

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 SALLE PARISH CENTRE



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

KILBRIDE, BARNDARRIG & BRITTAS BAY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

RCN 20016166



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

Annunciations Big and Small

I got stuck miles away in a small village and had no public transport. There was a public holiday so I had to stay put. A family put me up for the night and fed me! This was an annunciation for me! Annunciations announce the coming of the Lord, favour from God. Life is full of little and big annunciations. Ways in which we bring the Son of God alive within the world. The beginning now of what would later be the resurrection event.

For Mary it was in the ordinary – maybe at the well, as she collected the water for the day. Or in her house. Any time we find genuine help, compassion, justice, all the gifts of God's Spirit, then this is annunciation. It can be an annunciation of new faith and love in God. What Mary got at annunciation was the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit and the Son of God in her womb.

We are the people who find grace and hope in the middle of everything. Maybe like in a busy shop, the middle of a bus journey, and with the children and the friends and the family, at Mass or prayer. It can happen anywhere.

There is always a response. If we have been gifted, we give. Someone let me out of the carpark and I let the next person out. Someone visited me in hospital and I did the same later. Our Christmas way of celebration and helping others is a response.

Don't ask how did you get over the Christmas, but did Christmas get into you! Let the big mystery of God's love get deeply into us this time of year.

***Remember when you felt close to God's presence
in your live and give thanks.***

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.....

May God bless you
with
Joy, Peace, and Love
on this
Christmas.



ShortStatureQuotes.com



| | THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER | NEXT WEEK WE REMEMBER |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| SATURDAY BARNDARRIG 7.30PM | Jim Hamilton James Kelly | |
| SUNDAY KILBRIDE 9.00AM | Kevin & Lily Wright | Fr Gerry Kavanagh Christina Crowley |
| SUNDAY BRITTAS BAY 12Noon | David Rattray Catherine Thornton | |
| WEDNESDAY BARNDARRIG 10AM | NO MASS | |

KILBRIDE, BARNDARRIG & BRITTAS BAY PARISH
17th December 2023

ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION - goes towards maintaining our parish - € 80
 1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND - pays salaries of Priests of Diocese - €875
 2ND COLLECTION / SHARE - goes towards diocesan administration - €470

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 : Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Psalm : 104

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

**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*

Christmas Wonder 2023

Priests often count the number of years they have served in a parish by the number of Christmas times that they have spent there. For myself and Fr Gerard, this is our first Christmas in Wicklow as priests. Its all new to us. The new beginnings bring with it an expectation of wonder and new ways of seeing things. It's been a bit of a roller coaster for us as we settle into the new parishes.

Always at Christmas, I am filled with that sense of mystery and wonder. One gets that sense of wonder in Patrick Kavanagh's Poem "A Christmas Childhood"

*Outside in the cow-house my mother
Made the music of milking;
The light of her stable-lamp was a star
And the frost of Bethlehem made it twinkle*

Somehow at this time the ordinary events are extraordinary because the birth of Jesus changes everything. I truly love Christmas because it brings me back to the basics of why I am a priest and why I still remain a priest. We believe that God so loved us, and has such a great plan for humanity, that God became fully human. God took on the vulnerability of an infant and embraced the human condition. The God who created this wondrous Universe became a tiny infant. Wow! We will never fully understand or appreciate the profound love that God has for us. God sees the great possibilities in each one of us and in humanity itself. We have within us such an ability to love and to challenge the way we structure society on this planet.

May I express my deepest thanks to all of you who continue to support the parish in these challenging times. In particular I would like to express my thanks to all the staff of the parishes and volunteers who make the parishes alive and vibrant. I want to thank you for the kindness, hospitality and welcome that you have given to myself and Fr Gerard. We are all on a challenging road together but it is one guided by God who is with us. May you rediscover that sense of wonder and awe this Christmas. May I wish you a very peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the journey of 2024.

Fr Aquinas Duffly