##

***LISTOWEL PARISH NEWSLETTER***

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**31st January 2016**

**Parish Priest: Declan Canon O Connor VF. Parish Office (Mon – Fri 10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm) 068-21188**. After hours emergency no. 0870908949.**Email:** listowel@dioceseofkerry.ie. *Notices for Parish Newsletter have to be in by 2.00pm on Thursdays***.** **Funerals** take place on weekdays at 11.30am and Sundays and Holy Days at 11.00am. **Baptisms** are at pre-arranged times and must be booked through the Parish Office. **Confessions:** every Saturday after 10.30am Mass. Check out our Parish Web Page at [www.listowelparish.com](http://www.listowelparish.com) and all Diocesan news on: [**www.dioceseofkerry.ie**](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie)and a live stream of all liturgies on **www.mcnmedia.tv**

 *St. Mary’s Church is*

 *fitted with a loop*

 *system. Please adjust*

 *your hearing aid.*

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**MASSES THIS WEEK 30th – 7th FEBUARY**

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| Saturday 30th  | Betty McCarthy nee McElligott, Convent St. / PJ Browne, St. Brendan’s Tce. & Dublin /Michael Bambury, Gurtnaglana, Kilmorna /Noreen Hilliard, Billerough /Anthony Kennelly, Smerla Bridge /Bridget Brosnan, Behins /Eileen & John O’Connell, Ballygologue rd., Kitty Moore, Feale Drive, Mary & Johnny Dunworth, Moyvane & Deceased Members of the Hughes Family, Dublin | **7pm****Vigil** |
| Sunday 31st  | Agnes, Denis & Mike Kelly, Charles St. /Sergeant Andy Treacy & Mary Ann, Seamus & Kevin, Charles St | 9.00am |
| Winifred Millward & Deceased Family Members, Lartigue Village | 11.00am |
| Mon 1st  | **Feast of St. Brigid** | 10.30am |
| Tues 2nd  | ***Candlemas Day****:* ***Blessing of Candles***Michael, Mary & Lily Foley, Cahirdown | 10.30am |
| Wed 3rd  | ***Feast of St. Blaise – Blessing of Throats***Eddie Harnett, Gortnaminch | 10.30am |
| Thurs 4th  |  | 10.30am |
| **First Friday** 5th  | Teresa Wolfe, Listowel / Noel & Harriet Blount, Cambridge, England Late of Meath & Dublin, *both* ***Recently Deceased*** | 10.30am |
| John Doyle, Clounmacon | **7.00pm** |
|  Saturday 6th  | Bridget (Bridie) Kelliher, O’Connell’s Ave. /Patsy & Chris Walsh, Market St. /Edward Brennan, Colbert St. & Switzerland **1st Ann.**  / Nelly McCarthy, Stokers Lawn, **1st Ann.** | 10.30am |
| Marina Lynch, O’Connell’s Ave. **1st Anniversary** /Joe Scanlon, Dirha Cottages & Middlesex, **1st Anniversary** & Maurice & Agnes Scanlon & Deceased Family / Mary Regan, Dromin /Margaret (Madge) O’Donoghue, Asdee /John Keane, Ballygrennan / Martin Whelan, Finuge | **Vigil 7pm** |
|  Sunday7th  | **People of the Parish** | 9.00am |
| Nellie & Jack Stack, Glenoe  | 11.00am |

 ***Priest on duty for Listowel Deanery on this Sunday, Jan., 31st Fr. Spring 0872935969 (emergencies only)***

**PARISH OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Our sincere thanks for the Offertory Collection last weekend.

**RECENT DEATHS** Jerry Hurley, Bedford / Maurice Enright, Feale Drive & Woodford / Mary Morrissey (nee O’Connor, Dublin late of Skehenerin. / Maire McKenna, London late of Bridge Rd.

**ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE**: John & Julia Stack, Killocrim / Martin O Quigley, Church St. / Murish Bunyan, Convent Cross / Edward Brennan, Colbert St. & Switzerland 1st Ann. / Patricia Kearney, Clieveragh Pk.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**CATHOLICS SCHOOL WEEK:** is being celebrated in all of our Schools this week. The theme this year is **Catholic Schools: Challenged to proclaim God’s Mercy:**  marking our Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. *God is a God of mercy, a God of Love and compassion who forgives all.* Each school have their own celebrations exploring how our children can be the face of God’s mercy and will include marking Grandparents Day also.

**FEAST OF ST. BRIGID**: Monday next – February 1st

**NEW IRISH CATECHISM CLASSES** given by Fr. Sheehy at Parish Meeting Room starting on this Monday, Feb. 1st. Still has a few vacancies if interested contact the Parish Office

**CANDLEMAS DAY** Tuesday next Feb. 2nd the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Candles for use during the coming year in the church or if parishioners wish to have their own candles blessed – bring along to the 10.30am Mass when they will be blessed. The pupils and staff of St. Michael’s College are joining us and participating at this mass as part of Catholic Schools Week.

