

## Mass Schedule



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>. Mass in Ballyconnell at 9.30. Wednesday 21<sup>th</sup>. School mass for Ballyconnell NS at 9.45, all are welcome. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dec. Mass in Killinure at 7.30. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fr. John will attend the sick and housebound for Christmas.

### Coolkenno GAA Lotto

Last week's numbers: 13, 24, 31, 32. No Winner.

Next week's jackpot €8,100. Next Draw: Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. Dec. in Club House  
Lucky Dip Winner: Patrick Dalton; Ned & Helen Rossiter; Josey Mernagh; Edel Carton

### PARISH LOTTO: Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto

Results for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>. December 1, 7, 25, 27 - No Winner -  
Next week's jackpot €15,000 - 14 Match 3's - €72 each.

### Collections: Weekends: 3/4 & 10/11 December

Envelopes: €697. Baskets: €813. Envelopes returned: 109  
Bingo: €-50. Lotto: €

A sincere thank you also to all those who support us  
online by direct debits, and on Diocesan website.



## *Thought for the week*

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Eve: Mass in Ballyconnell at 7.30; Mass in Clonmore at 7.30 and Mass in Kilquiggan at 8.00.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Day: Ballyconnell at 9.30 am Kilquiggan at 9.30 am Clonmore at 11 am

Christmas Penance Service: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>. At 7.30 n Ballyconnell

## *Have a Wonderful Week*

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

18<sup>th</sup>. December

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Parish Office will be open on Tuesday and Friday  
from 9.30 - 1.30. Tel:059-9156890

Email: [clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com](mailto:clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com)

Fr. John: 086-2403787.

Email: [frjohn51@gmail.com](mailto:frjohn51@gmail.com)



## Keep awake

The situation into which Jesus was born was one of huge stigma with dangerous consequences. God's physical birth into this world was condemned socially; Jesus was marginalised from the moment of his conception. Imagine God choosing to be involved so intimately in this world and in such a 'shocking' way. Even the town of Galilee is problematic for this news as Galileans were considered by the religious leaders of the time to be 'second-class Jews'. It is here Jesus comes. God surprises. God stands with the marginalised. God is present in the most hidden places at times. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we were invited to 'Keep Awake'. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, what have you noticed this advent? What has your waiting been like? How have you prepared? Where have you seen God present this Advent? Where have you seen God being born around you? In the most unexpected places? In the most marginalised? Is your heart more open to receive a new birth of God again? 'Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh - this time, within me - as once it did in holy Mary; long Advent days ago.'

Edward Hays.

## ANNIVERSARIES - WITH LOVE WE REMEMBER



Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>. Ballyconnell 7.30

Kieran & Bridget Kelly, Rath

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. December Kilquiggan - 9.00

Patti Hickey Ballynultagh

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. December Clonmore - 10.30.

Michael & Kevin Strahan; Henry & Elizabeth Strahan.;

Michael Lyons, Ballykilduff



Ballyconnell Bingo will take place in Ballyconnell hall on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. December at 8.00. Your support is very much appreciated.

## LETTER FROM JESUS OF NAZARETH

As you know, we're approaching my birthday again. Every year there's a big party in my honour and I think this year the same thing will happen. These days people do a lot of shopping, there are ads on the radio, on tv. Everywhere there is nothing else to talk about, but about how little is left for that day to come. Actually, it's nice to know that at least one day of the year some people think of me a little bit. As you know, many years ago they started celebrating my birthday. At first, they did not seem to understand and appreciate how much I did for them, but today very few are aware of what they celebrate it for. People get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know what it's about. I remember last year, when my birthday came, they threw a big party in my honour. There were very delicious things on the table, everything was decorated and I also remember there were many gifts; but you know what, I wasn't even invited. I was the guest of honour and they didn't even remember

to invite me. They didn't even bother to bless the table. The party was for me and when the big day came, I was left out, they closed the door... and I wanted to share that moment with them. Actually, I wasn't surprised. Because in the last few years everyone's shut the door on me. And since I wasn't invited, I thought I'd go in quietly. I went in and stayed in the corner. They were all drinking, there were some drunks telling jokes, taking care of each other. They were having a great time. To top it all off, came an old fat man dressed in red, white-bearded and shouting Ho-Ho-Ho-Ho! It looked like he'd had too much to drink. He dropped heavily on an armchair and all the children ran towards him saying, "Santa Claus, Santa Claus!" "Dad Noel, Santa, Santa!" " as if the party were in his honour! Twelve o'clock at night and they all began to embrace each other. I stretched out my arms waiting for someone to hug me and .... you know? No one hugged me...Suddenly they all started to hand out the presents, one by one they were opening them, until they all opened up. I approached to see if there were any for me by any chance. How would you feel if on your birthday you gave gifts to each other and you didn't get anything? I realized then that I was left over at that party, went out quietly, closed the door and retreated. Every year that passes is worse, people only remember dinner, gifts and parties, and nobody remembers me. I wish this Christmas would allow me to enter your life, even to recognize that I have been in this world for almost two thousand years to give my life for you on the cross and thus be able to save you. Today I just want you to believe this with all your heart. I'm going to tell you something, I thought that since many people didn't invite me to their party, I'm going to make my own, a great party like no one ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the last arrangements, so this year I'm sending several invitations and it's this day, there's an invitation for you. I'll book you a place, and write your name in gold letters in my big guest book. At this party there will only be guests with prior reservation, and those who do not answer my invitation will have to be left outside. Get ready because when everything's ready, I'm throwing the big party. see you soon. I'll wait for you... Christmas, in the Eucharist, in the manger, in prayer and in the good you do for others.

**JESUS OF NAZARETH**