



# WATERGRASSHILL & GLENVILLE PARISH ASSEMBLY



Volume 2 Issue 1, June 2026

## PARISH WEBSITE

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

Stay connected with the latest news and events across our Family of Parishes and the Diocese through the parish website.

The website provides access to weekly newsletters for each parish, information on events, and a range of parish services. You can arrange baptisms and marriages, submit prayer requests, make donations to support your parish, or simply take time to read a reflection.

It is a valuable resource for keeping up to date with parish life and the wider activities of the Diocese

## FAMILY OF PARISHES COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Since the establishment of the Family of Parishes four years ago this September, we have been working together to foster unity and shared purpose. Our ongoing mission is to continue strengthening this sense of togetherness while exploring ways to further develop our work and ministry. Working collaboratively, priests and people alike, we aim to plan, support, and advance initiatives across the Family of Parishes.

Last autumn, it was agreed that the next step would be to bring together a group from the four parishes, working alongside the priests, to develop a more structured and consultative approach to how we operate as one Family of Parishes. This Coordinating Committee consists of three lay representatives from each Parish Assembly together with the priests, and it meets on a quarterly basis.

The committee began its work by addressing immediate pastoral needs, including the challenging task of reviewing and restructuring the Mass schedule. A new timetable was introduced to ensure a weekend Mass in each of the eight churches, while also removing any duplication of Mass times. While this process inevitably resulted in some disappointment across the parishes, change of this nature is never easy.

We are sincerely grateful for the way in which parishioners have embraced the revised schedule and continue to support it. As a result, many of our Masses across the parishes have seen a significant and very positive increase in attendance, with several churches now close to full capacity at weekend celebrations.

We now arrange events such as the Lenten Sunday Devotions to rotate each week among the four main parish churches. In addition, special parish celebrations are increasingly being organised and supported at Family of Parishes level. Examples include the Mass and Anointing of the Sick in February in Glanmire, Vocations Sunday in Watergrasshill, and the Exam Mass in Carraig an Aifrinn, Glenville.

We continue to plan ahead together, with input from each parish and regular feedback from the Coordinating Committee, which is reported back to each Parish Assembly by its representatives. We continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we work to grow and develop as a Family of Parishes.

## FORMATION OF NEW BAPTISM TEAM

The Parish Assemblies of Carraig na bhFear, Glounthaune and Watergrasshill & Glenville recruited people for training as members of Parish Baptism Teams. The formation took place over two nights in Glounthaune and was facilitated by Lorraine from the Office for Mission and Ministry and Fr. Christy. Fr. Christy then facilitated two further meetings for all the team in Glenville.

Our new team here in Watergrasshill & Glenville, will facilitate a monthly meeting for parents of upcoming Baptisms. Once a booking is made through the office the family will be given the date or dates of upcoming meetings available for them to attend. As well as giving parents information about their upcoming Baptism they also get the opportunity to meet other parents preparing their child/children for Baptism. We began this procedure in April, and it seems to be working well so far.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Sr. Lily, Rena Hennessy and John Desmond for the time and effort they gave to preparing families for Baptism over the last number of years.

The new Baptism team members are *Eleanor Buskiewicz, Kathleen Heffernen, Gillian Crowe, Rachel O'Donovan, Noelle Hannon and Anne O'Driscoll*

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## A LIFETIME OF FAITHFUL SERVICE –RETIREMENT OF SACRISTAN, TIMMY MANLEY

A special celebration took place on 30th May 2026 in Glenville, following evening Mass, to mark the retirement of long-serving sacristan Timmy Manley. The occasion was warmly attended by family, friends, parishioners, and members of The Legion of Mary and the wider community, with approximately 80 people gathering in the parish hall to enjoy some light refreshments and express their gratitude and appreciation for Timmy's many years of dedicated service.

Timmy has faithfully served as sacristan in the parish for many years, working alongside three parish priests over the course of his ministry: Fr. Cashman, Fr. Cotter, and Fr. Christy. His quiet commitment, attention to detail, and deep sense of care for the liturgical life of the parish have been greatly valued by all who have worked with him and benefited from his service.

During the celebration, a presentation was made to Timmy by Rose Carroll O'Mahony, on behalf of the Parish Assembly, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to parish life over many years. In a further gesture of appreciation, John O'Regan, on behalf of the Finance Committee, presented flowers to Timmy's wife, Noreen, in recognition of her support and companionship throughout his years of service.



Timmy expressed his sincere thanks to all who attended the celebration and who had supported him throughout his time as sacristan. In his remarks, he gave particular acknowledgment to Sr. Lily, thanking her for her constant support, encouragement, and guidance over the years, which he greatly appreciated.

The evening was marked by warmth, gratitude, and heartfelt appreciation for a man whose faithful service has left a lasting legacy in the parish community.



## FR. EMMANUEL IHOMON

📍 Place of Birth: Chanchanji, Takum Local Government Area, Taraba State, Nigeria

👨👩👧👦 Family: Four siblings (two brothers and one sister). Both parents are deceased.