**FEAST OF ST. BLAISE & BLESSING OF THROATS**  is taking place on Wednesday, 3rd February.  **Blessing of the Throats** will take place after the 10.30am. All are welcome!

**PARISH LITURGY GROUP MEETING**: in the Presbytery at on this Wednesday night at 8.00 p.m. All members are asked to attend.

**ANNUAL RETREAT FOR MEN & WOMEN** at Ardfert Retreat Centre on Wednesday February 3rd at 8pm. If interested contact Matt, 21420, Michael, 21596, Mossie, 21725, Michael, 21168, Bernard, 22942, John, 0861617528 & Mary 0874138371.

**COMMUNION CALLS TO THE SICK & THE HOUSEBOUND**: Canon Declan will be doing his usual calls to the Sick & Housebound on Wednesday & Thursday afternoons next. The Parish Office will make contact as to the time of his arrival. Anybody new, who wishes a visit contact the Parish Office,.

**CONFESSIONS:** on Thurs. & Sat. after the 10.30a.m. Mass.

**FIRST FRIDAY OF FEBRUARY:** is Friday next (Feb. 5th). Usual Masses at 10.30 a.m. which will be followed by a ‘***cuppa***’ in the **Meeting Room** & **Evening** **Mass at 7.00pm**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** will take place next weekend at Vigil Mass on Saturday & at 11.00 a.m. Mass on Sunday

**LOURDES HELPERS ANNUAL CHURCH COLLECTION**  takes place at all Masses next weekend Sat. 6th & Sun. 7th  Feb. after communion. This supports the many young helpers travelling.

**STATEMENT FROM LISTOWEL AREA PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**RE: CHANGE IN VIGIL MASS TIME:**

As part of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2016 – 2020, Bishop Ray is currently meeting the priests and members of the 12 Area Pastoral Councils throughout the Diocese. He met with the **Listowel Area Pastoral Council** and the priests on **Monday 18th January, 2016** (*The Listowel Area Pastoral Council includes the parishes of Listowel, Lixnaw, Duagh and Moyvane)*. One of the areas needing to be addressed is the synchronising of masses within the Pastoral area. There is now only one Priest in each of the 4 Parishes and the synchronising of masses within the Pastoral Areas will allow for a Priest to offer cover to one of his colleagues in the event of a Priest being sick or on holidays. While we have been very fortunate within the Pastoral Area to have the help of a number of retired Priests, in the long term relying on the retired Priests is not sustainable. Following the meeting which took place on 18th January, 2016 it has now been proposed that the number of weekend masses within the Pastoral Area will remain the same for the moment**, namely, 13 masses**. For Listowel Parish the Area Pastoral Council in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council has decided to bring forward the **Saturday evening Vigil Mass to 6.15 p.m**.. Our Mass times on Sunday will remain the same as now with Masses at **9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m**. Once the schedule of Masses has been agreed in the other Parishes we will publish a schedule of the Mass times for the Pastoral Area in the newsletter. The schedule of Mass times will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Area Pastoral Council in consultation with the individual Parish Pastoral Councils. The above change in Listowel Parish will take effect on **Saturday, 2nd April, 2016** *(weekend after Easter).* While we appreciate that the above decision may not suit everyone, we would ask for your co-operation and prayers in dealing with the changing face of the Diocese. ***Many Thanks & God Bless***

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**CALLING ALL PRAYER GROUPS OF THE DIOCESE:** A day of prayer is planned for Saturday March 12th 2016 in the Church of the Resurrection Killarney.   The main goal of the day is to unite all prayer groups from across the diocese.  A meeting will be held in the Presbytery, Park Road, Killarney on Sat 6th of February at 3pm. If anyone is interested in helping out in any way we'd appreciate your attendance.  For further information please contact Thady 087-2626187.

**LISTOWEL BRANCH KERRY HOSPICE** are holding there A.G.M. on Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30pm. in St. Patrick’s Hall, William St. Volunteers urgently needed so please come along and support this very deserving cause. Thank you.

**SCOIL RÉALTA NA MAIDINE** Listowel Boy’s School open day, Wednesday 3rd February from 11am. to 12.30pm. Parents & Prospective Students are invited to view our school! Telephone 068-21994 / [www.scoilrealta.ie](http://www.scoilrealta.ie) / find us on Facebook Scoil Realta na Maidine.

**DIOCESE OF KERRY EARTH WEEK**:   17-24 April 2016. The Diocesan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee has chosen 'biodiversity' as the theme for Earth Week.  A meeting to explain how we can create diverse flower-rich habitats in our communities and help save our bees will be hosted by Kerry Co. Co. in the Meadowlands Hotel Tralee on Tue. Feb 2nd at 7.30pm.  More details, [www.dioceseofkerry.ie](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie).