



Weekend Mass Schedule

Fr. Gerry Powell P.P. 4 Holy Mount Road Laurencetown Craigavon BT16 6AT Tel: 096 24236 Fax: 096 25440	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Masses</th> <th>Saturday</th> <th>Sunday</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Laurencetown</td> <td>6.00pm</td> <td>10.00am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gilford</td> <td>—</td> <td>11.00am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clare</td> <td>7.30pm</td> <td>—</td> </tr> </table>	Masses	Saturday	Sunday	Laurencetown	6.00pm	10.00am	Gilford	—	11.00am	Clare	7.30pm	—	Fr. Martin Mc Donagh C.S.Sp. 2 Howe's Hill Road Gifford Craigavon BT16 6AJ Tel: 096 28 831 56
Masses	Saturday	Sunday												
Laurencetown	6.00pm	10.00am												
Gilford	—	11.00am												
Clare	7.30pm	—												

Weekday Mass Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
L'wren	7.30pm	—	7.30pm	10.00am	9.30am
Gilford	—	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am

ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Masses
Sat 7th 6.00pm	Maureen O'neil
Sun 8th 10.00am	Dw' d members of the O'Hagan Family James & Ellen Byrne
Mon 9th 7.30pm	Special Intention
Tues 9th 10.00am	Special Intention
Sat 14th 6.00pm	Patry Feeney & Pat Feeney
Sun 15th 10.00am	—
Sun 15th 11.30am	Gilford James & Mary Ellen Delaney Dw' d members of the Delaney family Adrian Kennedy
Mon 9th 10.00am	Bernadette Heald
Sun 15th 11.30am	Elaine O'neil Dw' d members of the O'neil family James Eide Doyle & Owen Doyle
Sat 7th 7.30pm	Class Kathleen McManus Arthur & Katie Tomlin
Sat 14th 7.30pm	John Brady (M.M)

Confessions
Laurencetown Saturday 2.15 - 2.45 pm
Gifford Sunday 10.45 - 11.15 am

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

	L'wren	Gilford	Clare
Sat 7th	T. McCann	—	—
Sun 8th	J. Campbell	B. Sucke	A. O'Keefe
Sat 14th	C. McCann	—	D. O'Keefe
Sun 15th	R. McCann	K. Coonan	—

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
In Gifford each Sunday during Lent 2.00pm - 5.00pm
It is very important to complete the list at the back of the Chapel, at least 1 person per 15 min period is required for the adoration.

Important Dates
Service of Light - Tuesday 10th March at 7pm in Gifford
Sacrament of Confirmation
Laurencetown - Friday 20th March 2009 at 6pm
Cemetery Sunday - Sunday 24th May 2009
Laurencetown 2.30pm & Clare 4.00pm

Collection 01.03.2009

L'wren	Clare	Gilford	Total
£292.80	£199.90	£680.32	£1173.02

The T.L.C. Group would like to thank everyone who supported their recent raffle and sale. Special thanks to Maria Byrne (Lisago Valley Hospital), George Agnew (Craigavon Area Hospital) and Adrian McGrath (Paramedic) who came along to accept the bouquets, blankets and teddies. A total of £1,175.00 was raised and this money is going direct to St. Bernadette who will use it money to buy trackouts and pyjamas for the HIV/AIDS orphans at Dicksyow. St. B's parents and brother are visiting her in March and will bring the money with them. St. B has promised to take lots of photos for the website.

"The winter is coming and they will need these clothes... truly let the people know my heart is deeply touched at their generosity, time and other contributions. They are the BEST! I'm getting too excited now. St. Bernadette"

Appeal for Laurencetown Church

When we look at the church in Laurencetown and its deteriorating condition we need to look back at its history and the great personal difficulties Catholics of this area had in building it. From the Rebellion of 1641 through the Cromwellian Period (1649-1660) and following the passing of the Penal laws 1695-1697 Catholics in this parish attended mass at "Mass Rocks" in secluded places at Holy Mount, Clare, Bleary, Newmills and Knocknagore. Tradition tells how the Catholic people of the district were assembling for Mass in the open air at the Mass Rock at Holy Mount on a cold winter morning with snow covering the ground when Mr Lawrence (after whom Lawrence town is called), his wife and daughter observed this pathetic sight. His daughter, feeling sorry for the hardships to which Catholics were exposed asked her father to do something for them. When asked what he was expected to do she suggested that they should be given the "old flailing or threshing house" located just where we are now near the bridge. The request was duly granted. Then from about 1750 this building was used for mass and for administration of the sacraments. By 1847 this building was recognised by all creeds as a "Roman Catholic Chapel".

After 1771, Catholics could take out leases on property, so on 12th April 1790, Fr. Hugh O' Kelly later to become Bishop of Dromore, secured a lease on the present Church site here in Coose, Laurencetown. The Parish had now legal ownership of a church and cemetery. Making many sacrifices, Fr O' Kelly and the parishioners built a new and larger church measuring 64 ft by 32 ft. By 1834, with the new industries on the River Bann, the Catholic population increased and so an extension was built. This consisted of breaching the southern side wall and building a projection measuring 32 ft wide by 25 ft long about 9 ft high. It cost the princely sum of £150 and the Church could now accommodate 750 people.

In 1868/70 a wooden belfry was erected at the rear and northern end of the Church. A new tower and belfry was constructed in 1912 at a cost of £2000.

On 30th April 1966, the Church was reopened after extensive renovations including a new and raised roof, projecting confessionals and baptistry, a new sanctuary, sacristy, gallery and committee room at the rear. Total cost £40,000.

Now in 2009, essential repairs to the roof valleys and parapets, new ceiling and interior and exterior painting are deemed urgent. The project has been approved by the Bishop and Diocese and will cost approximately £114,000.

For 260 years, present and past generations have by their devotion and hard work contributed generously to the development of our three churches through very difficult times. That is the enduring spirit of the people of this parish. As you see they had to endure many hardships and tribulations over that period. With a debt of approximately £450,000 there is no doubt that parishioners will rally once more to the cause now, and in the years ahead. I would like to thank those parishioners who have contacted me with promises of financial help. A passionate appeal is made to the many, sadly, some of whom are young workers who, perhaps, could and don't contribute, to assist their fellow parishioners by giving a little to the weekly collections and therefore making the burden that little bit lighter for all. We also appeal to former parishioners living in other parishes or abroad.

The work will begin in the first week of June and will take ten weeks to complete. During that time the church will be closed. The weekend masses will be celebrated in St. Colman's Bann Primary School and the weekday masses in the Den. Funerals and Baptisms will be celebrated in the Clare and Gifford. Let us proceed with faith and hope assisted by the prayers of past generations who lived through very difficult times. Thank you.

Gerald Powell
Parish Priest
28 February 2009