

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ROSCOMMON

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH NEWSLETTER

12th DECEMBER, 2021

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FINDING OUR WAY THROUGH ADVENT

During the summer I had a lucky escape when I mistakenly drove down a one way street in an unfamiliar town. Thanks to the beckoning of other motorists (and the siren of a nearby Garda patrol car!) an accident was avoided. In hindsight I perhaps was over reliant on a sat nav rather than paying attention to more conventional physical signage that clearly mark the direction one can or cannot travel.

In our Gospel this Sunday we meet people who approach John the Baptist seeking direction, but this time in their lives as a whole. It's quite surprising the groups who seek his assistance, namely tax collectors and soldiers, who would have been better known for their robustness and ruthlessness in dealing with the general public. Yet they sensed they were perhaps moving in the wrong path and they humbly made the request to John: 'What must we do?'

John was very clear in his guidance: exact no more than your rate(tax collectors) and no more intimidation(soldiers). This passage from Luke proves to be a story of great humility. Advent is a time perhaps for all of us to stop and re adjust our own compasses. It's a time to remind ourselves we don't need to be perfect to encounter God, but that if we humbly seek his direction, he will be our signpost to the destination of Joy promised to us on this Gaudete Sunday.

Fr. Kevin

Mass Intentions for the coming week.

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| MONDAY | 11 am | Deceased members of the Kilmartin & Stoker families Betty & Harry Jameson & deceased family |
| TUESDAY | 8 am | Morning Mass |
| | 11 am | Special Intention |
| WEDNESDAY | 8 am | Morning Mass |
| | 11 am | Maurice & Annie Naughton Bridget & Nicholas McCarthy & deceased family |
| THURSDAY | 8 am | Morning Mass |
| | 11 am | Padre Pio Mass for Peace |
| FRIDAY | 11 am | Patrick Gillooly Special Intention |
| SATURDAY | 11 am | Doreen Conlon Martin & Syrea Connolly Martin Connolly (Jnr) |
| | 7 pm | Vigil Mass |
| SUNDAY | 9 am 11:30 am | Morning Mass Daniel Keigher (1st Anniversary) |



RECENT DEATHS: Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of -

Anna McCarthy, Skibbereen sister of Benny Mulhern, Celtic Avenue & Seamus Mulhern Lanesboro Street.

Phil Gallagher, Convent Road, Roscommon.

We offer sincere sympathy and the assurance of our prayers to their bereaved families and friends.

CONFESSIONS FOR ADVENT - will be available next Saturday 11th December at the following times: **10:30 am- 11:00 am, 2.00pm-3.00pm** and **6.30pm- 7.00pm** at our new confessional areas by St. Joseph's and Our Lady's altar rails. Please observe Covid 19 guidelines.

CHRISTMAS MASSES-2021

The Parish Pastoral Council has decided, in the interests of health and safety of parishioners, our Christmas Masses will again be arranged on a ticket basis this year.

Thankfully, due to increased capacity, it is hoped that all parishioners wishing to attend will be able to obtain a ticket. Again we have arranged additional Christmas Masses so as many as possible can be facilitated.

The times of the Masses are as follows:

Christmas Eve

4.00pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm & 10.30pm

Christmas Day

8.30am, 10.30am, 12.00noon.

Tickets will be available in **Sacred Heart Church** after all Masses (Weekdays and Weekends) starting this **Tuesday 13th December after 8.00am Mass until 23rd December or while stocks last.**

With consideration for other households we urge each household to take only as many tickets as is necessary for **one** Christmas Mass.

N.B. A ticket can only be used for the Mass time printed on the ticket.

Tickets will not be available by telephone booking.

Thank you for your cooperation and looking forward to meeting you all as we will shortly celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

APPRECIATION! APPRECIATION! APPRECIATION!

About a fortnight ago, the Apostolic Workers put in an appeal for eight mass kits for some newly ordained priests in Nigeria. I was flabbergasted by the sudden and cheerful response from the parishioners. I am truly overwhelmed by your kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity. I truly feel loved and accepted in this parish. Indeed, the words of Danica Whitfield resonate with my experience: "The best part of your life is when your family becomes your friends and your friends become your family." You my friends have become my family.

On behalf of my Bishop and the priests who are beneficiaries of your magnanimity, I most sincerely express our profound appreciation to Fr. Kevin the parish priest, the Apostolic workers and the donors for your love, generosity, and selflessness. The uncertain times we are in can easily make us close our eyes to the needs of others. But you have risen above that and shown character, faith, and altruism.

May the good Lord reward you with good health, peace, joy, and in the words of St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:11-13 "You will be enriched in every way for all generosity..."

GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT.

Fr. Douglas Zaggi.

Altar Society - Week starting Monday 13th December - Group 1.

The Altar Society would welcome any donations/poinsettia to beautify the altar and surrounds for Christmas. Thanks in advance.



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL - Adorers for the following hours are urgently required: **Sunday:** 2pm - 3pm, 4pm - 5pm. **Monday:** 2pm - 3pm. **Tuesday:** 1pm - 2pm, 4pm - 5pm. **Wednesday:** 1pm - 2pm, 2pm - 5pm. **Thursday:** 4pm - 5pm, 5pm - 6pm. **Saturday:** 11am - 12noon, 2pm - 3pm. Thank you for your support. If you can help out with any of the above hours, please contact Mae McBrien 086 8622354 or Tom Beirne 086 3861954.

AREA DISTRIBUTORS: *Please Note - Christmas Envelopes are available for collection in the Sacristy before and after all Masses this week-end. They will also be available in the Parish Office during the week. If possible please ensure they are collected by Wednesday 17th December at the latest. Many thanks once again for all your help during the year it is much appreciated.*



ADVENT WREATH: The Advent Wreath is made from evergreen leaves that are woven around a circle of wire. A purple ribbon is then wound around the leaves. Three purple candles and one pink candle are placed on the Wreath. The circle of evergreen leaves represents God who is without beginning or end. The third candle pink is lit today and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.



Kilteevan Community Development Christmas Market scheduled to take place in Kilteevan community centre Sunday, 12th December 3-6pm is **now cancelled** due to the new covid regulations that came into effect on 7 December.

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**Sunday's Offertory Collection:** €3,115.00

Thank You