### 🎓 Education & Formation:

- Primary education in Taraba State (age 7)
- St Peter's Minor Seminary, Yola (age 14 for 6 years)
- St Augustine's Major Seminary, Jos, Plateau State (9 years)

### 🏛️ Priestly Ministry:

- Ordained for the Diocese of Jalingo in 2011 (1 of 35 ordained)
- Later served in the Diocese of Wukari following the division of the diocese
- Began ministry in the Diocese of Cork and Ross in May 2025



### ✈️ Journey to Ireland:

Fr. Emmanuel accepted an invitation from Bishop Fintan Gavin through Bishop Mark Nzukwein to serve in the Diocese of Cork and Ross, fulfilling a long-held desire to visit Ireland and minister in Europe.

### 📖 Interests:

Teaching, reading and meeting people.

### 🌍 Life in Ireland:

While adapting to Ireland's cooler climate has been a challenge (normal temperature in Nigeria is 35°!), Fr. Emmanuel greatly enjoys life here and appreciates the warm welcome he has received from parishioners and fellow priests.

### 🚗 A Recent Achievement:

After arriving in Ireland, Fr. Emmanuel successfully obtained his Irish driving licence, a challenge he met with determination and good humour. Although he had 15 years' experience driving in Nigeria, he required lessons and a test for an Irish driving licence....and he *"almost ran out of the driving centre before they changed their minds!"*

### 🙏 Message of Thanks:

Fr. Emmanuel is deeply grateful for the kindness, support and welcome he continues to receive in the Family of Parishes of Glanmire, Glounthaune, Watergrasshill/Glenville and Carraig na bhFear.

## Support our examination students

Mass was recently celebrated in Carraig an Aifrinn, Glenville for students preparing to sit their state and university examinations.

In addition, the Parish Assembly arranged Examination Shrines in both Watergrasshill and Glenville churches.



## YEAR OF PRAYER, LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT

In September 2024, Bishop Fintan Gavin invited the people, clergy, religious and deacons of the Diocese of Cork and Ross to participate in a Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment, with the aim of reflecting on how God is calling us to be Church today.

Our Family of Parishes—Carrignavar, Glounthaune, Watergrasshill & Glenville, and Glanmire—piloted the process through three facilitated gatherings held in Upper Glanmire Community Hall during October and November 2024. Representatives from our Parish Assembly attended these sessions. These gatherings were facilitated by Eilís and Lorraine from the Office for Mission and Ministry.

The themes explored were:

- Baptism – Gateway to the Faith Community
- Eucharist – Nourishment for Mission
- Review of the Family of Parishes

Each session included prayer, Scripture reflection, discussion, presentations, and a Synodal process of listening and discernment. Participants reflected on how parish life and ministry might be strengthened and shared their insights with the wider group.

The gatherings were very thought provoking, they fostered meaningful dialogue, mutual learning and a strong sense of partnership among the parishes. The ideas gathered were submitted to the Diocese to help inform future pastoral planning.

A summary of the diocesan responses is available on the Cork and Ross diocesan website. <https://corkandross.org/pld/summary-of-responses-to-the-year-of-prayer,-listening-and-discernment>

## COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF DEVELOPMENT PAMOJA

At the suggestion of Fr. Christy, the Parish Assembly organized a fundraising event for Development Pamoja, the charity run by James Hennessy in rural Kenya.

It was a lovely occasion for the local community to come together, enjoy a chat and the hospitality provided by the members of the Parish Assembly and other volunteers.

Thanks to the generosity of all involved a total of €1,270 was raised on the day. These funds are being used to support Development Pamoja's sustainability projects focusing on healthcare, accessibility and educational resources.



James and his colleagues wish to thank Fr. Christy, members of the Parish Assembly and all those who contributed to making the morning such a resounding success.

## Parish Assembly

The Parish Assembly meets monthly, with the leadership team meeting twice monthly. We work closely with Fr. Christy and the other Parish Assemblies in our Family of Parishes to support and develop parish life.

Over the past year, initiatives have included establishing a new Baptism Team, facilitating Exam Shrines, creating the Easter Garden in Glenville Church, organising seasonal church displays, distributing Christmas and Easter envelopes, hosting a tribute to our retiring sacristan, and coordinating Holy Hours during Lent and on Mission Sunday. Plans are also underway to install shrines to Blessed Carlo Acutis in both churches. The Parish Assembly remains committed to nurturing faith, encouraging participation, and strengthening community within our parish and Family of Parishes.

Members of the Assembly are as follows: Fr. Christy, Anne Griffin, Anne O'Driscoll, Breda Forde, Eamon Sweeney, Eileen Dorgan, Elaine Cronin, John Desmond, Julia Herlihy, Kathleen Heffernan, Kathleen Murphy, Margaret O'Connor, Michelle Reidy, Noelle Hannon, Rachel Patton, Rena Hennessy, Rose Carroll O'Mahony.