



*St. Colman's Parish*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> January 2024*

**A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Ray Browne to the People of the Diocese of Kerry**

**Moving Forward in Hope**

**Shaping together the future of the pastoral areas, parishes, and local church communities in our diocese**

Greetings to all the people of our diocese. I write this letter to invite your participation in the consultation and planning process our diocese will be undertaking over the next six months.

**A vision for today**

The following vision statement seeks to address our faith-world of today. Take a few moments to reflect on it and utter a prayer.

In our world today, God can be forgotten, and the dignity and needs of every human person and the natural world can be ignored. Every human being is a child of God, made in God's image and of the greatest worth. The whole of God's creation - the natural world - is a gift to be cherished. God asks us to "Care for our Common Home", - planet earth and all its people. Jesus has told us that the greatest commandment is "love God and love your neighbour". Our diocese consists of many faith-communities: homes and families, pastoral areas, parishes, and local church communities. Together we live our lives sharing faith, hope and love. We are part of the one global family of God the Father into which each of us has been baptised. Our faith is the Good News that Jesus Christ is the God of love. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ accompanies us both in this life and in the life to come. To live and to share that Good News is our mission.

**The challenge ahead**

I see the life of the 110 local church-communities as a valuable and valued resource for people now and into the future. In the light of fewer clergy, we need to explore how each local church-community can thrive with local leadership acting co-responsibly with the priests ministering to the parishes of the pastoral areas. A church can still be the centre point for community life, even if there is no weekend Mass. Think of your local church community in four ways: a social/friendship community; a caring compassionate community; a praying, worshipping and sacramental community; and a community whose mission is to nourish and develop its faith, and hand it on to the next generation.

**Our response to date**

For more than fifteen years, we have had a strategy to respond to the reduction in the number of priests.

**Fr. Danny Broderick (087) 9061255**  
**Parish Residence: 18 Ballyoughtragh Heights, Milltown**  
**Rev. Conor Bradley (087) 3664057**  
**Parish Office: Tues. & Thurs 9:30-12:30 066-9767312**  
**Email: [milltown@dioceseofkerry.ie](mailto:milltown@dioceseofkerry.ie)**  
**Website: [www.milltownlistryparish.com](http://www.milltownlistryparish.com)**  
**Safeguarding Children: Contact No (087) 6362780**

**Recent Death:** Please pray for:

**Michael Barron, Rock Road. Killarney**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Friday evening in Milltown church from 6:00p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

*Masses & Intentions*

Mon. Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>			<i>No Mass</i>
Tues. Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Listry	7:00 p.m.	<i>Teresa Clifford Rosnacarton Beg</i>
Wed. Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Milltown	10:00 a.m.	<i>Mary Doyle Culleeneymore</i>
Thurs Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Milltown	10:00a.m.	<b><i>St. Brigid's Day</i></b>
Fri. Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Milltown	7:00 p.m.	<i>Tom Joe &amp; Bridie Mai Heffernan Knockavota</i>
Sat. Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Listry	6:00 p.m.	<i>Stephen O' Donoghue Lissivane East</i>
Sun. Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Milltown	11:15 a.m.	<i>Bob Dan, Lizzie &amp; Jerry McKenna The Cliff, Callinafercy</i>

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Listry Saturday Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Eamon Donnelly

Milltown Sunday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Linus Burke

### **Minister of the Word**

Listry Saturday Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jim O' Shea

Milltown Sunday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Ann Jennings

All Weekend Masses will be streamed online via [www.milltownlistryparish.com](http://www.milltownlistryparish.com) or [churchmediatv.ie](http://churchmediatv.ie). The webcam in Milltown and Listry church captures images of individuals who sit in the first two seats of the church. Please sit in another part of the Church if you do not wish your image to be broadcast in this way.

**Killorglin Pastoral Area**

**Priest on Duty this Sunday:**

**Fr. Danny Broderick (087) 9061255**

**First Friday Communion Calls:** will take place on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have a family member or neighbour who wishes to receive Holy Communion each month in their home, please contact Fr. Danny, (087) 9061255 Rev. Conor (087) 3664057 / office (066) 97 67312.

