



Ferrybank & Slieverue Christmas 2020

24th December 2020 - 6th January 2021



A Note from Fr Kieran

As we gather to celebrate Christmas in Ferrybank & Slieverue we are facing another instalment of level 5 Covid restrictions. Unfortunately this means no gathering for public religious services from St Stephens day. Let us hope and pray that the vaccines that have been developed will soon be approved and made available so that we can avoid ongoing restrictions & much suffering. This time last year who could have guessed what was ahead of us. It was certainly a year like no other. The way we lived and interacted with one another changed completely. Above all this past year has reminded us that we human beings are very fragile. This realisation should lead us to be more humble so that we can relate to each other with more kindness and understanding. Much has been said again and again and again. Many people are exhausted not just physically but also mentally. Maybe now is a time for silence, a time to contemplate, to just be. When Christmas Day is over give yourself the gift of some quiet time. At home or in the Church sit in front of the Crib, without the rush, without the noise, without worrying about getting to Mass for Christmas & let Mary and Joseph and their new born Child speak to you in your heart. Listen to what they have to say, and allow the peace of the first Christmas to enter your heart. That peace is needed by so many families, the young and not so young, the sick and the healthy, the joyful and the sorrowful.

As we reflect on the past year and look to the future I want to say a word of thanks to all of you who in so many different ways have kept the light of faith and hope alive during the past year.

I thank members of the Religious communities among us, the Little Sisters, Brothers of Charity, and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, for their presence and witness. Our Pastoral Councils & Finance Committees also played a very important role during the year and I thank them sincerely for all their time and commitment. To our Safeguarding Representatives, our Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, our Baptism team, Adoration Group, and those who coordinate the various ministry rotas thank you to all. I thank those who bring the Eucharist to the sick, the St Vincent de Paul Society. our Collectors & Envelope Distributors during the year. To our Flower Arrangers & Providers & those who look after our Church and also all our Cleaners. To all our CE Scheme workers and all involved in maintenance & care of Church property including management our Cemeteries & Parish Halls. Thank you to the Catering & Hospitality groups who provide refreshments at parish celebrations & organise various events for charity. Thank you to our Altar Servers (and their parents too!), although their work was cut short this past year! Well done to the Principals and Teachers of our schools to Boards of Management & Parents Associations for their trojan efforts to keep children and staff safe. Thank you to parents who make up our Sacramental

Mass Schedule 24th December - 6th January

Thursday 24th December

No Morning Mass

Christmas Eve

Ferrybank 2 pm

Slieverue 4 pm

Ferrybank 6 pm

Slieverue 8 pm

Ferrybank 10 pm

Friday 25th December

Christmas Day

Slieverue 7.30 am & 10.30 AM

Ferrybank 9.30 am & 11.30 AM

CHURCHES CLOSED FOR PUBLIC MASSES

ALL VIA RADIO & ONLINE

Saturday 26th December

Feast of St Stephen / Vigil of the

Holy Family

Slieverue 6 pm

Sunday 27th December

Feast of the Holy Family

Ferrybank 11.30 am

Monday 28th December

Ferrybank 10 am

Tuesday 29th December

Slieverue 10 am

Wednesday 30th December

Ferrybank 10 am

Thursday 31st December

Slieverue 10 am

Friday 1st January

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

World Day of Prayer for Peace /

New Years Day

Ferrybank 10 am

Slieverue 11 am

Saturday 2nd January

Slieverue 6 pm

Sunday 3rd January

Ferrybank 11.30 am

Monday 4th January

Ferrybank 10 am

Tuesday 5th January

Vigil Mass for the Feast of the

Epiphany

Ferrybank 7.30 pm

Wednesday 6th January

Feast of the Epiphany (Holy Day)

Slieverue 10.30 am

Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th

Daily & weekend Online Schedule



From Christmas Eve until January 6th a Novena of Masses will be offered for the intentions of those who purchased & received our Christmas Novena Mass Cards & those on our Christmas list of the deceased

