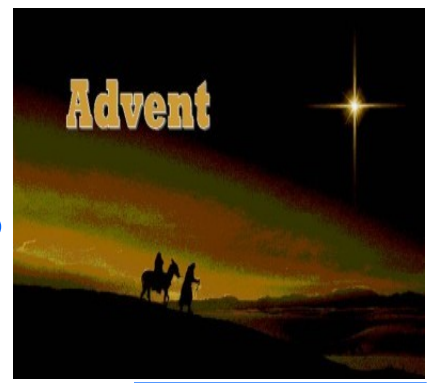


PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th December 2023

Second Sunday of Advent - Year B
Wicklow & Rathnew
RCN 20016166



Fr Donal Neary, S.J ~Gospel Reflections for the Year B. Mark

Weeks of Mercy

There's a family expectancy on the air about Christmas, people looking forward to the celebration just now. Even if we dread bits of Christmas, and many do, we know that there is something very good about it. We look forward to it, as we look forward to the visit of someone we love, or a holiday afterwards, or the break from work.

The people at Jesus' time were like that – looking forward to the 'one who is to come' It would all take time, and the last of the messengers was John the Baptist. His mother would await his birth with huge expectation.

He preached forgiveness. This is one of the special gifts of God, and one of the big celebrations of Advent. We are a forgiven people, and we welcome the forgiveness of God in our repentance. This means we are firstly grateful for forgiveness, that we do not have to carry forever the burden of sin, meanness and our faults and failings. God covers them over in mercy. The second step of welcoming forgiveness is to try to do better in life – to move on from this sinfulness and meanness to a life of care, compassion, love and joy. It is a call and a challenge to forgive others.

Advent is not complete without some admission of sin and our need for mercy. The parish celebrations of the sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) in common or individually is step which makes our celebration of Christmas complete.

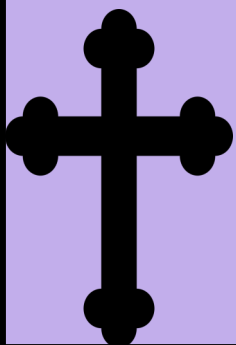
*For this week: say the angelus on wakening,
at noon and at 6 p.m.*

*May our good and gracious God have mercy on us all,
forgive us our sins
and lead us to everlasting life together. Amen.*



Sincere sympathy to the families of

*William (Willie) Dunne Kilbride & Wicklow Town,
Donal Dowling, late of Main Street, Rathnew, who
died in Birkenhead*



Mass Intention List



This Weekend ~ 9th & 10th December

- 6.00pm** Kathleen Bunn- 1st anniversary, John Casey, Jenny Earls, Alice & Pat O'Rourke, Jim & Nancy Doyle, Valerie Quinn
- 9.00am** *Special Intention, Eileen Kinsella, her husband Jack, and Granddaughter, Siobhán Doyle*
- 10.30am** Bridget Turner, Jacqueline Blood
- 12.00noon** Tim O'Sullivan—Months Mind, Jim & Gay Brennan, Dick Kavanagh (BR), Pat Kavanagh-Murphy, Noel & Anna Murphy, Carmel Wyatt-Murphy

Please note that the Masses in green type are in St Joseph's Rathnew

11th - 15th December

- Monday** May & Bill Phillips, Rosaleen Phillips & deceased members of the Phillips family
- 7.00pm** *Special Intention*
- Tuesday** Deirdre O'Reilly
- 7.00pm** *Jim Hollingsworth*
- Wednesday** Tom Delahunt
- Thursday** Margaret Timmons, Tom Maher—1st Anniv.
- Friday** Joan O'Reilly, Patrick Power

Next Weekend ~ 16th & 17th December

- 6.00pm** Nick Healy, Margaret Healy BR, Pat Byrne, Eileen Byrne, June Doran, Liam Kavanagh, Michael & Mary Knowles, Des Doyle & his son Adrian
- 9.00am** *Maura McCoy—First anniversary, Margaret Timmons*
- 10.30am** Liam Heffernan
- 12.00noon** Michael (Mick) Merrigan-First anniversary, Bernadette Waldron

