



Mountmellick Parish Newsletter

Christmas 2022



Fr. Micheál Murphy, P.P. Tel: 057 8679302

Fr. Noel Dunphy, P.E. C.C. Tel: 057 8624141

Parish Office: Tel 057 - 8624390

**Opening Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday 10.30am to 1.00pm - 3.00pm to 4.30pm.**

Email... stjosephs1878@gmail.com

Web.. www.mountmellickparish.ie - Facebook... [mountmellick parish](https://www.facebook.com/mountmellickparish)

Happy Christmas.

We offer our good wishes to all for a Happy and Holy Christmas, and we sincerely thank you for your kindness and support throughout the year. Pope Francis' great worldwide project about our journeying together as people of God, of faith and of the Gospel continues to develop and grow. By listening to every voice and calling us to communion, participation and mission he helps us embrace, explore and engage with whatever challenges lie ahead. Here, in Mountmellick, is where we will get it done. We hope that your passion for your parish and your faith will be the bedrock of all that lies ahead. From humble beginnings in a dark stable on a silent night the Lord has surely blessed us and our world. May his star guide us tomorrow towards all we desire and all we love.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh!

Fr. Murphy, Fr. Dunphy, Fr. MacNamara.

Bishop Nulty's Christmas Message

"*You'll never guess what Santa brought, a train set*" the young boy tells his grandad early Christmas morning in the television advertisement. I think it's an ad. for Barry's Tea, but it always gets my vote for the best and simplest Christmas message.

Christmas is a time for gift-giving. Children, like that little boy in the television ad., are attracted by the gifts; we all are. But we also need to be attracted to the crib, to the Christmas creche, where we will learn the message that God's greatest gift to us is His Son. Whatever we receive this Christmas, we will be very grateful for; but the gift that will last the longest is the knowledge and realisation that we are loved, cherished and held by God.

To understand Christmas we have to understand the language of God, the greatest gift-giver. We find the language of God as we look into the crib. The inn-keeper closed one door but left the stable door ajar, enough for Mary and Joseph to squeeze through, exhausted by the census journey. The empty manger has been filled. God's gift comes not in tinsel and glitter but "*wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger*" (Lk. 2:12). God speaks to us from that manger, in the simplest of languages; we are the ones who too often complicate that message.

Christmas brings out the best in all of us. It's a busy time, it's a hectic time, but we wouldn't want it any different. I am so impressed by how the commercialisation of Christmas is matched by the generosity in giving to those in need: the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with their outreach in every parish, the local food kitchens, the Ukrainian appeals, support for Trócaire as it enters its fiftieth year and the many other causes that command our attention these days. Christmas brings out the best in all of us. As much as is spent in gifts, a huge amount is generously donated to charities.

And every gift doesn't necessarily cost hard-earned money, such as the gift of generosity, so obvious in the great response to those charitable appeals. Christmas is a celebration centred on generosity, God generously sharing with us His Son. The gift of time, spending time with those close to us is a precious gift, enjoying one another's company. The gift of kindness, words used to heal rather than hurt.

Christmas doesn't have to be complicated. The message is simple, like the boy's train set. The message that God's greatest gift to us is His Son Jesus, and that's a gift that keeps on giving all year round.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be in your heart and every good wish and blessing for 2023.

✠ Denis Nulty

REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED - ANNIVERSARIES

1st Anniversary Masses: Baby Ódhran Murphy, Irishtown, mass on Tuesday December 27th at 7.30pm.
Patrick Lee, The Rock, mass on Thursday December 29th at 7.30pm.

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time and for whom Mass will be offered next weekend Saturday/Sunday December 31st & January 1st: Joe Scully, Lord Edward Street, Frank White, Emmet Street, Alice McCann, Borness, Margaret Kearney, Irishtown, John O'Donnell, Ashgrove, Denis & Margaret Whelan, Clonsaughey,

Masses available on parish webcam or church radio.

MOUNTMELICK PARISH Collections

Saturday/Sunday 17th & 18th December
Envelopes: €845
Baskets: €645

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".

Christmas Week Mass Times

Mon - Wed - Fri. 10.00am

Tues & Thursday 7.30pm

Sat Dec 31st:

Vigil 7.30pm,

St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Sun Jan 1st:

10.30am,

St. Mary's, Clonaghadoo.

11.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church

Congratulations

Rachel Williams & James Finn

who married in St. Joseph's Church
on Saturday December 17th.

May the Lord keep them forever in
fidelity and love.

MOUNTMELICK PARISH LOTTO

Wednesday December 21st

Jackpot Numbers: 7:17:18:32

No Jackpot winner.

9 Matched '3' - €112 each.

The next Lotto Jackpot is: €16,000

Winner

Louise Ahern

Rena & Sean McEvoy

Promoter:

Frances Hibbitts

Rena McEvoy

**The next Lotto Draw will take place on
Wednesday January 4th.**



CELEBRATING BAPTISM

If you have a baby for Baptism, please make sure we have your "Baptism Registration Form" on file in the Parish Office.

Welcome to our newly baptised...

Ollie Smyth, Silver Glen,

"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."

Ministers of the Word

Saturday/Sunday Dec 31st & Jan 1st

7.30pm: Michael Feely

11.00am: Ann Storey

Ministers of the Eucharist

Saturday/Sunday Dec 31st & Jan 1st

7.30pm: Oliver Ging & Carol McAuley

11.00am: Noreen Savage & Mona Conroy

Parish Office

The Parish Office will
re-open on Thursday
December 29th at
10.30am.



Kildare & Leighlin SAFEGUARDING

Designated Liaison Person & Director
of Safeguarding

Telephone: 085 8021633.

Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

Deputy DLP: Telephone: 086 1710643

Local Enquiries. Parish Office
@ 057 8624390.

THE BALCONY CINEMA

will show

"Mrs. Harris goes to Paris", on
Wednesday, December 28th at 8.00pm.
€5, all welcome.