



## Good Shepherd Sunday (April 26)

Welcome to the first edition of "Into the Deep" an electronic newsletter from the Diocese of Killaloe. We hope to produce this ezine periodically to share good news from across the Diocese as well as offering liturgical and pastoral resources that may be helpful for the Pastoral Areas.

This first issue will focus on the upcoming day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood. It has been said that the two most important days in a person's life are the day they are born and the day they discover the purpose for which they were born. Endeavoring to discover God's will for us, to discover the purpose for which we are created, is at the heart of every vocation. The Church's interest is in helping each individual to discern and follow God's true will because finding that and living that out will

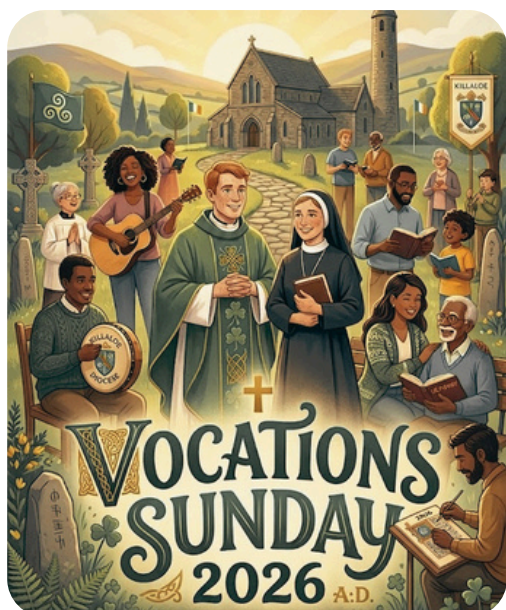
give us the greatest measure of happiness that we can expect in life. In the words of Saint Catherine of Siena; "If you are what you should be; you will set the world on fire."

If you have ever considered the priestly or religious life to be attractive, then do talk to someone about it and tease it out. Talk with a priest or religious that you may know or contact our Killaloe Diocesan Director of Vocations – Fr. Michael Geraghty.

The communications team of the Diocese would like to invite you to make contributions and suggestions for future issues. If you would like to share photos, contact us or make submissions you can email us at

[communications@killaloe-diocese.ie](mailto:communications@killaloe-diocese.ie)

We look forward to hearing from you.



## A Prayer for Vocations

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provideministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve the Church of Killaloe as priests Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people.

May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may announce glad tidings to the poor proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free and renew the face of the earth. Amen



## Ordination of Ian Cunningham OFM

Ian, a native of Ennis was educated in Ennis National School, St Flannan's College, St Patrick's College Maynooth and in 2017 he joined the Franciscan Order.



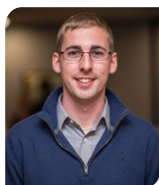
Ian Cunningham OFM

He did his Postulancy in Ennis, his Novitiate in Killarney and after making his first profession in Ennis, he continued his studies in Rome and completed CPE in Cork. Last September Ian made his final profession as a Franciscan in Ennis and in November last in the Poor Clare Monastery, Nuns Island, he was ordained a Deacon. He has ministered as a Deacon in the Cathedral in Galway since his ordination. On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May in the Friary in Ennis he will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Fintan.

## Newsletter Insert for Vocations Sunday

A World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life.

We currently have two seminarians and one candidate preparing to enter to study for the Diocese of Killaloe. Please keep them in your prayers in a special way.



Mark Nestor  
(Ennis)



Brian Tuohy  
(Tulla)



## Pope Leo XIV – Message for Vocations Sunday

Pope Leo XIV has released his message for the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which falls this year on April 26, the fourth Sunday of Easter, also called "Good Shepherd Sunday." The Pope called the day "an occasion of grace in which we share some reflections on the interior dimension of vocation, understood as the discovery of God's free gift that blossoms in the depths of our hearts."

He also called it an opportunity to "explore together the truly beautiful path of life along which the Shepherd guides us." The Pope invited everyone, "families, parishes, and religious communities, as well as bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, educators, and all the faithful," to commit themselves more fully to creating conditions that allow this gift to be embraced, nourished, protected, and accompanied so that it may bear abundant fruit. You can read the full text of the Holy Father's message here:



<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/vocations/documents/20260316-messaggio-vocazioni.html>

## Jubilarians 2026 – Killaloe Diocese

# JUBILARIANS 2026



WE GIVE THANKS FOR THEIR LIFELONG COMMITMENT AND TIRELESS SERVICE TO OUR DIOCESE.



Canon Séamus Mullin  
Platinum - 70



Séamus Gardiner  
Sapphire - 65



Tim O'Brien  
Diamond - 60



Gerry Kenny  
Golden - 50



Pat O'Neill  
Golden - 50



Tom Hannon  
Golden - 50



Tony Casey  
Ruby - 40



James Michael  
Tin - 10



Jofin Jose  
Tin - 10



## Pastoral Area News



Warm congratulations to the students of John Paul II (JP II) in the Brendan Pastoral Area for their outstanding participation in the Holy Week ceremonies. Their reverent involvement and active presence added great beauty and meaning to these sacred celebrations, reflecting a deep spirit of faith and commitment within our young people.



The Abbey Pastoral Area have organised a blessing for the Gift of New Life for all expectant parents in St. Mary's Church, Quin on Tuesday 12th May at 8.30pm.



Bishop Fintan was delighted to join the wonderful group of Ennis Tidy Towns, lending his support to their dedicated efforts in keeping the town looking splendidly tidy. His presence highlighted the importance of community spirit and shared responsibility in caring for our local environment.

## Prayers of the Faithful for Good Shepherd Sunday

Celebrant

Let us seek the loving care of our Good Shepherd as we present the needs of our Church and world.

1. For all who belong to the Catholic Church – that everyone may tirelessly give witness to their faith, hope and love in Jesus, the Good Shepherd who never leaves his flock untended. Lord, hear us
2. For the children receiving their first Holy Communion in the coming weeks – with their families may they grow to appreciate this sacred gift and learn how to share their lives with God and the parish community. Lord, hear us
3. For young men and women; That God may give them the gift of understanding to discern their service in the Church, the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life; And for the gift of courage to follow His call. Lord, hear us.
4. For those contemplating a vocation as a priest, religious brother or sister – may they trust the promptings of the Holy Spirit and explore the possibilities such a vocation might hold for them. Lord, hear us.
5. For our diocesan seminarians and all involved with their academic and pastoral training in Maynooth, may they feel the support of our prayers as they generously respond to the call of the Good Shepherd to lead his people. Lord, hear us
6. For our deceased relatives and friends; in particular, we recall the priests and religious who once worked in our parish – may God in his loving mercy, grant them eternal peace in Heaven. Lord, hear us.

Celebrant

Loving God, we know of your gentle care for us. We trust that you will give us what we need. Shepherd us to follow in your ways now and forever. Amen



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