



Announcement concerning Changes to the Pastoral Area Mass Schedule

Good morning (evening). My name is _____. I am a member of the Greystones and Kilquade Parish Pastoral Council.

In June 2022, the Diocesan's Building Hope Parish Gathering Initiative was held. We were all invited to come and discuss the Framework for Pastoral Renewal.

Your feedback was heard and fed back to the Diocese and locally taken on board by the Parish Pastoral Council.

Following this, the Diocese provided each Parish with a framework to examine Mass schedules in the light of the changing needs and the availability of Priests.

This was an exercise in being prepared for change.

In this exercise, the PPC considered how to address two areas of urgency:

1. How can we meet the needs of our parishioners with fewer Priests and indeed since we embarked on this process, Fr. Gerard has been reappointed and will not be replaced.
2. How can we better respond to the needs of young families in our Parishes?

In doing this, we tried to ensure that our Priests should not be overburdened, given the pastoral demands of the Parish communities, specifically, the number of baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other priestly duties performed on weekends and weekdays.

Over the past number of years, there has been an increase in the number of young families with children seeking sacramental preparation. We are delighted to see an increase in the attendance at the monthly Family Mass in St. Anthony's Church, Kilcoole.

Based on these considerations, I'm here today to inform you of changes to the Pastoral Area Mass Schedule beginning the first weekend in November.

There is no perfect schedule, it will require all of us to accept changes with understanding, and a commitment to the good of the entire Pastoral Area faith community.

There will be 8, instead of the current 10, weekend Masses in the new Mass Schedule beginning on the first weekend in November which is Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th November.

One Saturday Vigil Mass for the Pastoral Area:

- 6pm in St. Anthony's Church, Kilcoole

Sunday morning Masses:

- 8:30am in St. Joseph's Church, Newtown
- 10am in St. Kilian's Church, Blacklion
- 10am Family Mass every Sunday in St. Anthony's Church, Kilcoole
- 11:30am in The Holy Rosary Church, Greystones
- 11:30am in St. Joseph's Church, Newtown
- 12pm in St. Patrick's Church, Kilquade

One Sunday evening Mass for the Pastoral Area

- 6:30pm in The Holy Rosary Church, Greystones



Please note, with the new schedule, there will be one Saturday evening Vigil Mass for the entire Pastoral Area which will be celebrated in St. Anthony's Church, Kilcoole at 6pm.

This means that from the first weekend in November, there will be no Saturday evening Vigil Mass in the following 3 churches:

- St. Joseph's Church Newtown
- The Holy Rosary Church Greystones and
- The Holy Spirit Oratory, Newcastle.

As you can see from the new schedule, The Holy Spirit Oratory in Newcastle will no longer be used for weekend Mass, but it will continue to be used to meet the spiritual needs of our Pastoral Area.

These changes to the Mass Schedule will

- require travel to a Mass centre for Priests and Parishioners.
- provide a selection of Mass times across the Pastoral Area.
- address the needs of the entire Pastoral Area.

The Parish Pastoral Council recognises these changes may be difficult. However, this is a first step of many that may be needed in the coming years.

It will require all of us to step back from our own situation and understand the need to allocate resources to help sustain and build up a vibrant faith community.

During this year dedicated to "Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood", we pray with gratitude for the dedication of the Priests in our Pastoral Area and continue to pray for new vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood.

We pray also for each of us to live out our baptismal calling and to become actively involved in the life of our Christian communities through various ministries.

The new schedule will be posted on the website, Calling You e-letter, and on church notice boards.

If people would like a copy of the new schedule, these will be available after Mass.

(Thank you.)

PPC Member – please include this at the end of the above announcement in the following churches: The Holy Spirit Oratory, St. Joseph's Church, St. Anthony's Church, or The Holy Rosary Church. Thank you.

For people involved in ministries at masses where changes will take place, we recognise this will also be a change for you in terms of where and when you minister.

As a person in ministry in The Holy Spirit Oratory, St. Joseph's Church, St. Anthony's Church, or The Holy Rosary Church, you are invited to continue your valued ministry. Please contact your Ministry Co-Ordinator to explore how that may be facilitated at another location or time.

Thank you.