



PARISH NEWSLETTER

25th December 2022
Wicklow & Rathnew
Christmas Day
RCN 20016166



Welcome

to our Mass and a very warm welcome to everyone joining us on our parish radio & online. We are very happy to have you join us.

Donal Neary S.J. Gospel reflection for Sundays of Year A: Matthew

God made flesh

In a country church there was a whitewashed wall - maybe you heard this story, but like the Christmas story it's a good one. As people came in, they bowed to the wall or blessed themselves passing it. People wondered why, as there was no picture on the wall. At a time of repainting the church, the whitewash and a few layers of paint were removed and a fresco of the nativity was found. The ritual had remained when the reason was forgotten.

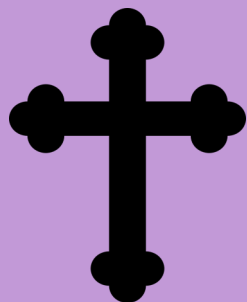
There are many customs and visuals of Christmas, houses are lit up with stars, reindeer, and baubles - everything to celebrate that the divine mixed with the human in an intense way, the family of heaven and earth joined, when light and hope shone on the world. Some reminders are more direct than others. Others maybe a bit like the fresco - still there and yet we wonder why. Let's stop saying put Christ back into Christmas, say rather find Christ in all of Christmas.s

In every face you see this day, think of the face of God. We often pray that the face of God may shine on us, when we are brought face to face with God we will be face to face with immense and enduring love. We long for this now and forever.

People long for justice, for peace. People long for just enough in life like street children of Calcutta and children all over the world, and we long for reconciliation. Christmas is also a reminder of them. Not alone of God's immense love for all, but for the immense and enduring torture as God suffers still today in us all. The cross is in the crib, reminding us of the future of this child.



Also - enjoy all the reminders of Christmas. Let everything secular about Christmas remind us of its holy meaning. Every light you see, every red nosed reindeer, every cracker and bit of pudding, every bit of love under a mistletoe, in them all see, and be aware of Christ in everything of these next few days; and be glad of the face of Christ made human for us this night.



Sincere sympathy to the families of ...
Bernard Mulchrone late of Seaview Heights
Mick Merrigan late of Brickworks, Rathnew

Mass Intention List



This Weekend ~ 24th & 25th December

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

all Masses are for Parishioner's & their Intentions

26th November ~ 30th December

Monday Antanas Sliuzevicius & Siobhan Doyle - Months Mind Mass
Deirdre O'Reilly, Jim & Jo Desmond, Ned, Rosanna, John &
Eddie Hanlon

7.00pm NO MASS

Tuesday Special Intention

11.00AM Funeral Mass of Michael (Mick) Merrigan RIP

7.00pm NO MASS

Wednesday John King & Susan Ward, Noreen Carney

Thursday Angela Mulligan- 1st anniversary & the anniversary of
her husband Terence

Friday Jack Roberts

Next Weekend ~ 31st December & 1st January

6.00pm Joan Vermeulen

7.00pm Nancy Ronan, John Franey, Siobhan Franey Dunne,
Brian Franey, Valerie O'Neill

10.00am

11.30am Joan Hastings - 1st Anniversary, Joe Cummiskey,
Phil & Nell Healy, Bartholomew (Sonny) O'Toole

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

Newsletter Christmas 2022

A Jewish proverb says that two things are needed in winter — fire and stories: fire to warm the body and stories to warm the heart. Christmas is the festival that offers both. In these days of soaring energy costs, hopefully we will all be able to keep ourselves warm as we gather with our families and loved ones this Christmas. And as for stories, we all have many memories of times gone by that are told at this time of year, stories that connect us to each other and to those we have loved who are no longer with us. There's nothing like Christmas for sending the mind wandering down memory lane, recalling long-lost scenes of Christmases gone by. The magic and wonder of childhood are imprinted on our brains, bringing us back again and again.

The Christmas story itself, with a baby in Bethlehem tended by shepherds, angels and kings, is dismissed by many nowadays as a sentimental story for children. But for those prepared to engage with it, it leads to an encounter with an adult Christ who challenges us in a way that a baby in a crib does not. Thankfully, even in these secular times, when great numbers claim to have no religious belief, there are still many in our community who accept the challenge of the adult Christ to see his face in the faces of the poor, the disadvantaged and the oppressed. This is the time of year when, more than any other, people reach out with great generosity to bring warmth, welcome and comfort to those who are struggling. Whether inspired by faith or not, there is love. And where love is, God is also there.

