



## **Mountmellick Parish Newsletter**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday December 17th, 2023**



*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.

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

## **Christmas 2023 Christmas 2023**

**Christmas Carol Service:** Sunday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm.

**Christmas Penitential Service:** Weds Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm.

### **Sat/Sun Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>**

**CONFESSIONS,** Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.00am to 1.00pm in Parish Church.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> **Vigil Mass** 7.30pm, Parish Church.

Sun 24<sup>th</sup>, **Masses** 9.00am Clonaghadoo & 11.00am, Parish Church.

### **Christmas Eve, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>:**

**6.00pm -- CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS** 9.00pm in St. Joseph's Parish.

**MASSSES:** 9.00pm in Clonaghadoo.

### **Christmas Morning Masses, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>:**

9.00am and 11.00am in St. Joseph's Parish Church.

10.30am in St. Mary's, Clonaghadoo.

### **Masses Christmas Week.**

Tues Dec 26<sup>th</sup>: 7.30pm, St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Weds Dec 27<sup>th</sup>: 10.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Thurs Dec 28<sup>th</sup>: 7.30pm St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Fri Dec 29<sup>th</sup>: 10.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Sat Dec 30<sup>th</sup>: Vigil 7.30pm, St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Sun Dec 31<sup>st</sup>: 9.00am, St. Mary's, Clonaghadoo.

11.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church.



### **'Rejoice! The Lord is Near'**

The readings on this *Gaudete* ('Rejoice!') Sunday are full of encouragement, resonating with joyful hope as we draw closer to the birthday of Jesus: God's Son coming to live amongst us. Isaiah, Mary, and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for his people. Isaiah {1<sup>st</sup> reading) announces the coming of the anointed one: a cause for rejoicing. He will bring freedom, healing and good news to the people. Images of clothing bodies and growing seeds celebrate God's activity in the world and in our lives. The focus of the Gospel is John the Baptist, who bears witness, testifying to the true identity of 'the light': Jesus himself. As we continue preparing for Christmas, we rejoice that Jesus is already in our hearts and lives. We pray to receive the graces needed to announce his message and presence through our attitudes, actions and words.

**REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED - ANNIVERSARIES**

**Month's Mind Mass:** Maureen Delaney, Kirwan Park, mass on Tuesday December 19th at 7.30pm.

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

Maura Flanagan, Patrick Street, John Ging, Brittas, P. J. Mitchell, Pearse Street, Mary Dempsey, Kirwan Park, Michael, Frances & Tony Payne, Station Road, Julia McNeill, Davin Park, Jack Hickey, Chapel Street, Patrick & Annie Fitzgerald, Manor Lane, Tom & Avril Fitzgerald, William Carroll, Manor Grove, Martin Deegan, Hill 60, Gemma McDonnell, Cullenbeg, Joseph O'Rourke Snr., Derryguile, Kitty Kelly, Irishtown, Patrick & Kathleen Cleary, Davin Park, Elizabeth Dowling, The Hollow, James Crossan, Wolfetone Court, Bridie Kavanagh, The Commons, Jack Hunt, Emmet Terrace, Eddie Bracken, Garryhinch Cross, Kathleen Delaney nee Bracken, Portnahinch, Kathleen Culliton, Grange Lodge, Martin & Kathleen Hibbitts, Martin Hibbitts Jnr., Acragar, Hugh Hibbitts, Acragar, Brigid & William Keane, Peter, William & Thomas Flanagan,

**For those whose anniversaries occur at this time and for whom Mass will be offered next weekend Saturday/Sunday December 23rd & 24th:** Meryl McNabb, Emmet Street,

*Masses available on parish webcam or church radio.*

**MOUNTMELICK PARISH**

**Collections - Collections**

Saturday/Sunday Dec 9th & 10th.

Envelopes: €1,085

Baskets: €845

**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](http://www.mountmellickparish.ie)

**CHEQUES CHEQUES**

Please make all cheques for the parish payable to

"Mountmellick Parish No 1 Account".

**Ministers of the Word**

**Saturday/Sunday Dec 23rd & 24h**

**7.30pm:** Michael Feely

**11.00am:** Sheelagh Coyle

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

**Saturday/Sunday Dec 23rd & 24th**

**7.30pm:** Carol McAuley & Ger Rochford

**11.00am:** Mona Conroy & Ellen Coss

**MOUNTMELICK PARISH LOTTO**

Wednesday December 13th.

Jackpot Numbers: 1:2:19:32: No Jackpot winner:

11 Matched '3' - €91 each.

Next weeks Lotto Jackpot is: €12,000

**Winner**

Mark & Angela Donoher

**Promoter**

Darren O'Reilly

Wednesday December 20th will be the final draw for 2023.

First draw of 2024 will take place on Wednesday January 3rd.

**Advent Family Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for giving us these four weeks to prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son.

**St. Joseph's Prayer Group**

Leading Adoration & Prayer on Thursday evening after mass (8.00pm - 8.30pm) in St. Joseph's Church - **all welcome.** Rosary. Divine Mercy Chaplet. Silent Adoration.



**Parish Office**

**Call in and see our beautiful range of Cribs and Christmas gifts for sale.**

**The Parish Office will close on Friday December 22nd**



**Kildare & Leighlin SAFEGUARDING**

Designated Liaison Person &

Director of Safeguarding - Ailish Higgins.

Telephone: 085 8021633.

Email: [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)

Deputy DLP: Telephone: 086 1710643

Local Enquiries. Parish Office @ 057 8624390.

**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.



**THE BALCONY CINEMA**

Will show "Love Actually" on Wednesday December 20th at 8.00pm. Adm: €5, includes a cuppa and a biscuit.

**Christmas Tree**



Many thanks to The Men's Shed and The Balcony Cinema who donated our new Christmas tree. Thanks also to the merry elves who helped decorate and also prepared the sanctuary trees. A word of thanks to the CE Scheme for helping us again with our crib. Happy Christmas.

If you would like to donate flowers, holly, ivy and/or poinsettia for the Altar in St. Joseph's Church for Christmas, they can be left into the Parish Office by Friday Dec. 22nd.

Thank you.