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr Aquinas Duffy PP : 0404 67196

Fr Gerard Deegan CC: 0404 67133

Parish Office: 0404 61699

parishofficewicklow@gmail.com

**BBK Website: work
in progress**

Office opening times

**Monday - Friday:
10am – 12.30pm**

For all enquires and bookings

The Pope's Intention for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



**PLEASE
MAKE SURE YOUR MOBILE PHONE
IS SWITCHED OFF WHILE IN THE
CHURCH.**

Any parents who wish to have a child baptised are asked to attend an introductory meeting before booking a date for the baptism. At this meeting you will be given all the necessary information about the Sacrament of Baptism and the commitment required of the parents who request it for their child. The next meeting will be on

**THURSDAY – 11TH JANUARY
AT 8PM IN THE DE LA PARISH CENTRE**

Advent Scripture

Christmas is coming!

It can be a very busy time. So, you are invited to come to a 'mini' Advent Retreat on Wednesday evenings to prepare for this wonderful feast of the birth of Jesus. There will be time to reflect on the beautiful Advent Gospels quietly & mindfully.

When: During the four Wednesdays of Advent, Nov 29th, Dec 6th, 13th & 20th

Where: Meditation Room, Dominican Ecology Centre

Time: from 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

Finishing with a chat & cuppa for those who wish - all are very welcome.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS FOR WICKLOW & RATHNEW:

3rd December 2023

ENVELOPE/CHURCH COLLECTION - goes towards maintaining our parish €1960

1ST COLLECTION /COMMON FUND - pays salaries of Priests of Diocese €1120

2ND COLLECTION / SHARE FUND - goes towards Diocesan Administration € 850

Many thanks for your continued support.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

To reflect on the readings please check
catholicireland.net / sacredspace.ie / universalis.com

First Reading : Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

Psalm : Luke 1

Second :1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel : 1:6-8, 19-28

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE BY CANDLELIGHT

*Our annual Christmas Carol Service will be on
Sunday 17th December at 4pm in St Patrick's Church.*

*This has become a very
popular part of our Christmas
schedule and is a lovely way to
lead into Christmas week.*

*Our Hospitality Group will be on
hand in the De la Salle Pastoral
Centre with the mulled wine and
mince pies after the service.*

Why not take a little time out and join us?

Everybody is very welcome!



Society of St Vincent de Paul



This year's Annual Appeal is focused on providing help to struggling parents who wonder how they will provide a Happy Christmas for their families. The campaign is entitled "*The Wonder of Christmas*" and subtitled "*Will we have Christmas at all*".

The Annual Christmas collection for the St Vincent De Paul will be held on this weekend the 9th/10th December - it will replace the normal SHARE collection in all Churches. Your support for the Society is always very much appreciated but especially at this time of year with so many needy cases all around us.

Weekly Envelope Collection

A sincere "Thank you" to all who contribute to the support of the parish either through the weekly envelope collection or by standing order each week throughout the year. Your continued generosity and support of the parish is very much appreciated. Thanks also to those who have signed up to the 'Tax Back' scheme which has made a huge contribution to parish funds at no extra cost to the donors. Any donations that exceed €250 in a calendar year are eligible for a tax rebate of up to 40% to the parish. All of the money donated in the weekly envelopes or by standing order is used for the running of the parish. This is the only money that remains in the parish to maintain the Parish.

We have secured just over €50,000 in the rebate scheme for the years of 2019 & 2020. Thank you so much to everyone who is signed up to the scheme it really does make a difference!

The monies given in the other two collections are for the payment of the salaries of the priests of the diocese (First Collection or Common Fund) and for the 'Share' fund which supports the services provided by the diocese (Second Collection).

If you are new to the parish and do not already donate by Standing Order or receive a box of weekly envelopes and would like to do so, or if you would like to avail of the 'Tax Back' scheme, please contact the parish office.

