

St. Colman's Parish

The Ascension of The Lord

16th/17th May 2026

The Italian composer Giacomo Puccini wrote *La Boheme*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Tosca*. It was during his battle with terminal cancer in 1922 that Puccini began to write *Turandot*, which many now consider his best work. He worked on the score day and night, despite his friends' advice to rest, and to save his energy. When his sickness worsened, Puccini said to his disciples, "If I don't finish *Turandot*, I want you to finish it." He died in 1924, leaving the work unfinished. His disciples gathered all that was written of *Turandot*, studied it in great detail, and then proceeded to write the remainder of the opera which was completed by Franco Alfano.

The world premier of the opera took place in La Scala Opera House, Milan, Italy, in 1926. Arturo Toscanini, Puccini's favourite student, conducted it, and the opera went beautifully. When Toscanini came to the end of the part written by Puccini, he stopped the music, put down the baton, turned to the audience, and announced, "Thus far the master wrote, but then he died."

There was a long pause; no one moved. Then Toscanini picked up the baton, turned to the audience and, with tears in his eyes, announced, "But his disciples finished his work." The opera closed to thunderous applause, and to a permanent place in the annals of great works. — In his Ascension message, Jesus instructs us, his disciples, to finish his work of saving mankind by proclaiming His Good News by words and deeds till the end of the world.

Today's readings describe the Ascension of the Lord Jesus into Heavenly glory, after promising to send the Holy Spirit as the source of Heavenly power for the apostles and commanding them to bear witness to him through their lives and preaching throughout the world. What we celebrate today is Jesus' exaltation and the end of his earthly existence, as a prelude to the gift of the Spirit.

The ascended Jesus is still with us because of his promise, "I am with you always; yes, to the end of time" (Mt 28:20). He is with us at all time and in all places, releasing a new power upon the earth, the power of the Holy Spirit Who enables us to preach the Good News of salvation and to bear witness to Jesus in keeping and living out his word.

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Recent Baptism: We welcome into our Christian community
Hazel Jane O’Keeffe, Drombrick, Beaufort.

Congratulations: to all the children of Nagle Rice National School on making their First Holy Communion today. A sincere thank you to their Parents & Teachers and all the staff at Nagle Rice National School for all their hard work, guidance, and support in helping prepare the children for this important occasion. May it be a day the children will always remember.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Friday in Milltown Church from 6:00p.m. -7:00p.m.
Confessions - Friday – Milltown: 5:10 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.

Masses & Intentions

Mon. May 18 th			<i>No Mass</i>
Tues. May 19 th	Listry	7:00 p.m.	<i>The people of the Parish.</i>
Wed. May 20 th	Milltown	10:00a.m.	<i>Brendan Allman Dens Mahony James Lyne Late of Sonas Nursing Home.</i>
Thurs. May 21 st			<i>No Mass</i>
Friday May 22 nd	Milltown	7:00 p.m.	<i>Martin Galvin – Anniversary</i>
Sat. May 23 rd	Listry	11.00 a.m.	<i>Faha N.S. First Holy Communion.</i>
Sat. May 23 rd	Listry	6:00 p.m.	<i>Ned Moloney – First Anniversary The Arches, Faha.</i>
Sun. May 24 th	Milltown	11:15 a.m.	<i>Tracey Foley - Anniversary Knockavota.</i>

Offertory Collector

May Grace Titus

Eucharistic Ministers

Listry Saturday May 23rd Margaret Gallagher
 Milltown Sunday May 24th Denis O’ Mahony & Mary O’ Shea

Minister of the Word

Listry Saturday May 23rd Nonie O’Shea
 Milltown Sunday May 24th Sheila Hurley

Flower Arranger: Margot Lawlor - 16th May – 29th May

Thank You: To the 3rd Kerry Milltown Scouts for the wonderful work carried out in tidying and preparing the Butterfly Garden ahead of the First Holy Communion Today. We would also like to thank everyone who helped care for and beautify the church and its grounds for this very special occasion. Your generosity, hard work, and willingness to give your time are deeply appreciated.

Listry Church & Grounds Clean-Up: We are looking for volunteers to help clean the church and surrounding grounds on **Wednesday May 20th at 7:00 pm.** Your help, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. Please bring any suitable cleaning tools or gardening equipment if you can. Many hands make light work, and everyone is welcome to lend a hand.

