

St. Colman's Parish 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd /24th August 2025

Pastoral Letter Day of Prayer and Reflection for Gaza on Sunday, 24 August 2025

Dear brothers and sisters,

Ten weeks ago the Catholic Bishops of Ireland dedicated the month of June as a special time of prayer for peace and for solidarity with the suffering people of Gaza. This weekend I call on all parishes to once more set aside Sunday, 24 August as a day of prayer and reflection for Gaza and for a renewed commitment by the international community for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Sadly, since June, the situation in Gaza has become steadily worse. The people there continue to be cruelly crushed by hunger, violence, death and destruction. I join the heartfelt appeal of Pope Leo XIV this week for "a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and full respect for international humanitarian law." As the Holy Father said, "Every human being has an intrinsic dignity bestowed by God Himself."

I also echo the recent words of Cardinal Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and Patriarch Theophilus III, who said on 22 July, "Humanitarian aid is not only necessary, it is a matter of life and death. Refusing it is not a delay, but a sentence. Every hour without food, water, medicine and shelter causes deep harm."

The Irish Bishops made it clear in June that genocidal actions sanctioned by the government in Israel are resulting in the death of tens of thousands of non-combatants, many of them women and children. "This is unconscionable and disproportionate. It is immoral for world leaders to stand by inactively in the face of this outrageous tragedy for humanity."

We know that people in parishes across the country are deeply troubled by stark and horrific images from Gaza of starving children and helpless, hungry families. The cruel actions of Hamas in continuing to keep hostages, and the bodies of hostages, away from their families is also to be unreservedly condemned.

Fr. Timothy Kiplagat Chebii (087) 0009181

Parish Residence: 18 Ballyoughtragh Heights, Milltown

Rev. Conor Bradley (087) 3664057

Parish Office: Thursday 9:00-3:00 Tel (066)-9767312

Email: milltown@dioceseofkerry.ie

Website: www.milltownlistryparish.com

Safeguarding Children: Contact No (087) 6362780

Baptisms: We welcome into our Christian community

Emily Blennerhassett, Ballyoughtragh Heights

Hanora Johnson, Australia

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Friday in Milltown Church from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Masses & Intentions

Mon. Aug. 25 th			No Mass
Tues. Aug. 26 th	Listry	7:00 p.m.	Shane Courtney Faha East
Wed. Aug. 27 th	Milltown	10:00 a.m.	Jenny & Bob Kenny, Kilcolman & Margaret Spillane, Knockavota
Thur Aug 28 th			No Mass
Fri. Aug 29 th	Milltown	7:00 p.m.	Daniel Fanning London
Sat. Aug. 30 th	Listry	6:00 p.m.	Keith O' Donnell Faha Glen
Sun. Aug. 31st	Milltown	11:15 a.m.	Sean & Noreen Riordan Main Street

Eucharistic Ministers

Milltown Sunday Aug. 31 st	Betty Moriarty & Linus Burke
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Minister of the Word

Listry Saturday Aug. 30th Family Readers
Milltown Sunday Aug. 31st Chris Horan

Offertory Collector

Milltown: July 27th August 31st – Tony O' Leary

All Weekend Masses will be streamed online via www.milltownlistryparish.com or 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.

Flower Arranger: Margot Lawlor – 23rd August – 5th September

<u>Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:</u> 28th August - 2nd September ex Kerry €970 pps, includes 5 nights accommodation with full board, bus transfers, travel insurance (up to 85 years, €30 extra if over). €250 deposit. Contact Nora, (087) 931 8976. pilgrimage@dioceseofkerry.ie

<u>Listry Family Fun Day:</u> will take place on Saturday 6th September at 2pm in Listry GAA grounds. All welcome to attend with Entertainment for all ages.

Children's Choir: Do you love singing? If you do, then come join the Milltown Children's Choir! Practice will take place most Thursdays from 5:30p.m. – 6:15 p.m. in Milltown Church (Participants will be notified via a What's App message) We plan for the choir to sing on Sundays at the 11:15 am mass (twice a month) The Children's Choir is a wonderful way to make friends, have fun, build confidence, grow in faith and share your voice with our parish community. For more information, please contact Deirdre (086) 170 3332.

Kerry Education and Training Board: are providing Free computer classes in Tralee from the middle of September to the middle of December (one two-hour class per week). Classes are at all levels, from absolute beginner to QQI Level 3. To inquire, please phone Ed on (086) 074 9786 or email **traleeabe@staff.kerryetb.ie**

CHY3 Tax Forms for Charitable Donations: (CHY3 enduring certificate simply enables the charity to claim tax relief if you donate €250+ in any of the five years covered by the form) Any parishioners that received a CHY3 form, can you please complete and return in the stamped addressed envelope provided. Thank you to all who have already returned this form. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

A Dance to Remember at Siamsa Tíre: Siamsa Tíre, in partnership with Kerry International Film Festival, will host A Dance to Remember on Friday 5th September at 8pm. After the screening the night continues with live Sliabh Luachra set dancing to traditional music and dance − an unforgettable night is promised. Tickets: €20 / €18 concession (+bf). Booking: siamsatire.com or (066) 712 3055.

<u>Killorglin Family Resource Centre:</u> is holding a 10week free empowerment programme for women starting on 23rd Sept – 25th November from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30p.m. at their centre at Market Street, Killorglin V93 V525. To register, please call (066) 9762933 or email killorglinfamilycentre@gmail.com

I encourage you to continue to show solidarity in whatever way you can: by lobbying your political representatives, supporting humanitarian aid and, above all, by continuing to pray for an end to the conflict and the resumption of peace, including the return of all hostages and prisoners. Pray also for our Christian brothers and sisters among the Palestinian populations in Gaza and on the West Bank who are witnessing daily to peace and non-violence, even in the midst of provocation and attacks. As Cardinal Pizzaballa said:

"Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there, crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering."

Please join in 24 hours of prayer and reflection in your parishes and homes on Sunday, 24 August. Light a candle in your family home or local parish church; attend Mass, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament; pray the Rosary; make some small personal penance or sacrifice, and on that day let the light of hope radiate out from the island of Ireland for peace, for Gaza and for the future of its people.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Eamon Martin

Eamon Martin

Archbishop of Armagh Apostolic Administrator of Dromore

Booking an Anniversary Mass for 2026

If you wish to book an Anniversary Mass for a loved one in the coming year, please note that the 2026 booking diary will open on Thursday, September 4th. During the first week, only First Anniversary Masses may be reserved. Booking for all other Anniversary Masses will begin on Thursday, September 11th.

Offertory collection

Last Weekend's collection -€760.00

Thank you for your generous support

Killorglin Pastoral Area Priest on Duty this weekend Fr. Timothy Kiplagat Chebii (087)0009181