

Thought for the week

CHRISTMAS EVE

Placing Jesus in the Crib on Christmas Eve Night There is a lovely tradition of placing the figure of the baby Jesus in the crib on Christmas Eve, before children go to bed. Often the youngest member of the household gets this honour!

Prayer at the Crib



The youngest member of the family holds the infant figure during this prayer. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Loving God, as we look upon our family crib we thank you for all who are part of the Christmas story and part of our story too. As we look upon these

animals, we thank you for the gift of creation and the beauty of the world you have created. We thank you for the shepherds and we remember that it was they who were looked down on by society who were the first to hear the good news of Christmas. We thank you for Mary and for Joseph, who trusted in you and did what you asked. And finally, we thank you for the gift of Jesus, your Son, who was born like us, lived like us, struggled like us, and who has shown us how to be fully human. As we place this figure of Jesus in our crib may it be a sign of Your presence in our lives. The figure can be placed in the crib at this point. Emmanuel, God with us, come to each of us and stay with us. Protect us and guide us as a family, free us from worry and let your love grow in our hearts so that we may be Emmanuel, God with us, to one another over these Christmas days and beyond. Amen

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

25th. December
Christmas Day

The Parish Office will be closed and will reopen on Jan 10th. Tel:059-9156890

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Christmas Message 2022

"You'll never guess what Santa brought, a train set" the young boy tells his grandad early Christmas morning in the television advertisement. I think it's an ad. for Barry's Tea, but it always gets my vote for the best and simplest Christmas message. Christmas is a time for gift-giving. Children, like that little boy in the television ad., are attracted by the gifts; we all are. But we also need to be attracted to the crib, to the Christmas creche, where we will learn the message that God's greatest gift to us is His Son. Whatever we receive this Christmas, we will be very grateful for; but the gift that will last the longest is the knowledge and realisation that we are loved, cherished and held by God. To understand Christmas, we have to understand the language of God, the greatest gift-giver. We find the language of God as we look into the crib. The inn-keeper closed one door but left the stable door ajar, enough for Mary and Joseph to squeeze through, exhausted by the census journey. The empty manger has been filled. God's gift comes not in tinsel and glitter but "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk. 2:12). God speaks to us from that manger, in the simplest of languages; we are the ones who too often complicate that message. Christmas brings out the best in all of us. It's a busy time, it's a hectic time, but we wouldn't want it any different. I am so impressed by how the commercialisation of Christmas is matched by the generosity in giving to those in need: the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with

their outreach in every parish, the local food kitchens, the Ukrainian appeals, support for Trócaire as it enters its fiftieth year and the many other causes that command our attention these days. Christmas brings out the best in all of us. As much as is spent in gifts, a huge amount is generously donated to charities. And every gift doesn't necessarily cost hard-earned money, such as the gift of generosity, so obvious in the great response to those charitable appeals. Christmas is a celebration centred on generosity, God generously sharing with us His Son. The gift of time, spending time with those close to us is a precious gift, enjoying one another's company. The gift of kindness, words used to heal rather than hurt.

Christmas doesn't have to be complicated. The message is simple, like the boy's train set. The message that God's greatest gift to us is His Son Jesus, and that's a gift that keeps on giving all year round.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be in your heart and every good wish and blessing for 2023.

✠ Denis Nulty

ANNIVERSARIES - WITH LOVE WE REMEMBER



Saturday 24th. Ballyconnell 7.30

Lily & Donal Troy

Sunday 1st. January Kilquiggan - 9.00

Edward (Ted) Hickey Cronalea, 1st. Anniversary and deceased members of Hickey Family. Mary Moran, Kilquiggan; Kathleen Conroy inhealy; Theresa and John Keegan, Kilquiggan.

Coolkenno GAA Lotto

Last week's numbers: 7, 12, 13, 26. No Winner.

Next week's jackpot €8,200. Next Draw: Monday 26th. Dec. in Club House

Lucky Dip Winner: John O'Shea, Bridget Timmins; Mgt. Carton; Calum Weeks;

Martin Dempsey; Catherine Doyle, James Doran; John Byrne

Collections: Weekends: 17/18 December
Envelopes: €381. Baskets: €374. Envelopes returned:
Bingo: €427. Lotto: €

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



PARISH LOTTO: Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto

Results for Wednesday 21st. December 7, 17, 18, 32 - No Winner -

Next week's jackpot €16,000 - 9 Match 3's - €112 each

We wish you a safe, happy and peace filled Christmas and New Year Next lotto draw will take place on Wednesday 4th January 2023. This will draw be €16,000

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY—Friday 30th December

In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus & the simple acceptance of Mary and Joseph of the wonders of God. In the daily life of our family and community we can come close to God because God is already with us. A Family Prayer God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, one family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient & kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, especially those for whom we now pray. (pause) Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen

A Prayer before your Family Christmas Meal

Loving God, on this Christmas day we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, those who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may sit now at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead. Amen.