Despite the ongoing horror of war in Ukraine that reminds us how far we still are from realising the Christmas message of 'Peace on earth, goodwill to all', there is a power in the Christmas story that calls on us not to give up on that dream, not to lose heart, but to continue, by our own small acts of kindness and generosity to bring light into the darkness of these winter days. I thank all those in our parish who do just that – serving our community in many ways.

May the story of Bethlehem continue to move the hearts of those who hear it to imitate the divine love that inhabits the crib. And may that same story bring warmth and light to your heart and home this Christmas.

Happy Christmas.

Fr Donal



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 - 12TH JAN. AT 8PM IN THE PARISH CENTRE**
Please contact the parish office to give your details

MASS SCHEDULE

For the parishes of Wicklow, Ashford and Barndarrig

Saturday Vigil:

6pm Wicklow
6pm Ashford
7pm Rathnew
7pm Barndarrig

Sunday Morning:

9am Kilbride and 9am Glenealy
10am Wicklow and 10am Brittas Bay
11.00. Ashford
11.30 Wicklow

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr Donal Roche : 0404 67196

Fr Pat O'Rourke: 0404 67133

Wicklow Sacristy: 0404 69031

Parish Office: 0404 61699

Email: parishofficewicklow@gmail.com

Website: www.wicklowparish

Office opening times -

Monday - Friday : 10am - 12.30pm

**Deadline for receipt of items
for newsletter is
Wednesday at 3pm.**

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

There are copies of the Christmas Schedule available at the Church doors. The schedule covers the Parish Grouping of Wicklow Ashford & Barndarrig and has all the Mass / Service / Confession times in it. Please take one home for your reference.

The Pope's Intention for December

For volunteer not-for-profit organisations



We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

ADORATION TEAM

The Adoration Team is there to provide a continuous presence during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which takes place on Wednesdays from 10.30am till 12 noon. So, for this purpose, two team members are rostered to be there all the time. If you would like to join the team, please leave your contact details in the sacristy or with the Parish Office.



*Wishing all
parishioners
a very
Happy & Holy
Christmas
and a peaceful
2023*

Many thanks to both Willie Doyle of Flannery's Undertakers and to Niall McCrea from McCrea's Undertakers for sponsoring our beautiful Christmas flowers and Christmas trees respectively.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Telephone number 087 123 8054
WICKLOW & RATHNEW



NEXT WEEKENDS READINGS - 1ST JANUARY 2023

First Reading : Numbers 6: 22-27
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66: 2-3,5,6-8
Second Reading : Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2.:16-21

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

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS FOR WICKLOW & RATHNEW: 18th Dec

1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND - pays salaries of Priests of Diocese - € 1230

2ND COLLECTION / ANNUAL ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL - € 820

ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION - goes towards maintaining our parish - € 2705

CD of hymns by Aoife, Pauline and Kevin

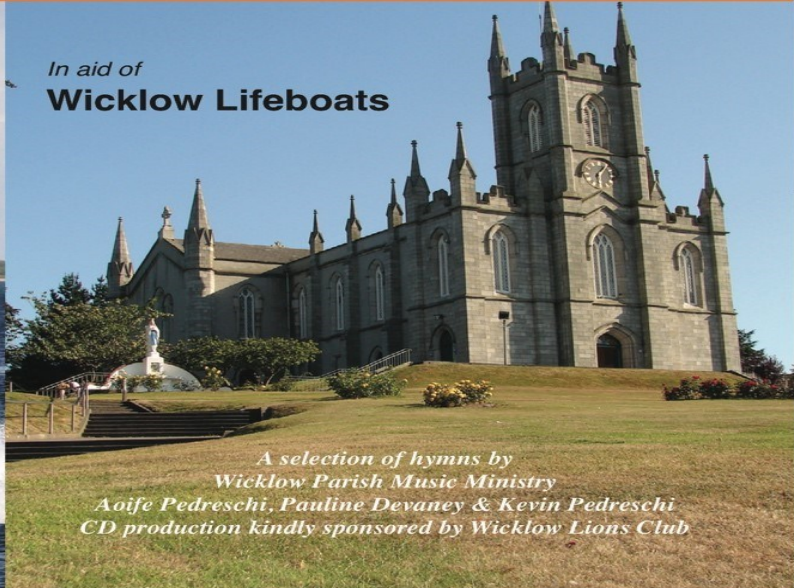
€10

Available in the Parish Office & Wicklow Lifeboat Station

- 1 - COME NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP
- 2 - HEAL ME OH LORD
- 3 - JESUS WHAT A SAVIOUR
- 4 - ONLY IN GOD
- 5 - SAVE US OH LORD
- 6 - ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY



