



# WATERGRASSHILL & GLENVILLE PARISH ASSEMBLY



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## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

[www.parishestogether.ie](http://www.parishestogether.ie)

A new website has been developed for the Family of Parishes- Watergrasshill/ Glenville, Glanmire, Glounthaune, Carraig na bhFear.

Here you can keep up to date with local & Diocesan news, see recent newsletters, check on mass times or post requests on sacraments such as Baptism and Marriage.

## WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP

Bishop Fintan's recent invitation for our Diocese to join in a year of prayer, listening and discernment is a serious call to take the responsibility of our Baptismal calling in earnest and truly work together in partnership. Our parish had begun this work earlier in the year when we nominated people to our new Parish Assembly.

We joined the parishes of Carraig na bhFear and Glounthaune in the formation programme. Since then we have met monthly and discussed where as a parish we need to work to promote our faith and to continue with our faith development and formation.

It has been a busy year and together we continue to plan for the future. As a Family of Parishes we have taken part in the piloting of the process as part of the year of prayer, listening and reflection, that will be rolled out in all Families of Parishes in the New Year.

We are delighted to have worked on a new website for the Family of Parishes and we are very grateful for the sponsorship for this we received from the Knights of St. Columbanus. We are convinced that this will prove crucial to our continuing work of faith formation and outreach in this modern world.

Thank you to all the members of the Parish Assembly for their dedication and commitment and to our very successful and productive leadership team: Chairperson; John Desmond; Deputy chairperson Rose Carroll O'Mahony; Secretary, Margaret O'Connor and Assistant Secretary Ann O'Driscoll.

We wish all our parish every peace and blessing this Christmas and may the coming New Year be filled with positivity, hope and encouragement for all.

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## GLENVILLE MASS ROCK (*CARRAIG AN AIFRINN*)

The rosary and prayers are recited at the grotto every evening at 8pm. The grotto is dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes.

On May 17th, Fr Christy and Fr Sean Crowley concelebrated mass followed by a rosary and Divine Mercy prayers at Carraig an Aifrinn. Prayers were offered for all those studying and preparing for exams and making lifetime choices.

Mass was offered at the mass rock from 1691 to 1824 and people risked their lives to attend. The environment there is characterised by a profound sense of peace and tranquility. The beauty of the surroundings enhances the spiritual connection and allows everyone present to feel a deeper sense of reverence and reflection.

[www.parishestogether.ie](http://www.parishestogether.ie)

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## “THOSE WHO SING, PRAY TWICE.”

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The Watergrasshill and Glenville choirs have had a lovely year filling our churches with some beautiful music and are working on some lovely new music to build on their current repertoire.

Both choirs would love to welcome some new members, join in anytime!

Watergrasshill gallery underwent a revamp of new seating during the year which has allowed for much more space and comfort too.

The choirs in our parish are looking forward to singing over the upcoming Advent period and would love to hear you join from the congregation too!

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### Prayer for Exams

Dear Lord.

Give me the spirit to

prepare well.

Give me the spirit of wisdom

To choose the right questions.

Give me the spirit of reason

To answer to

The best of my ability.

Allow me do myself justice.

Help me be a source

of encouragement

to my classmates and friends.

Guide me through the days

Ahead and keep me always

In your care.

May Your love be upon us O Lord.

As we place all your trust in you.

Amen

## Examination Shrine



The Parish Assembly organised an Examination Shrine at the front of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Watergrasshill and St. Joseph's Church in Glenville.

This was an expression of solidarity and support for the young people of our parish who were undertaking Third Level Examinations during the month of May and the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate Examinations in June.

It contained various symbols as shown in the photograph as well as a beautiful 'Prayer for Exams'.

## DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Cork and Ross Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes took place this year 2024 from Friday 20 September to Wednesday 25 September.

Two plane loads plus 40 pilgrims including invalids took part.

The organizing committee did a wonderful job to ensure that everything was satisfactory. They produced a handbook with the details of all the ceremonies. It was so informative and well presented.

