

PARISH NEWSLETTER

1st Sunday of Advent

1st. December 2019



PARISH CENTRE

Opening hours from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm.

Tuesday and Friday.

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'Making your Christmas cake in September is perfect, as too fresh a cake crumbles when cut.' (Mary Berry)

My mother, like many of her generation, starts her Christmas preparations early. The first thing to be done is the Christmas cake - in our house this always took place over the Hallowe'en break. I remember finding it strange to watch her lovingly prepare the fruit cake, only to hide it away in a tin for a couple of months. I laughed when I came across the above quote from food writer Mary Berry, as it pushes the Christmas preparation even earlier. Every year we hear complaints that the lead-in to Christmas is starting earlier and earlier. We might not all be making cakes in September, but by Hallowe'en we are certainly looking ahead to Christmas - thinking about what gifts to buy family and friends, checking out the decorations that have started to appear in the shops, perhaps even stockpiling tins of biscuits and boxes of chocolates. Many people sign up to Christmas clubs in order to spread the cost over the year. It's no wonder we often arrive at this time of year feeling like it's no time at all since last Christmas - it is never far from our minds. As we enter Advent, we are invited now to turn our attention to our inner preparation for Christmas. We are waiting 'in joyful hope' both for Christ's birth and his return at the end of time. Taking some time each day to pray and reflect, perhaps to light the candles on our Advent wreath, will help us to focus on the wonderful mysteries that await us. 'Every year we celebrate the holy season of Advent, O God. Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting, and sing those lovely songs of hope and promise.'

(Karl Rahner).

Clonmore Parish Lotto: Last week's numbers: 1; 5; 6; 3. No winner

Next Week's Jackpot: €1,600; Jackpot plus Bonus number: €2,600.

€40 prize winners: T. Dolan, Seskin; Lily Doyle C/O Bingo; Sheila Tallon; Ballyshane; Gerry Dowse, Tullow; Sarah Sheppard, Clonegal

Coolkenno GAA Lotto: Last week's numbers: 1, 6, 7, 27 - No Winner

This week's jackpot €7,000. Next Draw: 2nd. December - Dying Cow

Pete Hunt, Niall & Diarmuid Deegan; Ann O'Rourke; Imelda Keogh

Thought for the week

Advent Calendar

The first day of beginning of the year. Advent or "to come to") is encompassing the weekdays leading



Christmas. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the Lord's coming at Christmas. Advent also prepares us for the second coming of Christ at the end of time. We are delighted to be bringing you our **online interactive Advent Calendar** again this year. It will go live on the First Sunday of Advent on 1 December 2019. Now in its sixth year, the online Advent Calendar is offering resources for the parish, school and the home which are available behind a virtual door each day during the season of Advent. Behind each door there will be content aimed at assisting people to pray and to reflect on how best we can keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas preparations during this special liturgical season. The calendar has family prayers and suggestions for #LivingAdvent - acts of kindness or charity that all of us are encouraged to undertake during the month of December. The Advent Calendar will also share tips on how families can care for our common home by having a more sustainable Christmas. We hope you will join us this year to #ShareTheJourney through Advent!

Note: The virtual doors above cannot be opened ahead of their actual date. All content will go live in the early hours of each morning. Queries relating to the Advent Calendar should be addressed to bdrumm@catholicbishops.ie.

Have a Wonderful Week

The world is changed by your example not by your opinions

MASS SCHEDULE

Friday 6th. November: Mass at 7.30

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday 24th. Christmas Eve:

Ballyconnell at 7.30 pm.

Kilquiggan at 8 pm

Clonmore at 9 pm.

Wednesday 25th. Christmas Day

Ballyconnell at 9 am

Kilquiggan at 9.30 am

Clonmore at 11 am

I will attend the sick for Christmas on Friday 20th. December

Collections: Envelopes €370; Baskets €347

Envelopes returned:79. Envelope winner: Gerry & Breda Wilson

Bingo: €715; Lotto: €565. Bingo Jackpot: €600

The Christmas Station envelopes are now due. You have one in your envelope box. Thank you.

Anniversaries

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Ballyconnell 30th Nov.

Josephine Lyons, Ballybar

Ballyconnell 7th. Decem

Matt Lawlor, Ballykilduff

Kilquiggan 1st. Dec.

James & Michael Kearns

Clonmore 8th November

Margaret Lawlor, Raheen.; Betty & Bun Byrne Knockballystine; Edward & Margaret Jones Ballyduff; Molly O'Flaherty, Kilalongford.

COLLECTORS FOR DECEMBER

Ballyconnell

Paul Osborne
Domnick Nolan

Kilquiggan

Michael Kelly
Ned Bowes

Clonmore

Paddy Lawlor
Liam Hickey

ALTAR SOCIETY

Ballyconnell

Angela Doyle

Kilquiggan

Aine Gregan/ N. Gahan

Drug and Alcohol addiction knows no boundaries, You Are Not Alone, help is always available. Please contact You Are Not Alone support group on 085-7872730 for a confidential and non-judgemental service.

Classes at the Core: Nutrition class starting on wed 13, next 10 am to 12 noon. Also, Interior Designer starting wed 13, 7-9 pm. Places are filling up fast. Register by call 087 6292436 or message Hacketstown community Facebook or call into the core Centre. Classes are Free to everyone

CLONMORE APOSTOLIC; Church gate collection:

Saturday 30th. November in Ballyconnell; Sunday 1st.

December in Kilquiggan; Sunday 8th. December Clonmore

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is normally a holyday of obligation. But if 8 December is the Second Sunday of Advent, the solemnity is transferred to Monday 9 December, and is **not** a holyday of obligation. This happens this year. It happened most recently in 2013 and 2002 and will happen again in 2024. The Solemnity appears on p 6 of next year's *Liturgical Calendar for Ireland 2020*, but note the brackets and the date 9 December. Immediately we are aware that this is one of the years when it is not a holyday of obligation. On p 32, Monday 9 December is the Solemnity, but it is without +, an indication of Sundays and Holydays of Obligation (p 6).

Global Caring Film - Living in harmony with God's creation CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration, based in Westminster) have produced another tv-quality film resource to help parishes respond to Pope Francis' urgent call to be at the heart of the ecological challenge facing our world today. It is an engaging short film including input from Bishop John Arnold, Dr Carmody Grey and an inner-city school. It is a free online resource; Full details and a short trailer can be found at www.ourcommonhome.co.uk

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 6th.