

Telephone: 053-9377319

Parochial House,

Main Street,

Bunclody.

13/1/2019

My dear people,

There have been remarkable changes for all of us in recent decades. Some are forced on us and some are necessary. In all the parishes of our diocese the bishop has asked for the reduction of masses in all parishes where possible. There has been a serious decline in vocations and even in this diocese there are a number of priests that have to serve three churches. The situation is going to become much worse within a few short years. It is anticipated that there will be parishes who have no parish priest of their own. The time has come for the whole church in the diocese to face reality and come up with the best answers to respond to the situation.

In the next couple of years the parish of Bunclody-Kilmyshall is facing a situation where there will be only one priest to serve the total parish. The Priests with the Pastoral Council have decided to reduce the number of masses by two and so make it possible for one priest to meet the sacramental needs of the parish in the future. We are proposing a number of options in relation to mass times and you will have the opportunity to vote on those options next week.

We are very conscious that change is not easy for any of us. None of us like being disturbed from our comfort zones. But a bleak future will make these changes inevitable. It will, of course, be possible for us all to accommodate to these changes. However, it will call for faith and goodwill and a readiness to become more involved in the future ministry of the church. The day is approaching when lay people in the parish will at least perform graveside services and removal to church services of deceased. They will also, with the permission of the local bishop, celebrate baptisms. Laity will also bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound of the parish. As time goes on there will be need for other lay ministries to serve the pastoral needs of the people of the parish.

We are now faced with the first critical decision to reduce masses and so accommodate one priest serving the needs of the whole parish. Next weekend we offer you options on mass times proposed by the Parish Pastoral Council that give you the possibility of choosing the times that suit best. Voting Papers will be left in your seats with pens or pencils that will help you to indicate your own choices. I would like you to give serious consideration to these options during the week. The following are the proposals:

Saturday Night in Bunclody:	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	7:00p.m.
No Evening Mass in Kilmyshall			
Morning Masses			
Bunclody	9:00 a.m.	Kilmyshall	10:30 a.m.
Bunclody	9:30 a.m.	Kilmyshall	11:00 a.m.
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.Kilmyshall	9:30a.m.	Bunclody	11:00 a.m.

With very best wishes,

Fr. Laurence O'Connor P.P.