Kerry Creamery Experience Seniors Day Out: will be held on Tuesday, May 26th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Cost is €10 which includes soup and sandwiches on arrival followed by a tour of the Creamery. Should you require transport please contact Community Centre 064 6624919 or Ciara 086

Coffee Morning – Recovery Haven Kerry (Killorglin Outreach): Join us on Thursday, May 21st, 10am–1pm at the Killorglin Community Day Care Centre, Market Street. Enjoy a cuppa, meet the team, and learn about the free supports available for cancer patients, families, and carers in Killorglin.

Concordia University's Choir: Internationally renowned 72-voice A Cappella Choir will perform at Siamsa Tíre Theatre on Thursday, May 21st at 11:30am. This **FREE** event lasts approximately 45 minutes and booking is essential. To reserve a seat, call 066 712 3055.

Chime Ladies' Crafting Group: For women who are hard of hearing meets Monday May 25th at 10:30am–12:30pm at Chime Killarney. A free, friendly and inclusive monthly group held on the 4th Monday of each month, offering crafting, conversation, and tea. Contact 064 6620052 or 086 010 5200 for details.

Free Financial Literacy Event: will take place on Friday, May 22nd at The Ashe Hotel. Registration and tea/coffee from 10:30am, with the event starting at 11:00am. Speakers from AIB, MABS, Kerry ETB and An Garda Síochána will share practical advice on managing money and avoiding scams.

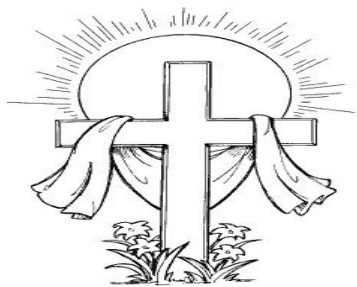
Communal First Saturday (CFS): To mark the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima, it is proposed to begin the Communal First Saturday devotion in St. Colman's Parish Milltown, in line with other pastoral areas in Kerry. A group of parishioners is needed to help establish this devotion. An initial meeting will take place in the Parish Office (Milltown) on Monday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m. If interested, please contact the Parish Office (066 9767312) or the CFS Coordinator (087 6884124).

Offertory Collections:

Last weekend's collection €790 | Thank you for your generous support.

Killorglin Pastoral Area | Priest on Duty this Weekend | Fr. Kieran O'Sullivan (087) 243 2155

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Hence, today's feast is the celebration of Jesus' glory after his suffering and death – the glory in which we also hope to share. The Ascension and Pentecost, together, mark the beginning of the Church. The feast of the Ascension tells us that the Church must be a community “in mission,” guided by the Holy Spirit and confident of God's protection, even amid suffering and in the face of death.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the scene of Jesus' Ascension, the promise of the Holy Spirit, the instruction to the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the power from above, and the missionary command to the apostles to bear witness to him.

In the second reading, Paul teaches us that God revealed His might in the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, thus exalting him over all angelic forces. Jesus remains accessible to us now in his life-giving Holy Spirit, assuring us that one day we, too, will be ascending to Heavenly glory, provided that, with God's grace, we live out our Faith in him through the mission of loving service he entrusts to us.

Today's Gospel tells us that, with his return to the Father, Jesus completed his mission on earth. But just before his Ascension, Jesus entrusted to the disciples the mission of preaching the Good News and evangelizing the whole world by bearing witness to him through their words and lives. It is in the Ascension that we see Jesus entering fully into the life and glory of God. In the descriptions of Christ after his Resurrection, we are given a hint of what life will be like in Heaven. The prospect of sharing that glory should be the driving force of our lives.

In conclusion, today's liturgy communicates the Ascension's significance for us: “He ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before” (Preface I of the Ascension of the Lord).

Graveyard Masses – all masses at 8:00 p.m.

Listry Graveyard	Tuesday July 7 th
Kilbonane Graveyard	Wednesday July 8 th
Milltown Graveyard	Wednesday July 15 th
Abbey Graveyard	Wednesday July 22 nd

It is a good opportunity to tend to family graves and the graves of people who do not have family members living locally

**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.