



Riverstown Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C | (*Laetare Sunday*)

Mar 29 / Mar 30, 2025

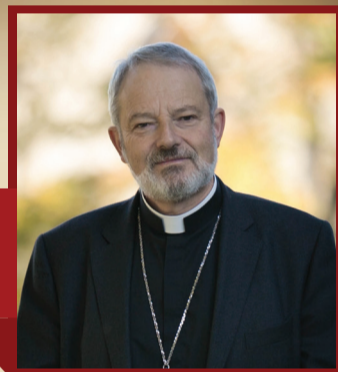


'HE WAS LOST AND IS FOUND'

(Luke 15: 32)

www.riverstownparish.com

Message from Bishop Kevin Doran to the Faithful of the Diocese of Elphin



Dear Friends,

Today, *Laetare Sunday*, I will be installed as Bishop of Achonry in the Cathedral of the Annunciation and St Nathy, Ballaghaderreen. This also marks the moment when our two dioceses of Achonry and Elphin are united "*in persona episcopi*" which is a Latin term meaning "in the person of the Bishop". This term is used by the Catholic Church to designate the union of two or more dioceses, under one bishop. This has also happened in recent years in the dioceses of Galway and Clonfert. The dioceses of Tuam and Killala are on a similar path.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son that we heard in the Gospel, begins with the words: "*A man had two sons...*" The parable is really more about the Father than about the Sons. In telling this story, Jesus wants us to notice the love that the Father has for each of his sons. He loves them both, he loves them equally, but he loves each of them in a unique way. I think the image of the Father, who stands on the doorstep waiting for one son, and goes out into the field to be close to the other, challenges each one of us, as sons and daughters, to grow into the image of the Father. As St. Paul says: "*For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here*".

As you will appreciate, the image of the Father who "has two sons", has a particular resonance for a Bishop who has two Dioceses. The mission of a Bishop, in the traditional language of the Church is to "teach", to "sanctify" and to "govern". I understand that, in order to do those three things, I must be open to "learning"; I must become more "holy" and "prayerful" and I must be "obedient", particularly to the Holy Spirit, to the Word of God and to the essential faith of the Church. As bishop, I am called to be a sign and a means of unity. Like the Father with the two Sons, it will be my responsibility to gather together the people of God. Each diocese still retains its own unique identity, but gradually over the coming years, while respecting the culture and the history and the unique gifts of each, our two dioceses of Achonry and Elphin will become one diocese. I would like to share with you a short message I received on behalf of Pope Francis last week which was not just for me but for all of us:

"His Holiness wishes to assure you of his prayers as you take up your episcopal ministry in the dioceses of Achonry and Elphin, united in persona episcopi, and cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing to you and to the faithful of the dioceses of Achonry and Elphin".

As I renew my commitment today to serve you, the people of our two Dioceses, I ask your prayers and your practical support in being the Bishop I am called to be.

Finally, on this Mother's Day, I would like to send my prayerful good wishes to all mothers across our two dioceses.

May God bless you all.

+Kevin

30th March 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Lent – *Laetare Sunday*

ROSARY IN SOOEY

A Special Rosary is held every Thursday at 02.30 pm in Soeey Church. Most welcome to attend the same. Those who cannot make it to the Church may join us on YouTube via the Parish Website www.riverstownparish.com

VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

I will be visiting the sick and housebound on Thursday, April 3rd in Riverstown/ Coolbock areas and on Friday, April 4th in Soeey/ Gleann areas.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY – SUNDAY, 30th MARCH

I would like to wish all mothers a very Happy Mother's Day this weekend. We remember all our mothers and grandmothers with love and gratitude this day, those who are living and those who have gone home to the Lord.

ROTA FOR ALTAR SERVERS

DATE	CHURCH	SERVERS			
Sat Mar 29 (08 pm)	Riverstown	Aoife Mc Garry	Kate Mc Morrow	Ruby Armstrong	Patrick Gilligan
Sun Mar 30 (11 am)	Soeey	Felix Subin	Christus Subin	Christopher Casey	
Sat April 05 (08 pm)	Riverstown	James Devaney	Saoirse Gilligan	Clodagh Galvin	Karl Galvin
Sun April 06 (11 am)	Soeey	Christopher Casey	Anna McMahon	Kare O'Brien	

ROTA FOR READERS

DATE	CHURCH	ADULT READER	CHILD READER
Sat Mar 29 (8 pm)	Riverstown		Shea Mc Grath
Sun Mar 30 (11 am)	Soeey	Phil Travers	Oisin Mc Tiernan
Sat April 05 (8 pm)	Riverstown	Geraldine Bruen	Maya Mc Keon
Sun April 06 (11 am)	Soeey	Brid Fallon	Felix Subin

A WORD OF EXHORTATION

I earnestly exhort all the children and young people of our Parish preparing themselves for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year to kindly come to the Weekend Masses either in Riverstown Church or in Soeey Church.

FIRST CONFESSIONS

First Confessions for the children of Ardkeeran NS will take place on Wednesday, 2 April at 7.30 pm in Riverstown Church, and of Kilross NS and Soeey NS on Thursday, 3 April at 7.30 pm in Soeey Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION DATES

The First Holy Communion Mass for the children of Ardkeeran National School will be celebrated in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Riverstown at 12 noon on Saturday, 10 May 2025. And the First Holy Communion Mass for the children of Soeey and Kilross National Schools will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, Soeey at 12 noon on Saturday, 17 May 2025.

Bishop Kevin will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at 3 pm on Thursday, 15 May 2025 in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Riverstown, for the young people of our Parish.

