

# Parish of Abbeyside, Ballinroad & Garranbane

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3rd Sunday of Lent

3rd March 2024

The Parish Council hosted a public meeting on Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm in Abbeyside Church to discuss the responses and to attempt to reach a consensus on our feedback to Bishop Cullinan.

About a 100 people gathered in Abbeyside Church on Wednesday night to discuss the letter Bishop Cullinane sent out about the crisis facing the various parishes with the shortage of priests. Also present were observers from other parishes and Radio na Gaeltachta had a reporter there to cover the meeting.

Fr. Ned opened the meeting with a prayer. The people present were broken up into 20 groups for a short discussion on the main topic of the meeting.

Each group then designated a spokesperson to summarise all the ideas put forward. Bridget and Mary from the Pastoral Council recorded every single idea put forward on the night, Matt and Betty made sure that each speaker had a microphone when speaking, Maria and Dave were present to welcome everyone and help with organising the meeting.

24 suggestions were also received by email or dropped into the Parish Office and the summary of these were presented to the meeting.

Following all the discussions Fr. Ned closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next week the Pastoral Council will meet and sieve through everything and start the process of preparing a report for the Bishop. We will continue to keep you informed of all developments in this regard.

**Some photos of those present at the Parish discussion:**



## Lenten Station Collection

The Station envelope will be taken up this weekend it is the purple-coloured one in our box of envelopes. Extra envelopes are available at the back of each church. There will be a second collection taken up after Holy Communion for this purpose this weekend. Online donations accepted also through our website [abgparish.ie](http://abgparish.ie) and clicking on the Donations button. **We thank you in advance for your generosity.**



## First Penance

Boys and girls are gearing up to celebrate their first confession during this coming week. Pupils of Garranbane NS will sacramentally celebrate God's forgiveness at **Garranbane Church on Wednesday 6th March at 6pm**, and pupils of **Scoil Mhuire on Thursday at Abbeyside Church at 6.30pm**. We wish them and their families well for what is always a very profound experience.



## First Penance



**The final session of Alpha took place on Thursday 29th February in the Gold Coast Hotel**



Overall it was a huge success with attendances far exceeding what we hoped for.

All who completed the course were delighted with the content and others added that they were glad to have made some new friends during the course. Thanks to our three co-ordinators for doing such a wonderful job in facilitating the group discussions. Hopefully it will take place again later this year. Thanks to the Gold Coast who looked after us so well.

**Abbeyside/Ballinacourty GAA Clubs**

It was great to see our club represented many thousands of miles away at the weekend!! The Melbourne Sevens tournament has been a highlight of the GAA season for many years in



Australia, bringing together huge numbers of the Irish diaspora for a weekend of games and some socialising!! At this year's tournament, the Central Coast hurling team were crowned champions with our own John Elsted and Darragh McGrath on the team, with some more club members there to lend some vocal support!! We hope they enjoyed the weekend and look forward to seeing them back in the club colours in the not too distant future!!

**2024 Academy starts Saturday 2nd March**

**TRAINING TIMES FOR JUVENILES**

Age	Born in	Start Time	Lead Coach(es)
Under 5 & 6	2018 & 2019	10:30am	Eoin Enright/Tieman Murray
Under 7	2017	10:30am	Luke Brennan
Under 8	2016	10:00am	Nicky Dwane
Under 9	2015	10:00am	John Geary
Under 10	2014	10:00am	Donnacha O' Dea

**Retired and want something to do.**

Dungarvan Active Retired meet every Thursday upstairs in the Tennis Club at 2 pm. There is always a great welcome for new members. If you are interested just come along any Thursday.



Hi Do you like walking, meeting new people and interested in helping in your community? If



**VOLUNTEERS are the heart of our parish!**

so we have a voluntary role to suit you.

Why not get that Fitbit or step counter moving by helping us to deliver our Christmas and Easter bulletins along with Trocaire boxes and Holy Souls envelopes. Please contact the Parish office

**Ballinroad AFC**

**Southend 2 - Ballinroad 4**

On Saturday morning the U13B squad travelled away to Southend who were 2 points above of us in the table. Southend scored in the



first minute from a free kick. It was 20minutes later before we drew level with a lovely strike from Aadiya Panicker. It was 1-1 at half time. In the second half we pulled ahead with a goal from Luke Fitzgerald. With only minutes to go Southend got a corner which we couldn't get clear and it was stabbed home to make it 2-2.

Southend shot was cleared off the line by Joe Donnelly. From the goal kick we charged up the field with Aidan Moynihan, Aadiya and Luke all combining well to get the ball into the Southend box. The defenders scrambled to clear the ball but Ryan Morrissey got it under control and took his time to squeeze it past the keeper to make it 2-3. With less than a minute to play Southend desperately tried to get a equalizer but lost the ball to Luke who ran down the right wing, jinked past a defender and fired a low cross into the box that Ryan Morrissey volleyed home. with what was the last kick of the match. Well done to all the boys, they played really well and got a well deserved result.