**THE PARISH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL
4TH JANUARY & AGAIN
ON
6TH JANUARY**

**AFTER THAT DATE IT
WILL ONLY BE POSSIBLE
TO CONTACT THE
OFFICE BY PHONE OR
EMAIL WHILE COVID
RESTRICTIONS ARE IN
PLACE**

**FROM 26TH
DECEMBER
ALL RELIGIOUS
SERVICES MOVE
ONLINE WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF
WEDDINGS &
FUNERALS
MAXIMUM NUMBER
ALLOWED AT
FUNERALS
10 PEOPLE**

Preparation Groups. To our Parish Choirs & Musicians a sincere thank you for enriching our Liturgies and a big thank you to each and every one of you our parishioners for your faithfulness and to all who contribute financially to the upkeep of both Parishes during the year.

I know you wont mind if I single out a few groups of people for a special mention given the year that was in it. During 2020 when the doors were closed in our Churches and we could not gather together for Mass we were able to keep all other Parish services open in a safe way. I am sure I speak for all of you when I thank Angela and Marie for their great work in keeping the lines of communication open and in facilitating everyone.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to our Sacristans in both Parishes & our Covid Coordinators and Ushers. It wasn't always easy but you stayed the course. You kept us all safe and without your commitment we would not have been able to celebrate our faith in Church.

An example of great understanding was displayed by parents and children preparing for First Communion and Confirmation during the year. We got there eventually and we celebrated simply and meaningfully. Your cooperation in bringing that about was remarkable.

To couples who despite many obstacles went ahead with their weddings this past year, you showed great courage and witnessed to what was really important and we all pray every blessing on you as you spend you first Christmas together as married couples.

Finally I want to pay special tribute to all the families who were bereaved during the year. We extend our sympathy to you once again and we remember you and your loved ones especially this Christmas. In your darkest hour you celebrated the funerals of your loved ones within government guidelines. All of you bereaved during the year without exception deserve our highest praise for the way you laid your loves to rest acting in solidarity with the whole community.

And so as we celebrate Christmas and prepare to begin 2021, I, along with Fr Jim & Fr Liam wish all families of our Parishes, including those who are far from home, the sick at home & those who care for them with great devotion, those sick in hospital & residing in nursing homes the blessings of Peace, Hope & Joy. May the Christ Child of Bethlehem warm each heart with his presence.

Fr Kieran



Remembering Our Dead at Christmas ...

Mark Staff
Eileen & Tom McGrath and their son Michael
Hughie O'Neill and his parents Laddie & Josie O'Neill
Margaret (Peggy) Turner
Patsy McGavock
Mary Howard
Evelyn Hayes (1st Anniv.)
Margaret & David Sullivan, Kilmurry
Josie & Jack Morrissey, Kilmurry
Jean Drohan
The Walsh Family, Ringville
Maurice Hennebray, Ballinlaw
Murtagh Kearney, Gurteens, Slieverue

Richard (Dick) Morrissey, Killaspy
Michael Cummins, Atteteemore
Jim & Mai Doherty
Eily Rockett
Ned & Nan Freyne and their sons Raymond & Patrick Freyne
Finbar Hickey
Anne Donnelly (née Hickey)
Edward Donnelly, Scotland
Les Serff
Buddy Freyne
William & Nellie Walsh, Kilmurray
John & Josephine McDonald and their sons Patrick & James

Parish Office Tel. 051-830813



Parish Website; www.ferrybankslieverueparishes.ie
Parish Radio: Ferrybank 103.9, Slieverue 106.8
email; ferrybank@ossory.ie, slieverue@ossory.ie
Facebook; Parish of ferrybank Parish of Slieverue
Priest; Fr. Kieran O'Shea P.P. email: kieranoshea@ossory.ie



**A Blessed Christmas &
Happy New Year to all our
Parishioners & friends
May Your Hearts be filled
with Hope & Peace**

