

# SACRED HEART CHURCH

## ROSCOMMON

PARISH NEWSLETTER

3rd DECEMBER 2023

1st Sunday of Advent



### *LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL*

Many of us live with regrets. We wonder would I have been happier if I took a different course of action in life to the one I did: a different career perhaps or a different partner or a different place of residence.

To use the words of the first reading today from Isaiah we are sometimes like 'withered leaves' in the face of our past and in the face of our sins. This wretchedness of course can then give us little or no hope for the future. However, this season of Advent urges us to dare to hope even if there is no grounds or reason to do so. Again, if we turn to Isaiah, he tells us that we are the work of God's hands, we the clay and He the potter. Our personal lives are still under his loving care no matter how messy we think they have been up until now.

Interestingly when we think of happiness, we can sometimes overestimate the happiness of other people's lives and underestimate our own. In a survey done several years ago, interviewers asked hundreds of people at random whether they believed they would be happier if they had a million euro. Not surprisingly, 76 per cent said yes. The interviewers also spoke with ten millionaires and asked if having a million euro made them happier people. All ten answered 'No'. An encouraging story no doubt for many of us who are struggling with the current cost of living.

In our world of today as we witness the violence and conflict in places like Ukraine and the Holy Land, we desperately want to see the end of fighting and the advent of peace and that there is light at the end of the tunnel. It seems though we need to wait a little longer.

This weekend's liturgy signals the coming of Christ but again that we've another bit to go. We must wait another few weeks. In the meantime, as we grapple with darkness of our lives perhaps born from our past, we must be patient with our Maker that he will make of each of us, in time, a true masterpiece.

Despite our present difficulties we truly still have a lot to celebrate today, this first Sunday of Advent.

- Fr. Kevin

### *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 purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin.

Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent and a purple candle is lit.

## Mass Intentions for the coming week

MONDAY	11 am	Michael & Mary Cochrane Michael & Josephine Kelly
TUESDAY	8 am	Kathleen & Paddy Shaughnessy
	11 am	Patrick & Bridget Clancy & deceased family members
WEDNESDAY	8 am	Kathleen & Robert Derby
	11 am	Brian Neilan Thomas Egan
THURSDAY	8 am	Myra Donnellan
	11 am	John, Margaret & Jim Nally
<i>Vigil Mass</i>	7 pm	Rita & Paddy Walsh, Kathleen Gavin, George, Doreen & John Walsh & deceased family members
FRIDAY <i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i>	8 am	Joe & Phil Gallagher
	11 am	Mary & Patrick Spellman & deceased family members
SATURDAY	10 am	James Gleeson Catherine & Dominick Raftery Alsie Macklin Thomas Penny
	7 pm	Greg McCrann (1st Anniversary)
SUNDAY	9 am	Jane Brennan (Months Mind)
	11.30 am	Rita Curley (1st Anniversary)



*Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of*

**KATHLEEN PADDEN**, (nee Murtagh), Celtic Ave., Roscommon

**DOROTHY (DOSSIE) BURKE**, (nee Lynch), late of Ardnagh, Roscommon

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

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*We also remember Mary Lyons whose anniversary occurs around this time.*

**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 6th, 13th & 20th in St. Coman's Club from 11.30 a.m. to 12.05 p.m. approx.

**MEDJUGORJE MASS:** Monthly Mass will be held in St. Coman's Club on Tuesday, December 5th at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

**THE SISTERHOOD OF ST. ELISABETH,** Belarus, will be visiting the Sacred Heart Church, the weekend of December 2nd - 3rd, selling homemade crafts in aid of their orphanage and psychiatric hospital. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS** with the Athlone Choral Society and Special Guest Daren Lane in St. Coman's Church of Ireland, Roscommon Town on Sunday, 3rd December at 6pm. Donations at the Door, if wished.

**YOUTH 2000 CHRISTMAS RETREAT:** This youth retreat will take place at Dominican College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare between 8th - 10th December 2023. This promises to be a special retreat!! Great CRAIC!!, Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks & Workshops, fantastic music, Group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Reconciliation, Prayer, Drama, Games & plenty of time to chill out, meet new people and find out what it means to be young & Catholic today!! Booking is now open at [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

**ROSCOMMON TOWN ICA GUILD** will hold its final meeting of 2023 in Hannon's Hotel on Tuesday, 5th December at 8 p.m. New members always welcome. The Guild is looking forward to a year of activities, crafts and outings in 2024. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

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

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

Sunday, December 10th at 10 a.m.

**Altar Society** - Week starting Monday 4th December - Group III

**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)

**ROSCOMMON GARDEN CLUB** will hosts its Gala Night on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 8 pm in Hannons Hotel. Patricia McCallog will give a Christmas themed floral demonstration. Proceeds from the night will go to Roscommon Hospice. Tickets available from Pat 0860774017 / 6625694, Hannons Hotel, Total Health Pharmacy Roscommon or members of the committee.

**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 [MHERForumSeretary@outlook.com](mailto:MHERForumSeretary@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.

**INDOOR MARKET** will be held in Lisnamult Community Centre, F42 NN72, on Sunday 3rd December from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. All kinds of Bric a Brac, clothes, jewellery, homemade jams, handmade candles & soaps. All are very welcome. Tables €12 each. To book call Bridgid on 086 3147053.

**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 - 26th November**

**€3,339.00**

Thank You

**PARISH STAFF**

*Fr. Kevin Fallon P.P - 090 66 26298 : Fr. Joe Fitzgerald C.C. - 087 2903310*

*Fr. Raul Cino C.C - 090 66 26189 : Fr. Séan Beirne C.C (Kiltewan) - 090 66 26374*

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**Website:** [www.sacredheartroscommon.com](http://www.sacredheartroscommon.com); **Church Radio:** = 105.9 fm

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

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