As Bishop Gavin pointed out in the introduction, a pilgrimage is different to going abroad on holiday. It is a journey of faith made in the company of others of the same faith.

It was wonderful to meet people from other countries and continents, to talk to them about their experience of that unique place that is Lourdes.

That experience is different for everyone, it is difficult to describe the feelings it engenders. I tell people who ask me that they have to go, to pray at the grotto to experience the peace and prayer.

The water ceremony is another must. This time it was so different to my previous visits. I worked as a helper then and loved in the afternoon to help in the baths. Everyone had to be immersed in the water, a shivering experience initially and then suddenly one was out and dry. Now water is poured into the hands to wash the face and hands while praying. More simple and more available for everyone.

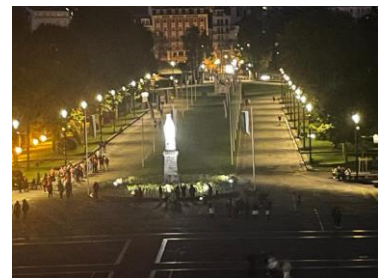
Mass was celebrated every day taking place in different locations. The mass at the Grotto took place on the Monday morning at 8.30 followed by the Stations of the Cross. There are high and low stations. For the high stations one has to be fit. The low stations are beautiful, are across the river from the grotto. It is possible to push the wheelchairs here as the ground is flat.

An amazing underground basilica was built to accommodate 30 thousand pilgrims in case of rain. It has a beautiful Calvary scene on the altar. Mass was celebrated there on Sunday mornings.

One of the highlights of Lourdes is the torchlight procession at 9pm every night. Cork and Ross led the procession one of the nights. We celebrated mass in the Poor Clare Monastery on the last day. We were sad to leave.

This pilgrimage would not have been possible without our helpers. They were Nurses, doctors, student nurses, college students, transition year students and general helpers from all walks of life. They are a marvelous group.

This is just a small overview of the few days we spent in that wonderful town in the South of France within sight of the Pyrenees - Lourdes - visited by Our Lady to St Bernadette in 1858.





## MINISTERS OF WORD AND EUCHARIST

Ministers of the Word and Eucharist are lay people who assist the priest in reading the Word of God and administering elements of Holy Communion – the consecrated bread and wine. These Ministries are greatly appreciated by Fr. Christy and also add to the involvement of laity in the mass.

Ministers are firstly commissioned by the Parish Priest and then receive training along with other Ministers from The Family of Parishes.

It is a hugely rewarding experience. If you would like to become a Minister of either The Word or Eucharist, then please let Fr. Christy know or speak of any existing Minister.

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## STATION MASSES



Station Masses have their origins in Penal times when mass needed to be said in a changing and secret location. This evolved into Station Masses whereby the parish was divided into station areas and where mass would be held in private homes with neighbours, family and friends present.

It is part of Irish culture and tradition and is a lovely opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist in your home and have your home and all in attendance, blessed. Light refreshments give an opportunity for an intimate gathering of family, friends and neighbours.

Bishop Fintan and Fr. Christy are both strong advocates of Home Station masses as evidenced by Bishop Fintan's celebration of a Station Mass in the home of Breda and Mossie Buckley in Doon Station area in 2024.

Station masses are also held in the Glenville and Watergrasshill Churches for those station areas where no station mass has occurred. It is open to all to attend and in Autumn of 2024, refreshments were made available in the Parish Rooms of each church after the Church Station Mass offering people an opportunity to gather and chat and even a song was had in Watergrasshill.

We would encourage all people to consider a mass in their homes which can also be a once off event.

## PILOT PROGRAM FOR YEAR OF DISCERNMENT

A year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment was launched by Bishop Fintan in October 2024. We are all asked to participate as we navigate towards new ways of carrying out the mission of the Church. The "Prayer from the Boat" is powerful in helping us navigate these new waters. Our family of parishes has also assisted in participating in a Pilot for this process and you will hear more about this process in the coming months.

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**THE PRAYER OF THE DIOCESE**  
**AS WE PRAY,**  
**LISTEN AND**  
**DISCERN**

