On Sunday, February 8th, the Religious of the Diocese will gather with the Bishop for a Celebration of Sung Vespers at 4pm in the Cathedral. This is a way of acknowledging the contribution of Religious to our Diocese. All parishioners are welcome to this celebration.

Totus Tuus hosts a Fatima pilgrimage from 28 August–4 September 2026. The €915 package includes flights, half-board, transfers, visits to Balasar, Valinhos, Adjustrel, and the Dominican Sisters' Convent, plus learning about Fatima and Blessed Alexandrina. Departures from Cork or Dublin. Limited places. Contact Damien at 087 20 49 048.

Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse will be held on 20th February 2026.

The Irish Cancer Society seeks organised volunteers to coordinate local Daffodil Day fundraising on 20 March 2026. Volunteers help manage merchandise sales, bring colour and awareness to their community, and support cancer patients nationwide. Full guidance is provided. To become a Daffodil Day Community Organiser, contact Monica at volunteer@irishcancer.ie.

Confessions: Before&after mass – Monday (Curraha); -Tuesday (Clonalvy); - Friday (Ardcath). **Adoration:** Every Friday after mass (Ardcath).

Bulletin: relevant news items of parish and local interest are always welcome for inclusion in the bulletin!

PLEASE TAKE A BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU FOR A NEIGHBOUR, RELATIVE or FRIEND

WELCOME: We are pleased to welcome Most Rev. Thomas Deenihan, Bishop of Meath, to Curragha Parish on next Friday, February 13th at 3:00pm for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We wish the candidates success as they take this important step in their faith journey. Our thanks go to the teachers and school staff for their support. The community is invited to join this special occasion.



PARTICIPATION: Confirmation marks the start of active engagement in Church life: not a farewell. The Catholic Church must ensure this sacrament inspires lifelong faith, not a “goodbye” until marriage. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens and consecrates us, empowering full participation in the Church’s mission. Let this sacred moment ignite commitment, community, and service, transforming Confirmation into a vibrant beginning of faith lived daily.



GAMIFICATION has reshaped social dynamics, fostering immersive virtual rewards over real-world engagement. Studies suggest 35% of men aged 20–40 remain at home, absorbed in gaming, avoiding romantic pursuits. This behavioural shift often correlates with diminished interpersonal confidence and delayed independence. Spiritually, prolonged detachment from authentic human connection can erode purpose, leading to existential emptiness. Gamification, while innovative, risks replacing growth with gratification: impacting identity and meaning.



"SOLDIERS" OF JESUS: Baptism makes us “new creations.” Confirmation strengthens our bond with Christ and the Church through the Holy Spirit’s gifts. Without Confirmation, Christian initiation is incomplete. It also empowers us to witness our faith with courage. Traditionally, the bishop’s gentle slap during Confirmation symbolized being sent as “soldiers” of Jesus, ready to “fight” for the faith and share Christian values in the world.



IMPRODUCTIVITY OF THE MIND, as seen in Aniela (by Henryk Sienkiewicz), mirrors a spiritual paralysis: when we know what is right but fail to act. Just as Leon drifts in indecision, so too can souls drift when they lack clarity, courage, or purpose. Spiritual life demands intention. Without it, even faith becomes passive. True growth begins when we confront our inner resistance and choose grace over comfort, action over apathy, and truth over illusion.



TURNING POINT: Faith became their turning point. After years of struggle, Scott Rungay (22) and Jason Roche (24) found hope and healing through the Catholic Church. ‘I asked God for help and I haven’t touched drugs since,’ says Jason. For Scott, rediscovering faith during his teens offered purpose and freedom from destructive habits. Today, they represent a growing movement of young people embracing spirituality to overcome life’s toughest challenges.



KINTSUGI teaches us that brokenness can become beauty. In Japan, shattered ceramics are repaired with gold, creating something more precious than before. This art, meaning “to repair with gold,” reminds us that cracks and imperfections are not flaws but opportunities for transformation. In life, wounds can shape resilience and grace. Those who suffer often emerge stronger, shining with unique beauty: proof that restoration is a masterpiece.



MIND THE GAP: Margaret McCollum’s story proves love transcends time. After her husband Oswald Laurence, the iconic voice behind “Mind the gap,” passed away in 2003, Margaret visited Embankment Station daily to hear his recording. When it was replaced, her heartfelt plea moved London Transport to restore his voice. Today, every announcement echoes a timeless truth: love endures, memory matters, and even in life’s gaps, connection remains.



HAPPY ST VALENTINE'S DAY: Wishing a joyful St Valentine’s Day to all engaged couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. This special occasion celebrates love, commitment, and the sacred journey ahead. Notably, the revered relics of St Valentine are preserved at Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, offering a meaningful connection to the patron saint of love for couples embarking on their lifelong partnership.



GUINNESS pioneered a ground-breaking pension system in the late 19th century, championing workers’ dignity and long-term security. This visionary move embodied principles of solidarity, justice, and the common good: values later echoed in Catholic social teaching. By treating employees as human beings deserving care and stability, Guinness set a moral benchmark aligned with Rerum Novarum, redefining corporate responsibility and shaping a legacy of ethical leadership that resonates even today.

Community Notices

Curragha I.C.A will meet on Monday 9th February at 12.30pm in the Parish Centre if not a member but would like to join please come along you will be made very welcome.

Pop by the SEAI event in Ashbourne to chat about home energy upgrades and snag some handy tips! Looking to make your home warmer and more energy-efficient? Join us in Ashbourne for the **SEAI Home Energy Upgrade Event!** This is your chance to get expert advice, discover amazing energy-saving tips, and learn about grants to help with your home improvements. It's an in-person event, so come along, chat with friendly experts, and start your journey to a cosier, greener home!