

# SACRED HEART CHURCH

## ROSCOMMON

PARISH NEWSLETTER

10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### JOYFULLY PREPARING HIS WAY *Mark 1:1-8*

The Prophet Isaiah's words were repeated by John the Baptist in his time, ... ***"the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..."*** It is a call to prepare "*the way*" that is not for us but for the Lord. John the Baptist plays an important role in preparing for the two comings of the Savior. Even today, John's preaching echoes to our ears urging us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus.

We are preparing these days for Christmas which is the commemoration of Jesus' first coming on earth and we also prepare most especially for his second coming in the unknown future. We need to prepare for the Lord's coming by finding out the "wilderness" of our lives and the "wilderness" of our hearts so that God can enter us. Our preparation requires spiritual discipline that confronts the spiritual hindrances of sin and lack of faith. In the spirit of this season let us listen to our conscience and be humble enough to admit our mistakes for us to produce the fruits of repentance. In the world where the reality of sin is not comfortably talked about, let us be "another John the Baptist" who bravely cried out for repentance to prepare for the coming of our compassionate and merciful Savior. Let us take heed to the preaching of John the Baptist to prepare for the coming of the Savior by asking God's pardon for our sins.

As we approach Christmas, we have physical preparations of all kinds like Christmas decorations, food, gifts, and others, but let us not forget to prepare our hearts by acknowledging our trespasses and humbly ask for the Lord's forgiveness. Our reconciliation with the Lord and with one another can make us really prepared to joyfully welcome the Savior.

Let us pray on this season of Advent that our physical and spiritual preparations will make this Christmas celebration truly a joyful, peaceful, meaningful, and a better one, different from all the previous ones.

- Fr. Raul

### 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 first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah. The purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. Today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and a second purple candle is lit. The second purple candle represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

## Mass Intentions for the coming week

MONDAY	11 am	John Doolan (1st Anniversary) Joe, Annie & Joe Jnr Keegan
TUESDAY	8 am	Michael Beirne
	11 am	Mary Oates
WEDNESDAY	8 am	Morning Mass
	11 am	Morning Mass
THURSDAY	8 am	Michael & Eileen Quigley
	11 am	Morning Mass
FRIDAY	11 am	Christy & Philomena Tully
SATURDAY	10 am	Doreen Conlon Maurice & Anne Naughton Ann & Joseph Brennan Margaret & Anthony King
	7 pm	Marie McAleer (1st Anniversary)
SUNDAY	9 am	Ned Hoare (Months Mind)
	11.30 am	J.J. Quigley (1st Anniversary)



*Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of*  
**CON MURPHY**, Golf Links Road, Roscommon

*We offer sincere sympathy and the assurance of our prayers to his  
bereaved family & friends.*

**AREA DISTRIBUTORS:** Please Note - Christmas Envelopes are available for collection in the Sacristy before and after all Masses this weekend. They will also be available in the Parish Office during the week. If possible please ensure they are collected by Friday, 15th December at the latest. Many thanks once again for all your help during the year. It is much appreciated.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays: 10.30am - 11am & 6.30pm - 7pm.**

**BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL** - Adorers for the following hours are urgently required: **Wednesday:** 12noon - 1pm & 2 pm - 3pm & **Friday:** 6pm - 7pm. Thank you for your support. If you can help out with the above hours, please contact Tom Beirne 0863861954.

**ADVENT PRAYER GROUPS MEETING:** Wednesday 13th & 20th in St. Coman's Club from 11.30 a.m. to 12.05 p.m. approx.

**ROSCOMMON ADVENT PRAYER & SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUPS** will meet in St. Coman's Club at 7 pm and 8 pm respectively on the four Wednesdays of Advent. Resources will be provided. All welcome. More info @ [www.elphindiocese.ie/advent](http://www.elphindiocese.ie/advent) or contact Justin @ 087 6171526.

**SHORT BREAKS SCHEME:** Would you be interested in providing home from home short breaks for children and adults who have an intellectual disability? Brothers of Charity Services Ireland, Homeshare Roscommon are recruiting host carers. Training and support provided. Tax exempt Allowances paid. For more information email [homeshareroscommon@gmail.com](mailto:homeshareroscommon@gmail.com) or phone Catherine on 090 6628500 / 087 2126607.

