

Mountmellick Parish Newsletter

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 10th, 2023

Fr. Mícheál Murphy, P.P. Tel: 057 8679302
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Parish Office: Tel 057 - 8624390

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

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“A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.” Mark 1:3

The Gospel of Mark does not include the story of Jesus’ birth. Instead, it opens with a very different scene – the arresting figure of John the Baptist in the wilderness, announcing the kingdom and calling people to repentance. There is an urgency about the Baptist, an urgency that continues to speak to us today. How can we make straight the paths of God in a world of inequality, violence and environmental

destruction? When Claudelice Silva dos Santos was a child in Brazil, forest covered much more of the land around her, but illegal logging and deforestation for cattle ranching have destroyed vast areas.

Claudelice’s brother, José Claudio, and his wife Maria do Espirito Santo were murdered after years of standing up for their rights and trying to protect the land and forest. Despite receiving death threats, Claudelice strives to continue her brother’s work. “The Amazon is our life,” she declares. “Do we feel afraid? Yes, we feel afraid. But this is not going to stop our struggle.”

Can we hear the voices crying out in the desert today? It is up to us to prepare a way for the Lord, by building a world in which people and creation can flourish in harmony together. “The world sings of an infinite Love,” Pope Francis tells us, “how can we fail to care for it?” (*Laudate Deum* #65). On ‘Human Rights Day’, let us feel that love. Let’s hear the call to change our hearts and minds and commit to bringing about a time when “justice and peace have embraced”. (*CAFOD 2023*)

Carols By Candlelight



Presented by

St. Joseph’s Sunday Choir

Director: Audrey Whelan

Sunday Dec. 17th 7.00pm
St. Joseph’s Parish Church



Advent Prayer: Merciful God, You sent John the Baptist to preach repentance. Forgive us for the times when we have done wrong and damaged our earth. Lead us to live differently, preparing your way and making your paths straight. Amen. (*CAFOD Advent 2023*)

In Love: Delighted to welcome the children from 2nd class as they continue their preparations for First Confessions and First Holy Communion next year.

The focus this weekend is on helping them learn how to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. May we all try our best to keep Jesus at the centre of our Advent/Christmas celebrations.



St. Vincent de Paul – Annual Collection. Please support the annual St. Vincent de Paul Collection this weekend. Your kindness is greatly appreciated as it assists the local Conference to respond to the many calls made on it at this time of the year. Míle buíochas.

REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED - ANNIVERSARIES

1st Anniversary Masses: Pat Holohan, Twomey Park, Frances Fox nee Storey, formerly Derryguile, mass on Thursday December 14th at 7.30pm.

For the following whose anniversaries are remembered this weekend and for whom Mass will be offered:

Thomas J. & Elizabeth Fox, Cappalough, Conor Davis, Emmet Street, Patrick & Margaret Carroll, Wolfetone Street, Kathleen & Thomas Ward, Acragar, Sheila Finlay, Acragar, Edward & Esther Blanche, Wolfetone Street, Joseph Blanche, formerly Derryguile, Patrick & May Murphy, O'Connell Square, Fr. Anthony Mitchell, Br. Tom Mitchell, Daniel O'Mahony, Emmet Road, Bill Lalor, Lord Edward Street, Peter Corcoran, Clonmoylan, Edward & Margaret Droney, Acragar & Ashgrove, Des Byrne, Irishtown, Paddy Delaney, Patrick Street, Michael McCann, Garoon, John & Margaret Reddin, Manor Road, Pat Mulpeters, Emmet Road, Molly Walsh, Emmet Road, Clement Lynch, Straboe, Kathleen Gormley, Parnell Street, Betty Dowling, Irishtown, Deceased members of the Whelan Family, Connolly Street, Kay Dunne nee Bracken, Garoon & Sligo,

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time and for whom Mass will be offered next weekend Saturday/Sunday December 16th & 17th: Anthony Foran, Kirwan Park,

Masses available on parish webcam or church radio.

MOUNTMELICK PARISH

Collections - Collections

Saturday/Sunday Dec 2nd & 3rd.

Envelopes: €680

Baskets: €790

**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 Penance Service
Join us on Wednesday Dec 20th
for our Christmas
Penance Service.
Visiting priests will attend.

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...

Jayden, Alicia and Ariel Ottun,
Ballacollig.

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.

Kildare & Leighlin SAFEGUARDING

Designated Liaison Person &

Director of Safeguarding - Ailish Higgins.

Telephone: 085 8021633.

Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

Deputy DLP: Telephone: 086 1710643

Local Enquiries. Parish Office @ 057 8624390.

Ministers of the Word Saturday/Sunday Dec 16th & 17th

7.30pm: Carol McAuley

11.00am: Bernie Reddin

Ministers of the Eucharist

Saturday/Sunday Dec 16th & 17th

7.30pm: Claire Dempsey & Oliver Ging

11.00am: Bernie Reddin & Noreen Savage



HOLY HOUR – ADORATION AND PRAYER

8.00pm Clonaghadoo – Wednesday (13th). A time of quiet, reflection, and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Encounter the 'presence', 'mercy' and 'communion' of God. *"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28).*

MOUNTMELICK PARISH LOTTO

Wednesday December 6th.

Jackpot Numbers: 4:12:28:31:

No Jackpot winner:

20 Matched '3' - €50 each.

Next weeks Lotto Jackpot is: €11,000

Winner

Veronica Dunne

Michelle Conroy

Promoter

Carol Lindley

John Turner

THE BALCONY CINEMA

Will show "Freedom Writers" on Wednesday December 13th at 8.00pm. Adm: €5, includes a cuppa and a biscuit.

Macra - 'Light Up' Truck & Tractor Run

Macra are holding their annual Truck & Tractor Run on Sat 16th Dec. Departs MDA at 6pm sharp. Spectators are invited to line the streets to cheer on the Run.

EARLY BIRD SALE of Season Tickets (only) for the 2024 BOSTIK ALL-IRELAND CONFINED DRAMA FINALS in Mountmellick Community Arts Centre (18 – 26 April 2024 and Awards Night 27 April, 2024) on Saturday 16 December, 2023 by contacting our on-line booking on mountmellickdramafestival.ie or you can visit our booking office in the Community Arts Centre on Saturday 16th Dec 2023 (11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.).