Once again, sincere thanks for your generosity over the past year and look forward to your continued support in the future.

Christmas
Food Drive

Now till 5th December

to help those who need some extra help this year.

In conjunction with the Wicklow Guide, Brigini & Cygnet group & the local Lions club.

All donations of non-perishable goods and toiletries welcome.

Donations can be left in the Parish Office or Sacristy

Please note that we are extending this appeal by another week. A huge thank you to all who have already contributed—we really do appreciate your support for this great local cause.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2023

The Christmas Arrangements leaflet are now available at the Church doors with the full Christmas schedule for all the churches in the St Mantan's area. Please feel free to take one home with you.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

Calling all potential actors/actresses

We are looking for children from 1st class upwards to take part in the nativity play in the church on Christmas Eve.



If you think your child would be interested, please come along to the church this Friday afternoon after school to meet Katie who is looking after the play.

Katie's number is 086 409 4013 if you need any further details.

Katie would love to see you on Friday.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA CARDS NOW ON SALE FOR THE LIVING & THE DEAD €5.00 EACH

JOY
peace
Love
Christ
Family
Laughter
believe
memories
snowball fights
TOGETHER
warm & cozy
Happiness
hugs and kisses
harmony
magic



Unit 2, First Floor,
Rear of Boots Pharmacy,
Abbey Street,
Wicklow

*Have you, or a family member,
been diagnosed with Cancer ?
We're here to help!*

Phone 0404 32696 or 086 821 6694

Our office is open Mon-Fri
from 10.00 -1.00 and 2.00-5.00

GROW

mental
wellbeing
programs

GROW run peer support groups in Wicklow on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 to 4.30 in De La Salle Parish Centre.

They are self referral and no charge for anyone struggling with depression, anxiety, low mood or just the stresses of life. They offer a tried and tested method of self help and personal growth.

Experience new hope and meaning through working on issues together in a peer support setting

MEETINGS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

Ring Trish for further info on 086 0129 082
And see Grow.ie to listen to stories of Hope and Recovery.

Active Retirement Activities & Trips

Now with 105 members, we are one of the largest Groups in Ireland

Tuesday morning meetings 10.45am.

Conversational Irish Tuesdays at 10.00 am

Line Dancing Tuesdays 12.00 to 1.00pm

Walking on the Murrough Wednesdays at 11.00 am

Choir Fridays 3.00pm—4.00pm

Follow us on our facebook page: **Wicklow Active Retirement**

If you would like to join active retirement or find out more, please do feel free to ring Pauline on 087 227 6760

You will be sure of a Céad Míle Fáilte

PARISH SHOP

The Parish shop is situated in the lobby of the parish office. It has been restocked with new candles, cards and some new general stock. Drop in and have a browse, baptism candles small baby gifts, angel gifts, rosary beads, car medals, visor medals, cards and much more. There is also have a wide selection of Mass Cards and ordinary cards available. Shop open same time as office from 10am till 12.30pm. Christmas Novena Cards are now available.

WICKLOW COPD GROUP

COPD Exercise class to help improve your breathing every Monday in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre.

Fully qualified Instructors

Further information from Denis Teevan on 086 8174 703

Many thanks to the sponsor of our newsletter
McCrea's Funeral Home, Dublin Road,
Phone 0404 69000, 24 hours
www.mccrea.ie - info@niallmccrea.com

WEEKLY PARISH LOTTO RESULTS

Congratulations

Elaine McDonald

7th Decamber, 2023: €50 raffle winner

Weekly winning numbers: 2, 5, 13, 27

Please call into the office to collect your prize.

JACKPOT €3,550

Remember...if you aren't in you can't win!

Join by texting the word WICKLOW to 51444

or go to the website : www.ourparishfundraiser.ie/parish/wicklow

Your contribution to the Church is your appreciation for your parish. If you would like to become a regular contributor to the Parish, please fill in this slip and return to Parish Office or Sacristy

Name.....

Contact Number.....

Address.....
.....
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