**FUNDRAISING CONCERT:** Festival Folk, Abbey Hotel, in aid of Roscommon Cancer Support on December 14th at 8 p.m. Special guests Sean Keane and Eleanor Shanley. Also Rig The Jig, Michael Banahan & Friends, Lady Betty, Vincent Pierce, Noel Carberry & Friends, Ukulele Collective; Emma Donnelly & Therese Hanley. Compere Deirdre Kelly. Tickets €25 from Abbey Hotel 090 6626240; Vita House 090 6625898 and On Line Eventbrite.

**THE ALTAR SOCIETY** would welcome any donations/flowers/poinsettia's to beautify the altar and surrounds for Christmas. Thanks in advance.

**LISNAMULT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** The Lisnamult Residents and Tenants Annual Christmas Raffle will take place on 19th December. Great prizes up for grabs. Book of 3 Tickets only €5. A sincere thanks to all the local business for their continued support with sponsoring prizes. If you interested in purchasing tickets, please contact 090-6626152 or Anthony on 087 2125684 or Una 086 8033503. Your support is greatly appreciated. 1st Prize: €500 Voucher - Sponsored by Flemings Supervalu; 2nd Prize: €200 Cash - Sponsored by Stephen & Darren Hoare; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: €150 Voucher – Sponsored by Time Pieces; 4th Prize: €100 Voucher – Sponsored by McGuinness Pharmacy; 5th Prize: €100 Voucher – Sponsored by Gleeson's; 6<sup>th</sup> Prize: €100 Voucher – Sponsored by Topline Ward's; 7th Prize: €100 Cash – Sponsored by Liam Stephens Klassic Cleaners; 8th Prize: €100 Cash – Sponsored by Ivan & Martin Connaughton; 9th Prize: €100 Cash – Sponsored by John Gaynor; 10th Prize: €100 Cash – Sponsored by Endless Blinds; 11th Prize: €100 Cash –

**St. Joseph's Church, Kiltewan - Upcoming Mass**

Sunday, December 17th at 10 a.m.

**Altar Society** - Week starting Monday 11th December - Group IV

**NA** physical meetings on Tuesday nights only from 8 - 9pm in Room 18 (upstairs) at St. Comans, Abbey St., Roscommon.

**MEMORY CAFE:** Roscommon Leader Partnership hosts a monthly cafe to help support people affected by dementia, their families and carers. Next month's event takes place on Wed. Dec. 13th at 2.30 pm in Mo Chairde - St. Ronans Hall, Keadue, F42, N928. For more information call Ciaran at +353 (86) 083 6720 or visit [www.roscommondementia.ie](http://www.roscommondementia.ie)

**REGARI RECOVERY COLLEGE:** Reflect Connect and Project Certificates, December 12th 2023 in Roscommon County Library from 2 - 5 p.m. For more information call Amanda on 086 1304869 or email [regarirecoverycollege@gmail.com](mailto:regarirecoverycollege@gmail.com)

**LOCAL FORUM** is an open meeting for people with connections to the mental health services where they speak about their experience, present views and raise matters to improve the service to others. Please contact Fiona on [fiona.dodd@hse.ie](mailto:fiona.dodd@hse.ie) or 087 3805332 or Teresa [MHERForumSecretary@outlook.com](mailto:MHERForumSecretary@outlook.com) or 0877554393

**ROSCOMMON SOLSTICE CHOIR** Christmas Concert featuring the wonderful children from Ballymurray National School in St. Patrick's Church, Knockcroghery on Dec. 10th at 6pm! Tickets on sale in Gleasons, Eight till Late and Easons - €15. Raffle on the night with all proceeds going to Ballymurray N.S. Development Fund.

**CULLEEN HALL** "Christmas Market" takes place on Saturday, 16th December from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. To book a table contact Billy on 086 8229817.

**CHRISTMAS SANTA EXPERIENCE** in Kiltewan Community Centre on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of December from 3pm – 6pm. Come join us for Festive Treats, Carol Singing, Bumper Raffle and much more. Meet our elves. Santa & Mrs. Claus will arrive by pony & trap at 3pm sharp! We would love to see you there. Let the magic of Christmas begin!

## **Sunday's Offertory Collection - 3rd December**

**€3,455.00**

Thank  
You

### **PARISH STAFF**

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**Email:** *Parish Office:* - [roscommonparish3@gmail.com](mailto:roscommonparish3@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.sacredheartroscommon.com](http://www.sacredheartroscommon.com)

**Church Radio:** = 105.9 fm

**Ros FM:** = 94.6 (11am Mass transmitted daily)

**Webcam:** [www.churchtv.ie/roscommon](http://www.churchtv.ie/roscommon)

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/roscommonandkiltewanparish/>