PARISH COLLECTION (RIVERSTOWN-SOOEY-GLEANN)

Saturday, 22nd March, Riverstown Church

Offertory Collection (Envelopes) - €472.00

Offertory Collection (Loose) - €122.40

Sunday, 23rd March, Soeey Church

Offertory Collection (Envelopes) - €526.00

Offertory Collection (Loose) - €166.50

Thank you for your continued support.

MASS OF CHRISM

Bishop Kevin invites you to attend the Mass of Chrism on Wednesday 16th April at 7.30 pm in St Anne's Church, Sligo (*note change of Church due to temporary closure of the Cathedral*). During the Mass, Bishop Kevin will bless and consecrate the oils used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and the Sick and the priests of the diocese will renew their commitment to their priestly ministry. All are very welcome to attend.

Mass Schedule

DAY / DATE	CHURCH	TIME	INTENTION
Sat Mar 29 Vigil Mass 4 th Sunday of Lent	Riverstown	08.00 pm	Greta Quinn and the deceased members of Quinn and Lyons families Mary Willis John Harte
Sun Mar 30 4 th Sunday of Lent	Soeey	11.00 am	Thomas and Margaret Taheny, and Bridget Taheny
Tue April 01 4 th Week of Lent	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Wed April 02 4 th Week of Lent	Soeey	10.30 am	
Thu April 03 4 th Week of Lent	Riverstown	10.30 am	
Fri April 04 4 th Week of Lent	Soeey	10.30 am	
Sat April 05 Vigil Mass 5 th Sunday of Lent	Riverstown	08.00 pm	Michael and Josephine Mullaney Mick, May and Johnny Dwyer
Sun April 06 5 th Sunday of Lent	Soeey	11.00 am	Rose Casey Pee and Alice Healy and the deceased members of Healy and Kerins families

 www.riverstownparish.com

PILGRIM PASSPORT FOR JUBILEE YEAR 2025

As part of the Jubilee Year 2025, a 'pilgrim passport' will be available at each of the three designated national sites (Knock Shrine, Croagh Patrick, Lough Derg), detailing the unique elements of the pilgrimage experience at each destination. The passport will be stamped upon completion of the pilgrimage at each location. Those who complete a pilgrimage to all three sites will receive a commemorative lapel pin in recognition of this achievement.

CATHOLIC MOTHERS IRELAND RETREAT DAY

Join us for a day of Spiritual Restoration, Inspiring Talks, Holy Mass, Prayer and Confession in Gillooly Hall, Sligo Town on SATURDAY 3rd MAY 2025. This all-day Retreat will run from 10 am – 6 pm. Email catholicmothers@outlook.ie for more information or to book your place.

PARKINSON'S FUNDRAISER

Come and join A WALK IN THE PARK for Parkinson's on 5th April 2025, at 11am in Doorly Park - starting from JFK Parade and ending with tea/coffee in the Riverside Hotel. REGISTER ON LINE AT www.parkinsons.ie or on the day at JFK PARADE, SLIGO.

ALONE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to provide companionship or make Friendly calls to an older person in your community? The commitment is just for 1 hour per week? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested, please sign up on www.alone.ie/volunteers/ For more information, contact Helena on Helena.madden@alone.ie

M-PACT – FAMILY SUPPORT

You don't have to be addicted to suffer from addiction! M-PACT, a FREE eight-week family support programme for the whole family, helping to improve relationships, communication and recovery. If interested or would like further information. Please contact 071 9150578 / 085 875 9319 or email sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.com M-PACT is a free service that is funded by Tusla. It offers support to all family members affected by parental substance misuse.

YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Young Adult Pilgrimage to Italy 29 July - 8 August 2025 with Bishop Kevin Doran. The pilgrimage is open to 18 - 35 year olds. The cost is €995 per person sharing and this includes flights, coach transfers, accommodation, Youth Jubilee with Pope Francis in Rome, 3 days on the St Columbanus Camino in northern Italy and day trip to Milan. All the details and how to book are available at www.achonrydiocese.org and www.elphindiocese.ie This is an inter-diocesan pilgrimage for young adults living in the dioceses of Achonry and Elphin; Galway and Clonfert.

ELPHIN & ACHONRY DIOCESAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

'Pilgrims of Hope' is the theme of Jubilee 2025. To mark this special year of faith, the Diocese of Elphin and the Diocese of Achonry will journey on pilgrimage to Rome from 22nd to 27th October, 2025. This 5 night pilgrimage, led by Fr. Tom Hever and Fr. Vincent Sherlock, promises to be a special time in Rome, visiting Vatican City and Rome's most important basilicas and religious sites. Price per person: €1499 on half board basis at centrally located hotel (€300 single room supplement). For bookings and enquiries: email info@joewalshstours.ie or phone Joe Walsh Tours: 01 241 0800.

ELPHIN DIOCESE SCRIPTURE INITIATIVE

Details of Elphin Diocese's Lenten Scripture Initiative are available at: www.elphindiocese.ie/luke Newcomers welcome at all centres.

FAITH ENRICHMENT JOURNEY FOR LENT

The Way of Gentleness, a faith enrichment journey for Lent, continues at St. Patrick's Church, Strandhill, Sligo on Mondays 31st March, and 7th April.

It can also be viewed online: churchservices-stpatricksstrandhill

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION FOR SOOEY SCHOOL

Sooey School is fundraising to purchase a piece of land beside the school. Tickets for a monster raffle will be on sale at Sooey Church this Sunday, 30th March. Tickets are €5 each or 5 for €20. Top prize worth €500. The draw will take place at Sooey's Got Talent on Sunday, 6th April in Castle Dargan Hotel. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

NOTES FOR NEWSLETTER

All submissions for inclusion in the Newsletter to be submitted by 12 midday on Thursday

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God bless you all!
Fr. Yashin