

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

Margaret Cleary

21st December, 2023: €50 raffle winner
Weekly winning numbers: 2, 14, 21, 23

Please call into the office to collect your prize.

JACKPOT €3,575

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.....

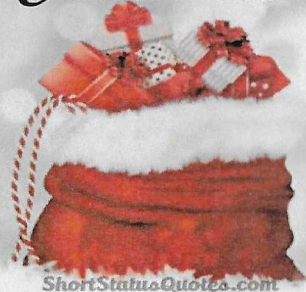
Contact Number.....

Address.....

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



ShortStatusQuotes.com

PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th December 2023

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



Mass Intention List



This Weekend ~ 23rd & 24th December

- 6.00pm** Betty & Patsy Byrne, Tom & Delia Murphy,
Jordan Giannikis, Michael Kenny, Bill & Kathleen Lyons,
Edward & James Byrne, Leo Devlin & deceased
members of the Devlin family
- 9.00am** Mary Jameson, Thomas Duffy, Ellie Corrigan,
Margaret & Andrew Doyle
- 10.30am** Special Intention
- 12noon** Thomas Whyte, Frances O'Byrne

25th - 29th December

- Monday** Christmas Day Masses
No Intentions for Christmas Masses -
these are reserved for Parishioners Personal Intentions
- 7.00pm** NO MASS
- Tuesday** Ned & Rosanna, John & Eddie Hanlon, Michael White
- 7.00pm** NO MASS
- Wednesday** AnnaMay Phillips - Months Mind
- Thursday** Eucharistic Service
- Friday** Iris Stephens & deceased members & friends of her family

Next Weekend ~ 30th - 31st December

- 6.00pm** Sean Connolly
- 9.00am** Doreen Russell - 1st Anniversary, Raymond Healy
Nancy Ronan, Leo Devlin & deceased members of the
Duffy family
- 10.30am** Pauline Doyle - 1st Anniversary
- 12noon** Jack Mooney - Months Mind, Philip & Nell Healy,
Jack Roberts, Bartholomew (Sonny) O'Toole,
Edward & Bridget Cox, Graham Roberts

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 Duffy

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS FOR WICKLOW & RATHNEW:

17th December 2023

ENVELOPE/CHURCH COLLECTION - goes towards maintaining our parish €2055

1ST COLLECTION /COMMON FUND - pays salaries of Priests of Diocese €1190

2ND COLLECTION / SHARE FUND - goes towards Diocesan Administration €615

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

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

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.**

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.

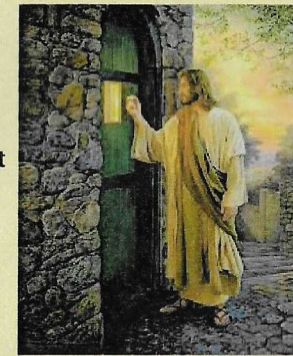
For Mary it was in the ordinary – maybe at the well, as she collected the water for the day. Or in her house. Any time we find genuine help, compassion, justice, all the gifts of God's Spirit, then this is annunciation. It can be an annunciation of new faith and love in God. What Mary got at annunciation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



Sincere sympathy to the families of



Andrew Francis (Frank) Duignan late of Wicklow Town & Dunmore, Galway

Noel Richardson late of Dunbur Upper, Wicklow Town & Ashford,

Michael Gleeson late of Marlton & St Laurence's Rd

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2023

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

De La Salle Pastoral Centre & Parish Office

Will close on Friday 22nd December
at 12.30pm and re-opens on
Monday 8th January 2024 at 10am.

Wishing all our clients a
very happy and peaceful
Christmas and new year.

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



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

THE GIFT OF RELAXION

Give the unique gift of relaxation this year.
Gift vouchers available for yoga classes
with Frances in the De La Salle Pastoral
Centre Wicklow. Classes will begin Monday
the 8th of January, 5:30-6:30pm and
Thursday the 18th of January, 6-7pm.

5 week course: €60 -
Suitable for beginners and
intermediate level

"If you have the courage to begin, you have
the courage to succeed."

Contact Frances on 0863179400 for
vouchers or further information .

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.

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.

PARKING

Please park in the Church grounds
and the Parish Centre with some
consideration and care.

Do not block steps, doors or other
cars.

Do not park in the yellow boxes or on
the Double Yellow Lines - and only
park in the Disabled spaces if you use
a permit.

Emergency vehicles should always be
able to have full access to the
grounds and buildings.

Being late is not an excuse for bad or
inconsiderate parking.

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