**Golf Prize winners**

**Gold Coast Golf Club:**

David O'Connor, John Callinan, Neil Dermody, Jim Harty, John O'Connell, Eugene Blanchfield, John Faherty, Tom White, Breda Veale, Miriam Matthews.

**Dungarvan Golf Club:**

John G Moloney, Eamon Keane, Nial Herlihy, Des Cleary, Patrick V Power, Diarmuid O'Neill, Brian Beatty, Maura Kindregan, Una O'Connell, Linda Buckley, Fiona Rochford and Mary O'Donnell.

Congratulations to **Joe Power Cushcam** who won our Murphy Place wordsearch competition. The prize can be collected in the office. The answer was Condon.



Thank You to all who entered

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## Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference Statement on the Family and Care Referendum

Two referendums will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> – International Women's Day proposing to change the Constitution. The proposal involves the insertion of additional text to Article 41.1.1 and the deletion of text in Article 41.3.1.



**The Irish Catholics Bishops' conference of Ireland** are asking the Catholic community to vote no in the Referendums on the 8th of March.

It is proposed to remove marriage from the amendment and replace it with durable relationship. What is a definition of durable relationship.? There is no clarity on what a durable relationship is. Marriage is seen as a lifelong commitment which is recognised as the solid foundation for family. By voting to amend this it will weaken the relationship between marriage and family resulting in the youth turning away from marriage.

***“We believe, however, that the commitment of marriage contributes to the common good in a unique way, by bringing stability to the family and to society and that it consequently deserves the protection of the State, which is currently guaranteed in the Constitution of Ireland.”***

On the second amendment to remove mother and replace it with family carer's the bishops already believe that Irish society recognises and respects that both parents have co responsibility when it comes to family. They feel that this would abolish the reference to motherhood in the Constitution therefore not acknowledging the invaluable contribution to society that women in the home have made and continue to make in Ireland.

***“We believe that rather than removing the present acknowledgement of the role of women and the place of the home it would be preferable and consistent with contemporary social values that the State would recognise the provision of care by women and men alike.”***

The bishops believe that by using the term endeavour to ensure mothers don't have to work outside the home is loosely based and nothing legally in place to financially assist that. They believe that instead of removing the acknowledgement of the role of women and the place of the home the government should instead look at contemporary social values and acknowledge and value the provision of care both men and women contribute to the home. The present constitution does not prevent women from working outside of the home.

***“The role of mothers should be cherished within the constitution.”***

**For the full statement please visit:** <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/02/25/irish-catholic-bishops-conference-statement-on-the-family-and-care-referendums/>

### **The importance of voting**

Pope Saint John Paul II said in Ireland back in 1979: *“The family is the true measure of the greatness of a nation”*. In a democracy that guarantees the freedom to vote, it is important that citizens cast their ballot on 8th of March with matters of such importance at stake.

### **Grand Marshalls announced for 2024 St Patrick's Day Parade!**

The St Patrick's Day Parade Committee are delighted to announce that Tom and Carmel Keith will take pride of place as Grand Marshall's at this year's parade in Dungarvan!

Proclamation of investiture of Grand Marshalls for Dungarvan's 2024 st. Patrick's Day Parade Whereas, through their dedication over many decades to the civic life of Dungarvan, and to Ballinroad, where they made their home Whereas, by their work to foster knowledge and protection of our local history,

Whereas, through their long commitment to Dungarvan's st. Partick's day parade, Whereas, by their efforts to maintain and develop relations with the Irish Diaspora, Whereas, through the welcome that they continually extend to visitors to our town,

Particularly to Students and staff from Mercyhurst University, whereas, by their efforts to ensure the proper appreciation and commemoration of our saints, St. Patrick and st. Bridget, and especially st. Cathal, who was born in Canty near Dungarvan before voyaging to Tarranto in Italy where he is remembered as st. Cataldus,

Tom and Carmel Keith have demonstrated unwavering loyalty to Dungarvan and bestowed honour upon this town



### **The St. Patrick's Day Art Competition .**

Artists of all abilities, aged 18 and under, to create an original piece of art. This year's theme will be "Irish Foklore and Myths."

**In conjunction with the art work Dún Garbhán le Gaeilge** would like to sponsor a prize

for the best use of Gaeilge in an art piece

All Art work to be submitted to Capitol Cleaners Dungarvan, all details must be on the back of art piece . Name address and telephone number. Please submit on or before the 10th of March 2024.





