

Anniversaries

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Ballyconnell 22nd. Michael Lyons, Ballykilduff.	Ballyconnell 29th. James & Esther Keogh Knockeen Catherine Noctor - Coolkenno
Clonmore 23rd. Denis, Daniel & Helena Kelly, Haroldstown Kevin Lyons (Month's Mind)	Kilquiggan 30th. Kathy Conroy, Tinahealey Theresa Keegan & John Keegan, Kilquiggan

Thought for The Week

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

She had mentioned it to him before but for some reason brought it up again: "You really should clean out the shed." He agreed and said he had been putting it off for a while but with the census happening and the pressure they would be under in the days to come, he felt she was right. It was only fair to the few animals they had. They'd been lying on the same bedding for longer than he'd normally allow. He did the few bits around the Inn, made sure they had enough stock, had a bit to eat and headed for the shed.

It was a simple structure, at the back of their home and it seemed as if it had been there forever. He wondered who had built it but had never asked. As children, they played there –

"hide and seek" and other games that took them beyond the day to day life of Bethlehem. Imagination was the only toy they needed and, in the shed, it took on a life of its own. He took out the old straw and, for some reason totally foreign to his way of thinking, decided to sweep up the odd bits that he'd normally just cover over. He checked the lights and put more oil in than he might normally use. All the while, the coy and donkey watched – they too knew him to be a gentle man and he had a

respect for them that they knew wasn't always found in the human kind. Kind! Yes, that's what he was a "kind" man. He spent longer cleaning the shed than usual. He let his mind wander and he remembered his father one time giving the use of the shed to some people that passed through the town. He wondered where those people slept that time but knew there were no complaints. "In fairness", he said to himself "it's not a bad place. If I didn't have the few animals, I often thought it would make a nice room." Then he looked at the two, as they chewed away and said "Don't worry, as long as you're here, this shed is for you – you alone." But he thought again about his father offering shelter all those years ago. Strange, he hadn't thought of that in years "How did you get on cleaning the shed?" she asked him that evening. "You should see it," he replied, "amazing! It's fit for a king!" They laughed.

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER



Fourth Sunday of Advent
23rd December

PARISH CENTRE

Opening hours from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm. Tuesday and Friday.

Phone 059 9156890; email: clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com

Fr. John O'Brien: 086-2403787; email: frjohn51@gmail.com

Website: www.clonmoreparish.ie Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

REACHING OUT

Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it is the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women.

We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin. Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. 'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.'

With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

Collections: Envelopes €445 Baskets €300 Bingo €245 Lotto: €480

Envelopes returned:78 Envelopes Winner: EAMON & MARY DOLAN

We would encourage you to use your parish envelopes as we can claim back tax on your generous contribution, if you did not get a chance to leave it in at mass, you can drop it into the Parish office.

Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish.

COLLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The priests of the Parish do not receive any payment from the offertory or envelope collections. The collections on Christmas Day are lodged into the Clergy Account. Our salaries come from this account. We rely on your generosity. I would encourage you to be as generous as possible with the Christmas collections. You have a special envelope in your envelope box for this collection. Once again thank you all for your generous support.

The **PARISH LOTTO** this week will be €2500 for 4 numbers; plus €1500 for 3 numbers on Sunday 23rd. December.
Christmas Draw extra: 5 extra prizes of €40

As you can see from our Parish Finances audit each year, The Parish Lotto and Bingo are a very significant contributor to our finances. We are very grateful to all who support it and in particular our Lotto promoters. Half yearly and yearly membership gift tokens - €100 for the full year and €50 for 6 months, are available from the Lotto sellers and may be used at Christmas, birthdays and other occasions. It is worth a serious consideration.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

MONDAY 24th. Ballyconnell 7.30; Kilquiggan 8.00 pm ; Clonmore 9.00pm.

TUESDAY 25th. Ballyconnell 9.00 am, Kilquiggan 10.00, Clonmore 11.00

Our Parish office will close on Friday 21st at 2 pm and will reopen on Tuesday the 8th. January 2019

Fr. Andrew Mullen Mass: Mass will be celebrated in Daingean Church Sunday 13th January 2019 at 11.15am to mark the 201st Anniversary. Prayers immediately after mass in Old Cemetery, Killaderry at the grave side (weather permitting).

Copies of 'A Christmas message from Bishop Denis' are available at the back of the churches at all masses
Also the Reach Out Christmas gift is also available.

COLLECTORS FOR DECEMBER

Ballyconnell Paul Osborne Jim Dunne	Kilquiggan Michael Kelly Ned Bowes	Clonmore Paddy Lawlor, Liam Hickey
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ALTAR SOCIETY

Ballyconnell: 29th. December Ann Whelan	Kilquiggan: 16th. December A Gregan & N Gahan
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Clonmore Parish Lotto: Last week's numbers: 18, 15, 22, 14. No Winner
Next Week's Jackpot: €1,600; Jackpot plus Bonus number: €2,600

€40 prize winners: James Cousins, c/o Bingo, Shauna Hickey, Haroldstown; Kathleen Smithers, c/o Bingo; Nancy Dooley c/o Bingo; Charles Keely, Kilquiggan.

Coolkenno GAA Lotto: Last Weeks Numbers: 8, 13, 25, 27. No Winner.
This week's Jackpot: €2,100. Next Draw: 23rd. Dec. Crab Lane.
Lucky Dip Winners: Lil Dolan; Jackie Coleman; E. Donohoe; Conor Doyle.

Dance Classes continue in **Clonmore Community Hall** on Monday nights from 7.30 - 9.30pm. Learn to Jive, Waltz, Quick Step. All are welcome beginners and advanced. There will be a Christmas dance night on Monday 17th. December; beginning at 8. Music by Ger Long. Admission Free. Refreshments on the night plus a raffle; it promises to be a good community get together.

The **Clonmore Senior citizens Christmas Party** will take place on the 11th. January 2019 in Clonmore Community School. All are welcome.

All-Ireland Rosary Rally for Faith and Life is taking place outside Dáil Eireann at 12noon on 1st January 2019. Contact rosaryrallyforireland@gmail.com for more details.

Are you? Struggling with Anxiety or Depression? Finding Life Difficult? Isolated? GROW is here to help you.

Our Mental Health Support groups are free and confidential and open to all, no referral or booking needed. Meeting Times are:
Tuesday @ 10am. Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny
Tuesday @ 7.45pm Venue: St Catherine's Social Services Centre Joseph's Road Carlow Town (Across from the train station)
Wednesday @ 8pm Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny
Friday @ 10.30am. Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny
(CEART grp: mental health effects of living with chronic pain/long term illness)

Looking for an exciting challenge in the New Year? Carlow College, St. Patrick's will run short 8-week evening courses starting on the 24th. January where our lecturers will help you broaden your perspectives, gain knowledge and help you develop exciting new skills. The courses include: Actually, reading Ulysses; The Medieval World; Irish Identity: Past, Present, Future and songs of love and hate: The world as seen through the work of songwriters and poets Leonard Cohen & Paul Simon. For further information visit: www.CarlowColleg.ie or email admissionscc@carlowcollege.ie