



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

16th February 2025

Please pray The Rosary for a revival of faith & prayer in our homes and return to mass.



Rosary Monday to Friday Clonmellon 9.35am followed by Mass @ 10am



KILLALLON: Sun 10am: Anniv. Terence & Julia Farrelly & d.f.m.

CLONMELLON: Sun 11.30am: Anniv. Mary & John Keane

EAST DAYS THIS WEEK: Fri – St. Peter Damian Sat – Chair of St. Peter



KILLALLON: Sun 10am:

CLONMELLON: Sun 11.30am: M.M. Pat McGonagle M.M Maureen Sheerin, Anniv. D.F.M. Shaw family, Anniv. Elizabeth Flynn, Anniv. Eithne Plunkett

Ecumenical Service: Sunday 16th February in Castlepollard Catholic Church @5.00pm. Preacher – Bishop Martin Hayes (Kilmore)

Sacraments: **Confirmation Tue 25th March 3pm Clonmellon** **First Holy Communion Sun 11th May 11.30am Clonmellon**

Baptisms – 1st & 3rd Saturdays @ 11.00am in Clonmellon Church

Candlemas Offering List will be acknowledged next Sunday 23rd Feb.

Maintenance Fund Offerings can be made to the following A/C's - Clonmellon Church - IBAN. **IE40BOFI9031 97286027 91** and Priest Offering Envelopes - IBAN. **IE80 BOFI 9031 9777 1617 26**

Letter from Elaine Campbell, Director of Faith Development, Meath Diocese: I would like to inform you of 2 new Faith Formation initiatives that the Diocese would like to extend to parishes for delivery in Sept 2025. As I make my way around the Diocese, what has emerged from parish meetings is that adult faith formation is a priority. The 2 initiatives we would like to explore are: **Sycamore Adult Faith Formation Course:** Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. The Sycamore programme, gives people the space to meet others, think about the questions that matter, and explore their faith! And **Know, Love, and Live Your Faith, YouCat** 20-week Catechism Study Programme: The Diocese will hold two online information meetings for parishes to learn about these programmes. The purpose of which is to explain what each programme is about, what would be involved in delivering the programmes in your parish or grouping of parishes, and what training will be provided. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions. Details of online meetings are:

YouCat Information Meeting: Tuesday 18th February 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83696731979?pwd=DF0zUU12B1krahOKCahknaWewtlpgX.1>

Sycamore Information Meeting: Thursday 27th February 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89755427408?pwd=HRHWHC2W9dE051Jhrbu7tBuQo6yual.1>

Brownstown Drama-"Dance The Night Away"- Sun 16th Feb 3pm Adults €15 Students €10 children €5. You can pay at the door.

"Remembering the Holocaust & asking - Why?" by Fr. Billy Swan

On January 27 last, the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz was marked on Holocaust Memorial Day. It is a sombre annual commemoration that recalls one of the darkest periods of human history. Almost every year, the calls of 'Never Again' are made in speeches by political leaders and survivors. However, mature leadership must also ask the reasons why – why did the holocaust happen and what was the thinking behind the Nazi regime that gave us Auschwitz as a permanent reminder of man's inhumanity to man? Underpinning Nazi atrocities was an ideology where self-determination is absolute and can justify anything. Nazi ideology is a classic example from history of the human tendency to usurp the place of God as the ultimate arbitrator of what is good and what is right, what is right and what is wrong. For the Nazi mindset, nothing was off limits once it was done in the name of German interest. And all those who resisted their ideology or begged to differ were crushed or eliminated. Might was always right. And once you were powerful enough, you were not accountable to anyone. Human rights were not acknowledged but conferred by those who had that power. There was no such thing as innate human rights, human dignity or compassion. In Auschwitz, only those who were useful to the Nazis were allowed to live. The sick, the weak, the disabled and millions more were sent to the gas chambers. For all this to happen, God and any external moral obligations needed to be eliminated. In the words of GK Chesterton (1874-1936): "Once you abolish God, the government becomes God". Here is the ideology that allowed horrific crimes and human rights abuses to happen in Auschwitz and beyond. Does this philosophy that underpinned German National Socialism in the 20th century still exist today? Undoubtedly the answer is 'yes'. Does it have the potential to cause harm today as it did over 80 years ago? Absolutely, because any nation that dispenses with accountability and decides for itself what is right and what is wrong, who lives and who dies, who has rights and who doesn't, is a nation that not only poses danger to its own citizens but others as well. Reflecting on the Communist regime in Russia in the last century, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, famously said: "People have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened" (Templeton Address, 1983). Ideas have consequences. They lead somewhere and express themselves in concrete actions, good or bad. The Nazis removed the idea of a Creator God as a preamble to committing the most appalling crimes against humanity. And once God was eliminated, human rights lost their foundation and all was permitted. As we mark the 80th anniversary of the holocaust, let us not confine ourselves to emotional revulsion at what happened at Auschwitz but become less naïve about what happens when human beings remove God and play God instead.

– **Irish Catholic**