**First Friday Confessions** are available after 7:00p.m. Mass in Milltown Church on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Monthly Prayer Meeting:** takes place in the Nagle Rice community Hall on Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> from 8-9.30pm. All most welcome.

**St Brigid's Day:** is celebrated on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Mass will be celebrated in Milltown church at 10:00a.m. The children of the Primary School will join the congregation to celebrate the feast of St. Brigid's and also to celebrate their Grandparents.

**Candlemas Day:** is celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and marks the return of light, a symbol of protection and prosperity. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, referring to him as the light of the people of Israel. The blessing of candles will take place during Masses next weekend, 3<sup>rd</sup> /4<sup>th</sup> February. Please bring your own candles if you would like to have them blessed during Mass.

**St. Blaise's Day:** is celebrated on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. The blessing of St. Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick. The blessing of throats will take place after Masses next weekend 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Samaritans Kerry:** would like to thank the parishioners for the continued support of their Christmas collection, which is very much appreciated.

The amount collected in Immaculate Conception Church, Listry €316  
The amount collected in Sacred Heart Church, Milltown, €1,061.30

**Milltown Castlemaine GAA** AGM takes place on Friday 2nd Feb at 7.00pm in the Clubhouse. All members welcome. Milltown Castlemaine GAA Club are having a Celebration Dinner and Medal Presentation on Saturday 10th February in Ballygarry Estate Hotel & Spa Tralee at 7.00pm. Contact Susan (087) 9426553 or Ann (087) 9801450 for tickets.

**Last weekend's collection - €945.00**  
**Thank you for your generous support.**

The offertory collection is currently not being taken up during Mass. There are boxes at the front and side entrance of the Milltown church and front entrance in Listry church for your contributions which are greatly appreciated.

All of us are familiar with our current situation of fifteen parishes without a resident priest which are served by the priests and deacons of their pastoral area. With many priests set to reach retirement age of 75 in the next three years, the challenge is imminent. Greater involvement of parishioners in all aspects of church life has enabled us to adjust well. There are so many people in all our parishes to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for devoted voluntary service.

We need to review our parish and pastoral area structures so that they can serve us more effectively. Central to this will be a more structured engagement of laity. A key element of our future will be the ministry of lay pastoral leaders, of whom 26 are presently in formation.

Pause for a moment and reflect: *Who in your local area has been central to the functioning of your parish? Could you or a member of your family make a valuable contribution to the life of your parish?*

### **An invitation to participate.**

I have now formed a planning group representative of laity, religious and clergy, and of all ages, to oversee the planning process which will conclude by May 2024. We will work in a synodal manner, which enables people to find their voices, to draw in as many new voices as possible, and seeks to make decisions by consensus, always open to the Gospels and the Holy Spirit.

Our first step in the process is consulting you, the people of the parishes. In February, there will be a gathering in each parish. The invitation is open to all: what do you see as the strengths and weaknesses locally, and what are your

The purpose of these parish meetings is to develop ways to respond to the challenges that lie

thoughts on what might be done? In parallel with this, there will be a consultation for the clergy. Our hope is that parishioners and deacons will take a structured leadership role in their pastoral areas working in a co-responsible way with the priests of the pastoral area as well as priests from abroad. This will allow priests to work across pastoral areas in a more sustainable manner. We will keep people informed as the process progresses.

### **Thank You**

A heartfelt thank you to all who, by your faith and prayers, and your involvement, contribute to the life of your parish community and diocese. A special prayer for anyone who is ill or coping with major difficulties. Thank you to all our priests, in appointments and retired, for their dedicated, loving ministry. Let us thank God for the two priests ordained in the past six years and our two seminarians as we continue to pray for vocations to serve as priests in the diocese. Let us be united and confident as we face the challenges that lie ahead. We have much to be grateful for.

Please remember in your prayers this consultation and planning process. The life of St Brendan is a wonderful testimony to deep Christian faith, and to trust in God facing the future. Let us entrust our future to the intercession of St Brendan. 'St Brendan navigated the seas, ours to tend the home shores.'

+ Ray Browne