



**PARISH OF MULLINGAR**  
Cathedral of Christ the King,  
St Paul's Church,  
Walshestown, Brotenstown, Gainstown  
[www.mullingarparish.ie](http://www.mullingarparish.ie)

**Priests of the Parish**

Fr Padraig McMahon, Adm, VF  
Fr Joseph Naikarakudy  
Fr Robert McGivney  
Fr Paul Crosbie  
Fr Ciprian Solomon

**Parish Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 9am-5pm  
(Lunch 1-2pm) Tel: 044 9348338  
Email: [office@mullingarparish.ie](mailto:office@mullingarparish.ie)

**Vigil Mass (Saturday)**

Cathedral: 6pm

**Sunday Mass Times**

Cathedral: 8.30am, 11am, 12.30pm  
St. Paul's: 10.30am, 12noon  
Walshestown: 9am  
Brotenstown: 10am  
Gainstown: 11am

**Daily Mass this week**

7.45 & 10am Cathedral Mon—Sat

**Collections last weekend:**

Cathedral: €3,829  
St Paul's: €1,416 Thank  
Walshestown: €170 You!  
Brotenstown: €156  
Gainstown: €191  
Parish Envelopes: €1,513

**This weekend:**

Each parish in the diocese makes an annual payment to diocesan offices for the provision of various services. The collection at all Masses will go towards this payment. Thank you.



**Christian Unity Week 18—25 January**  
We will host an ecumenical prayer service for Christian unity **tonight at 7.30pm in St Paul's Church**. All are welcome to attend.

**Catholic Schools Week** begins on 29 January. Principals, teachers and parents are reminded that a set of online resources for Catholic Schools Week is available at [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie).

Next Sunday Bishop Denis Nulty will be the chief celebrant and preacher at Mass to mark the opening of Catholic Schools Week. This Mass will be broadcast by RTÉ on radio and television from the Church of Saints Peter & Paul, Portlaoise.



**Parish Preparation for the Sacraments**  
Parents of children receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist for the First Time and Confirmation are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday 1st February at 7.30pm in the Cathedral.

**Statement from Catholic management on school enrolment:**  
"The issue the Minister for Education is proposing to address only occurs in the small number of schools that are oversubscribed. The vast majority of Catholic schools are not oversubscribed and enrol all applicants. Reforms to admissions policies will do nothing to alleviate the shortage of school places: only extra school places can achieve that."

**Envelope boxes** are now available from the Parish office for distribution to the different areas and townlands. We need volunteers to help deliver the boxes and we would appreciate the help of those who have previously assisted us with this work. If you are willing to help, please contact the Parish Office.

**Prayer for the Beatification of Alfie Lambe**

O God who by your infinite mercy inflamed the heart of your servant, Alphonsus Lambe, with an ardent love for you and for Mary our Mother; a love which revealed itself in a life of intense labour, prayer and sacrifice for the salvation of souls, grant, if it be your will, that we obtain, by his intercession, what we cannot obtain by our own merits. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Reading the Gospel of St Matthew at Sunday Masses in 2017**

Our new liturgical year, with Matthew's Gospel at the centre, began on the first Sunday of Advent. However, our continuous reading of that Gospel really starts this Sunday. The passage chosen is taken from chapter 4. It offers us the foundational proclamation of Jesus and the start of the mission.

Such an opening scene provides a moment look at Matthew's Gospel so as to help us engage with it over the next 10 months or so. For this Gospel, the relationship with the mother religion, Judaism, is crucial. The evangelist presents Jesus and his message against a rich background of major figures and themes of the Old Testament: Abraham, Moses, David, many prophets, Psalms, the Exodus, the Exile, righteousness and so forth. While profoundly rooted in Judaism, *something has happened* because this Gospel can be starkly negative about the mother faith, particularly in its criticism of the hypocrisy of Jewish leaders.

So what did happen? The most probable scenario is that the group of Christians around Matthew broke away from the Jewish faith. This first Christians claim to be the authentic faith, giving a true interpretation of the ways of God and the law of Moses.

It is likely that a major literary project such as Matthew's Gospel took place in a large and wealthy urban context. Only in Matthew's gospel do we find this verse: "*So his fame spread throughout all Syria*" (Matt 4:24) Many scholars conclude that the Gospel was written in Antioch in Syria. At the time, Antioch was the third largest city of the Roman Empire with a very large Jewish population.

As we read from this "Syrian" Gospel, we should remember the present-day Christians in Syria, people who risk life and livelihood to preserve the same faith, first recorded by Matthew.

**Sing praise to our Creator, Praise the holy Trinity, O sons of Adam's race Undivided Unity; God's children by adoption, Holy God, mighty God, baptized into his grace. God immortal, be adored**

Now praise the Holy Spirit poured forth upon the earth; who sanctifies and guides us, confirmed in our rebirth.



**Mass Intentions next week**

**Monday:** 7.45am: Thomas Molloy.  
10am: Bridie & Tom Smyth  
**Tuesday:** 7.45am: Margaret O'Donnell.  
10am: Jack & Kathleen O'Callaghan & family.  
9.15am: Thomas, Annie & Harry Moody.  
**Wednesday:** 7.45am: Kay & Martin Bartley.  
10am: Frank Geraghty.  
9.15am: Angela & Benny Hoey.  
**Thursday:** 7.45am: Joe & Tommy Kelly.  
10am: Owen Morris.  
9.15am: Michael, Jane & Kevin Healy.  
**Friday:** 10am: Thomas, Annie & Harry Moody.  
**Saturday** 7.45am: Patrick Corrway.  
10am: Anniversaries Occurring.  
6pm Vigil: Eileen Flynn, Ashe Road (1st Ann)  
**Next Sunday** 11am: Teresa Forde, Harbour View (1st Ann) St Paul's 10.30am: Joe Neville, Monilea (M.M.) 12noon: Kate Weir, Ballinderry (M.M.)  
Walshestown 9am: Billy, William & Mary Connolly. Brotenstown: Paul Killian.  
Gainstown 11am: Tony & Maureen Cleary.

**Mullingar Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** with Fr Padraig, 22 - 27th May. Booking forms & details from Parish office.



**We welcome these children who were recently baptised:** Tadhg Whelehan, Tralee; Jamie O'Callaghan, Woodlands & Aleigha Keenan, Dalton Park.

**TEAM** Valentines Ball in aid of TEAM 11th February, Greville Arms Hotel, tickets available from TEAM shop, Mount Street.

**Pilgrimage to San Giovanni, Assisi & Padua,** 25th September, for details contact Mary 087-6336513.

**Grow,** Community Mental Health Movement, meet every Tues 7.30pm, 1428 Club, Harbour St.

**REST IN PEACE**

**Ann Dougan,** Balgarrett  
**May Crowley,** Knockdrin  
**Patrick Scally,** Friars Mill Rd  
**Kevin Reilly,** St Anthony's Cottages