

Christmas Greetings.

May your Christmas be blessed, happy and thoughtful. Christmas calls for peace. Christmas calls for shelter. Christmas calls for generosity. May Jesus, the infant born in the stable of Bethlehem, when 'all was calm and bright', visit our hearts, our homes, our town this Christmas. As the angels sang 'Glory to God in the Highest', as the shepherds 'kept watch over their flocks' and the kings from the East 'followed that star', may we know that God is with us to bless, comfort and help us this Christmas. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise. Blessings and Thanks to all. Fr. Murphy, Fr. Dunphy, Fr. MacNamara.

Christmas 2024 Christmas 2024

Christmas Carol Service: Sunday Dec. 22nd 7.00pm.

Christmas Eve, Dec 24th:

CONFESSIONS, 11.00am to 1.00pm in Parish Church.

6.00pm -- CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

MASSES: 9.00pm in St. Joseph's Parish. 9.00pm in Clonaghadoo.

Christmas Morning Masses, Dec 25th:

9.00am and 11.00am in St. Joseph's Parish Church. 10.30am in St. Mary's, Clonaghadoo.

Masses Christmas Week.

Thurs Dec 26th: 7.30pm St. Joseph's Parish Church. (St. Stephen's Day) Fri Dec 27th: 10.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church. Sat Dec 28th: Vigil 7.30pm, St. Joseph's Parish Church. Sun Dec 29th: 9.00am, St. Mary's, Clonaghadoo -11.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church





'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'

We are the people of Advent, for Advent is now, and not just back then. Therefore, we can see all the characters of the Advent that was 'then' in our Advent which is 'now'. Where in our lives is John the Baptist, provoking us to become aware of new things happening in our lives? Where is Zachariah in our lives, not immediately open to what is so new, so hard to understand? Where is Elizabeth, so ready, through the wisdom of living, to appreciate the coming of the Lord? Where is Joseph, so gracious when all was so strange? And where is Mary in us, trusting in the providence given to her, welcoming the word in her heart? For, where we find Mary in ourselves, there we find Christ being born in our souls. (Julie Kavanagh)

REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED - ANNIVERSARIES

For the following whose anniversaries are remembered this weekend and for whom Mass will be offered: Mai O'Riordan, Davitt Road, Patsy Walshe, Irishtown, Jim Furlong, Emmet St., Elizabeth & Henry O'Sullivan, Irishtown, Maura Flanagan, Patrick St., Martin Hibbitts, Acragar, Kathleen Hibbitts, Acragar, Hugh Hibbitts, Acragar, Joseph O'Rourke Snr., Derryguile, Peg Williams, Parnell St., Kitty Kelly, Irishtown, Vena McEvoy, Patrick St., John & Margaret Conroy, Dangans, Jack Hickey, Chapel St., Michael & Ellen Murphy, Chapel St., Paddy Lee, The Rock, Patrick & Kathleen Cleary, Davin Park, Jack Hunt, Emmet Tce., William Carroll, Manor Grove, Bridie Kavanagh, The Commons, Elizabeth Dowling, The Hollow, Thomas Scott, Acragar, James Scott, Parnell St., John & Kathleen Cassidy, Pattison Est., Kathleen Culliton, Grange Lodge, Bridget Culleton, Derrycloney, Denis Dollard, Mountrath,

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time and for whom Mass will be offered next weekend Saturday/ Sunday December 28th & 29th: Marie Fennelly (1st Anniversary) Ashgrove, Anne Dunne, Emmet St., Margaret Harrisonball, formerly Emmet St., Frank White, Emmet St.,

MOUNTMELLICK PARISH Collections - Collections

Saturday/Sunday December 14th & 15th Baskets:€695 - Envelopes: €860

THANK YOU THANK YOU DONATE ONLINE

You can make your donation to support the parish via the 'Donate' button on our Parish Website, www.mountmellickparish.ie

CHEQUES CHEQUES Please make all cheques for the parish payable to "Mountmellick Parish No 1 Account".

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

please make sure we have your "Baptism Registration Form" on file in the Parish Office.

Welcome to our newly baptised... Billy Lawless, Rosenallis, Hugo Larkin, Hill 60,

"O Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen."



Kildare & Leighlin SAFEGUARDING

<u>Designated Liaison Person &</u> <u>Director of Safeguarding - Ailish Higgins.</u> Telephone: 085 8021633. Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie <u>Deputy DLP:</u> Telephone: 086 1710643 <u>Local Enquiries.</u> Parish Office: Tel. 057/8624390. New Child Safeguarding Policy 2024

"A Safe and Welcoming Church – Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024". *www.safeguarding.ie* Ministers of the Word Saturday/Sunday Dec 28th & 29th 7.30pm: Carol McAuley 11.00am: Vincent McEvoy

Ministers of the Eucharist Saturday/Sunday Dec 28th & 29th 7.30pm: Fiona Walsh & Sr. Ann Walsh 11.00am: Mona Conroy & Michael Gormley

Bishop Nulty's Christmas Message 2024

"...Christmas reminds us that God completely assumed our human condition. We sometimes ask, why did He do it? Because He cares for us, loves us, wants to hold us close to Him and particularly those who are fragile or tender. This Christmas, as we prepare to step into a Jubilee Year of Hope, may we realise God sees our face and smiles at the greatest gift we can give, the gift of being present to and for one another, the gift of our hearts. May our hope, this Jubilee Year, be grounded in the incarnate Christ. As the Jubilee Prayer prays "may your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the gospel". Blessings and good wishes to all for Christmas and 2025".

Bíshop Denís Nulty.



Ideal Christmas Gift

Give a 'gift subscription' to Mountmellick Parish Lotto as a Christmas gift for 1 year, 6 months or 3 months. Gift Cards available in the Parish Office.

