



Mountmellick Parish Newsletter

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday December 24th, 2023



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. Welcome home to those who have managed to travel and welcome to those who are visiting Mountmellick for Christmas. We remember family and friends around the world. Although separated by distance we are united in thought and prayer.

From humble beginnings in a dark stable on a silent night the Lord has surely blessed us greatly. May his star guide our world and our hearts towards peace, togetherness and goodness throughout 2024.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

PL: Niech duch Swiety wypeti nas radoscia I zesle nan as pocoj.

LT: Tegu Išganytojas palaimina tave ir suteikia tau savo Ramybe.

RO: Crăciun fericit și un An Nou binecuvântat de Domnul!

ES: ¡Que el Señor los llene de felicidad y paz!

Fr. Murphy, Fr. Dunphy, Fr. MacNamara



Kildare & Leighlin Christmas Message

There is something about a baby that captures all our attention. It's magnetic. Even the most stubborn heart softens in the presence of a new born baby. I saw it recently on a visit to bless a school extension, in the staff room later when their colleague on maternity leave, called in with her new bundle of joy, everyone just wanted to see the baby. The adult in us becomes the child again, cooing and making all sorts of funny faces! Babies make people smile and that's such a good thing.

Christmas is about smiling, it takes much less face muscles to smile than it does to frown. We adults complicate matters. In the words of Pope Francis "*Jesus is God's smile ... when we look down at the nativity scene; when we look at Baby Jesus, we can feel God smiling at us*". It all began in Bethlehem, in the simplicity of a stable. This is the essence of what we celebrate at Christmas. God becoming a baby. God stooping down to be like one of us.

We are all conscious of the turmoil in the world at present. War in Ukraine and absolute terror in Gaza and Israel, the Holy Land, the place of that Bethlehem stable. Sadly too many babies and children are caught up in conflicts.

My prayer and hope to all is that you will feel God smile on you this Christmas. Also that you might smile, as you thank God for those around you, family, friends and colleagues.

And next time you see a new born baby, remember that as you smile, God is smiling on you. We need to realise this, this year more than ever, in our war-weary and broken world. Into it a fragile baby is born, a baby whose smile has the capacity to soften the hardest of adult hearts.

Every blessing for Christmas and 2024,

✽Denis Nulty

Christmas 2023 Christmas 2023

Christmas Eve, Dec 24th:

6.00pm -- CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE -

CHRISTMAS 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.

Tues Dec 26th: 7.30pm, St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Weds Dec 27th: 10.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Thurs Dec 28th: 7.30pm St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Fri Dec 29th: 10.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church.

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

Sun Dec 31st: 9.00am, St. Mary's, Clonaghadoo - 11.00am, St. Joseph's Parish Church.



REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED - ANNIVERSARIES

1st Anniversary Masses: Ronan Culleton, Cloonagh, Dillon Kidney Quinn, Willow Grove, mass on Thursday December 28th at 7.30pm.

For the following whose anniversaries are remembered this weekend and for whom Mass will be offered: Patsy Walsh, Irishtown, Mai O'Riordan, Davitt Road, Alice McCann, Borness, Jim Furlong, Emmet Street, Kathleen Conroy, Chapel Street, Bridie & Christopher Fitzpatrick, Connolly Street, Thomas Scott, Acragar, James Scott, Parnell Street, Peg Williams, Parnell Street, Paddy Lee, The Rock, Margaret Mahon, Harbour Street, Margaret & Andrew O'Neill, Connolly Street, Rita & Joseph Murphy, Emo, Dinah Dunne, Pattison Estate, Tim Keenan, Harbour Street, Frank Kelly, Rosenallis, Elizabeth & Henry O'Sullivan, Irishtown, Vena McEvoy, Patrick Street, The Deceased members of the Phelan Family, Davitt Road, Joe Scully, Lord Edward Street, Martin Dunne, Connolly Street, Fintan Burton, Connolly Street, Catherine Delaney, Salthouse Lane,

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time and for whom Mass will be offered next weekend Saturday/Sunday December 30th & 31st: Baby Ódhran Murphy, Irishtown, Joseph Fitzgibbon, Irishtown, Frank White, Emmet Street, Ann Dunne, Emmet Street, Margaret Harrison Ball, formerly Emmet Street.

MOUNTMELICK PARISH

Collections - Collections

Saturday/Sunday Dec 16th & 17th.
Envelopes: €1,100 - Baskets: €655

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".

Ministers of the Word Saturday/Sunday Dec 30th & 31st

7.30pm: Ann Conroy

11.00am: Mona Conroy

Ministers of the Eucharist

Saturday/Sunday Dec 30th & 31st

7.30pm: Bernadette Clear & Oliver Ging

11.00am: Antoinette Makim & Paddy Buggy

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.



Advent Family Prayer: Loving God, we give you thanks for the blessings of this holy Advent season. You are the source of life, of hope, and of all good things. We look forward to the coming of the light of Christ at Christmas. Help us to turn toward that light in our lives. We rejoice at the gift of your Son who taught us to love in your name. May we be people of peace and justice all the days of our lives. Your kingdom come and your will be done now and forever. Amen

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...

Sophie Ambroziak, Davin Park.

"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."



MOUNTMELICK PARISH LOTTO

Wednesday December 20th.

Jackpot Numbers: 7:21:27:31:

No Jackpot winner:

17 Matched '3' - €59 each.

Next Lotto Jackpot is: €13,000

Winner

Dallas

Michael O'Connor

Brenda Forde

Promoter

John Turner

Mary Thompson

MM Credit Union

The next lotto draw will take place on Wednesday January 3rd 2024.

The Parish Office will open on **Thursday December 28th at 10.30am.**



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.

"BINGO BINGO BINGO"

Mountmellick Community Arts Centre on **St. Stephen's Day (Tuesday Dec 27th) at 8.00pm. Check!!**

THE BALCONY CINEMA

Will show "Boxing Day" on Wednesday December 27th at 8.00pm. Adm: €5, includes a cuppa and a biscuit.