In aid of
Wicklow Lifeboats



A selection of hymns by
Wicklow Parish Music Ministry
Aoife Pedreschi, Pauline Devaney & Kevin Pedreschi
CD production kindly sponsored by Wicklow Lions Club

This CD will be available for sale from the Parish Office and the Lifeboat shop.

**Serving other people
is love in action.**

*To the visible and the invisible volunteers - a massive
"THANK YOU".*

*From those who wash the altar cloths & clean
the Church brasses to those who look after the flower beds
and serve in the Church Ministries.*

*Each and everyone of you help us to have the
wonderful Parish community that exists within this parish.*

*You have all made a huge contribution and a
huge difference to those around you.*

Remember.....

*"Small acts when multiplied by many,
can help to transform the world" - Howard Zinn*

Active Retirement-Activities and Trips

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

We are closed until Tuesday, 10th January

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 :
Jenny Murphy (Secretary) 087 6221766 ~ *You will be sure of a Céad Míle Fáilte*



WICKLOW CANCER SUPPORT

UNIT 2, FIRST FLOOR,
REAR OF BOOTS PHARMACY ABBEY STREET,
WICKLOW

0404 32696 OR 086 821 6694

WE ARE A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION SET UP
OVER TEN YEARS AGO TO ASSIST THOSE HAVING
TREATMENT FOR CANCER IN EVERY WAY
POSSIBLE.

WE HAVE VARIOUS OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE IF
YOU NEED TO CONTACT US.

DIARY DATES: DECEMBER

- 4th: Baptisms in Wicklow**
- 8th : Holy Day - Feast of the
Immaculate Conception,
Baptism Meeting**
- 10th/11th: St Vincent De Paul
annual collection**
- 17th: Baptisms in Rathnew**
- 18th: Parish Carol Service**
- 25th: The Nativity of the Lord**
- 26th: St Stephen's Day**
- 30th: The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph**

PARISH OFFICE

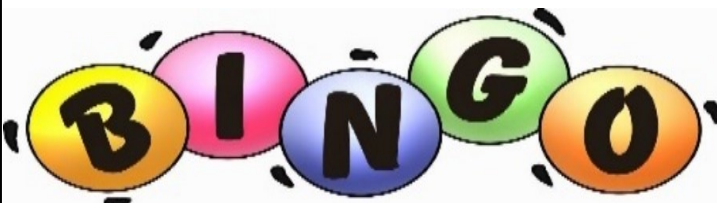
Merry
Christmas

SORRY, WE ARE
CLOSED

FROM THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2022 AT
1PM UNTILL
MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2023 AT 10AM

*See you in
the new year!*

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



Covid guidelines are still in place in the Parish centre, please do not attend if feeling unwell or have been a close contact.

WICKLOW BINGO WILL RESUME ON THE 9TH JAN. 2023 IN THE

DE LA SALLE PASTORAL CENTRE ON MONDAY NIGHTS STARTING AT 8PM.

RATHNEW BINGO WHO HAVE NOW RESUMED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 8PM ALL ARE WELCOME!

PLEASE NOTE THAT DOORS OPEN AT 7.30PM

Bingo gift vouchers are available to purchase - for any amount - at the Bingo or from the Parish Office.

A VERY HAPPY & SAFE CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS.

WEEKLY PARISH LOTTO RESULTS

CONGRATULATIONS
KIERA KAVANAGH

€50 winner

THIS WEEKS WINNING NUMBERS ARE

3, 12, 18, 24

NEXT WEEKS JACKPOT WILL BE

€5,000

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



Many thanks to all who support us every week by playing the Parish Lotto

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.....
.....

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew (1:21)



May the miracle of Christmas touch your life!