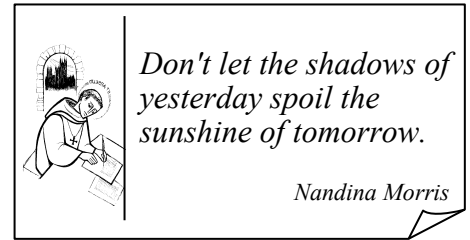
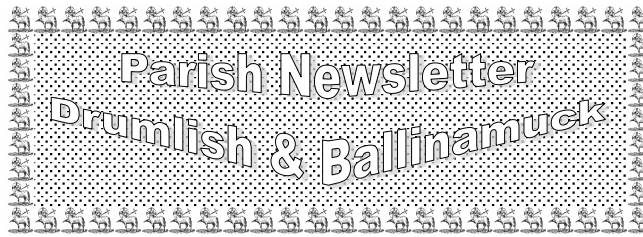
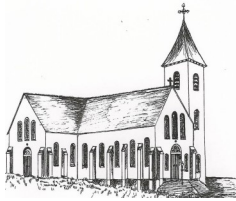


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4th Sunday of Easter Year A (Vocations Sunday) — 7th May 2017

**Mass Intentions—St. Mary's Drumlish**

Sat 8.00: Kathleen Ledwith  
Sun 11.00: Lá na gClub 2017  
Mon 9.30: Misa Pro Populo  
Tue 9.30: Rogers Dfm, Gaigue  
Fri 8.00: Eamon Mulleady, Cloonaugh  
Sat 11.00: First Holy Communion  
8.00: Stephen Colreavy, MM, Cloonaugh  
Maura Teague & Dfm, Currabawn  
Sun 11.00: No Intention

**Mass Intentions—St. Patrick's Ballinamuck**

Sun 10.00: Desmond Keenan, Gaigue  
Fri 7.00: Thomas Sheeran & dfm, Lettergeeragh  
Sun 10.00: Mae & Michael Carey

**Ministries—St. Mary's Drumlish**

Readers Sat: Shane Hagan  
Sun: Kathleen Dunleavy  
Communion Sat: Joe Caldwell  
Sun: Marian McNally

**Ministries—St. Patrick's Ballinamuck**

Readers Sun: Ryan Forde  
Communion Sun: Ryan McGee

**Money Matters**

Drumlish €927, Shrine €266; Flowers €100  
Ballinamuck €347, Trócaire €120  
Priests Dues €73. Thank you.

**Parish Census 2017**

The Parish Pastoral Council, with the help of other volunteers will drop in 'Parish Census 2017' forms to all households over the next two weeks. We ask you to complete the forms and return them directly the Parochial House, Drumlish or give them to any member of the Parish Pastoral Council by the end of May. Names of the Parish Pastoral Council are at the back of the form. Thank you for your cooperation.



- **Bingo** continues every Tuesday night in 98 Hall at 8.30pm.
- **Rally for Life:** This year is taking place in Dublin city centre on Saturday 1st of July at 2pm. An event not to be missed for young and old to celebrate and protect life, especially our precious 8th Amendment. Put it in the diary! Call 086-8775036 for info on buses from Longford.
- **Married couples** are invited to an information night on Thursday 11th May at 8pm in The Family Centre (behind St Mel's Cathedral) to learn more about Teams Of Our Lady and bringing this ministry to Longford. For more information see [www.equipes-notre-dame.ie](http://www.equipes-notre-dame.ie)
- **The Irish Church Music** is trying to establish centres around the country to try and reach out to those who cannot attend its annual Summer School in Maynooth. Its second gathering of 2017 will take place in the Pastoral Centre, Cavan on Tuesday, 16 May, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.
- **Pilgrimage Season at Knock Shrine:** Fr Richard Gibbons and staff are delighted to announce the opening of the official pilgrimage season at Knock from Sunday 30th April. Masses and Ceremonies will take place daily. Visit [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie).
- **Anam Cara**, the national organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Wednesday 10th of May from 19:30 to 21:30 in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. This is a free event open to all bereaved parents. To confirm numbers, please RSVP to [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) before Tuesday 9th May or call 01 4045378.
- **A six week Healthy Eating Cookery** class begins in the Community Centre, Drumlish—for details contact Romie Wallace at 0872171109
- **Irish Blood Transfusion Service** will be in the Longford Arms Hotel on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week from 4.30 to 8.00 p.m.
- **Ballinamuck ICA Guild** meeting will take place on Monday night, 8th May at 8.30 p.m. in the 98 Hall. All members please attend.

• **Monaduff Social Club:** The day trip to Dublin is on Wednesday 24th, May. The €45 cost per person is needed now for booking purposes. Please contact a committee member. The bus will leave from Ballinamuck at 8.30 and from Drumlish at 8.45.

**Baptism**

Makayla Camilia Gormley d/o Barry & Carmel, Cloonaugh was baptised and welcomed into our faith family last weekend. Congratulations to all.

**First Holy Communion**

Congratulations to the children of Ballinamuck N.S. who made their First Holy Communion. Many thanks to their parents and teachers for the work done in preparing them for this great day. The following made their Communion:



Donnacha Russell James Hourican  
Dáire Francis Mealy Kailum Leahy  
Finbar Thomas Chloe Quinn

Note: First Communion in St. Mary's Drumlish next Saturday at 11 a.m.

**Parish Catechist & Parish Deacon**

As we reflect on vocations to priesthood this week, we also reflect on the recent call by Bishop Francis Duffy re: Parish Catechists and Deacons. Further information on the Ministry of Parish Catechist is available from Fr. Nigel Charles, Boherquill, Lismacaffrey, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. 043 6685847, email: [nigelcharles2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelcharles2003@yahoo.co.uk). Further information on the Order of Deacon is available from Fr. Aidan Ryan, Ballinahown, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. 0906430124. Email: [aidanryan@eircom.net](mailto:aidanryan@eircom.net). See notice board in the Churches.



**Vocations Sunday**

Today is Vocations Sunday. We refer you again to the recent pastoral letter from Bishop Francis Duffy about the critical shortage of priests over the next ten years. In a society, where our Catholic faith and traditions are continually mocked and undermined by a hostile media, aided and abetted by our political system in pursuance of a more secular state, the call to priesthood is ever more challenging. It makes sense only in the context of faith in Jesus Christ, the promise of redemption and the Easter mystery. *"Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community.... This is why Jesus said: "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest," that is, God the Father, "to send out labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38). Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit."* [Pope Francis]

**The Challenge of Priestly Life**

If the priest preaches more than ten minutes, he is too long-winded.  
If his sermon is short, he too easy-going.  
If the parish funds are low, he's a bad businessman.  
If he mentions money, he's too grasping.  
If he visits his parishioners, he's never home.  
If he doesn't, he's snobbish and aloof.  
If he runs bazzaars and plays, he's bleeding the people.  
If he doesn't, the parish is lacking social life.  
If he takes time in the confessional, he's too slow.  
If he doesn't, he has no time for people.  
If he starts Mass on the minute, his watch is fast.  
If he's a bit late, he's holding up the congregation.  
If he decorates the church, he's spending too much.  
If he doesn't, he's letting parish run down.  
If he's young, he's inexperienced.  
If he's old, he should retire.  
If he dies, there will never be his equal again.