

ST MANMANS NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December 2024

Fr. Thomas O'Reilly, P.P.

Phone: 057-864-8030

Parish Website: www.clonasleeparish.com

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Charity Number: 07355

Local Safeguarding Representatives: Jackie Hyland, Caroline Mills

Director of Safeguarding Children: Ailish Higgins: 085-802-1633 Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

WEEKEND MASSES 28th/29th December

Saturday 6 pm

Sunday 10 am

WEEKDAY MASSES 23rd–27th December

Mon, Tues, Fri 9 am

Christmas Eve - 7 pm

Christmas Day - 10 am

Blessing of Children's Toys during mass

St Stephen's Day - 9 am

View a video broadcast of masses in Clonaslee daily at 9 am, Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 10 am on this direct link <https://churchmedia.tv/st-manmans-church>

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms available on Saturdays. To arrange a date contact Fr. O'Reilly on 057-864-8030.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

It is advisable to give 6 months' notice of your intention to marry to the Church and the Registrar.

Contact 057-864-8030 to book the church. All couples getting married must attend a pre-marriage course. Contact ACCORD for marriage preparation courses on 057-934-1831 or accordtull@eircom.net. Marriage & relationship counselling service Mon-Fri 9:30am-1:30 pm.

EUCHARIST: 24th/25th December: Team B

28th/29th December: Team C

ANNIVERSARIES

Saturday 21st December – 6 pm

Francis Hogan & deceased members of the Hogan & Dunne Families

John, Jane & James Dunne, Glenkeen

Mary Tynan, Garryheather & deceased members of the Tynan & Hayes Families

Sunday 22nd December – 10 am

Arthur Sealy, Mountmellick & Waterford

Mick & Beth McEvoy, Sliabh Bloom Park

Vincent & Bernie Daly, their son Jimmy &

Bernie's mother, Mary Noonan

Tuesday 24th December – 7 pm

Derry Keating, Ashbrook

James & Rose Young, Ashbrook & deceased members of the Young Family

Saturday 28th December – 6 pm

Anne Conroy & Marie Mahy nee Conroy,

Ballykaneen & deceased members of the

Conroy Family

Sunday 29th December – 10 am

Sr Theresa Egan, Coolnamoney

Ralph & Isabel Loomis, Washington, USA

Kildare & Leighlin Christmas Message 2024

At the very centre of the word 'incarnation' is the noun 'caro' meaning flesh. God assumes our flesh. He who is everywhere, allows himself to be restricted in our human body, in our broken and bruised world. Christmas is once again marvelling at this becoming flesh, the fact that He "*became flesh*" (Jn.1:14).

Christmas reminds us that God completely assumed our human condition. We sometimes ask, why did He do it? Because He cares for us, loves us, wants to hold us close to Him and particularly those who are fragile or tender.

As we contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation this Christmas, our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude for God's immense gift to humanity. But we can't just leave it there; Christmas calls us to be to be that gift to others.

As Pope Francis reminded us in his homily at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve 2023 in St. Peter's Basilica "*Christ does not look at numbers, but at faces*". This Christmas, as we prepare to step into a Jubilee Year of Hope, may we realise He sees our face and He smiles at the greatest gift we can give, the gift of being present to and for

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one another, the gift of our hearts. Pope Francis' latest encyclical *Dilexit Nos* means "He Loved

years old. *You must book the evening before prior to 5 pm on 057-869-2168. Bus service* from Birr to Portlaoise Monday to Sunday. Pick up point is Londis Clonaslee. Weekday times: 6:28, 10:28,

Us". He invites us to draw closer to one another and to allow our hearts to be transformed.

Looking on the crib at Christmas allows us to do just that. May our hope, this Jubilee Year, be grounded in the incarnate Christ. As the Jubilee Prayer prays "may your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the gospel". Blessings and good wishes to all for Christmas and 2025.

14:13, 17:58, 21:53. Sunday: 8:43, 12:53, 16:58, 20:23. Cost €4 return and Free Travel Pass Accepted. Travels on Bank Holidays. More info call 057-869-2168

✠Denis

JUBILEE PRAYER CARDS

Available at the doors of the church

CHRISTMAS FLOWER LIST

List for the Christmas flowers will be at the doors on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

NATIVITY PLAY

The Nativity play will be performed by Scoil Bhríde students during Sat 21st Dec at 6 pm mass along with the school choir.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION

Church gate collection in aid Scoil Bhríde Parents Association, your support is appreciated.

ST STEPHENS DAY WALK in AID OF

LAOIS HOSPICE

This time of year again and preparations are in full swing! The Community Centre will be open from 8:30 am – 4 pm approximately, if you have a spare hour or two, any help would be appreciated. Sponsorship cards are available from Sheila Bourke 087-633-9540, Niall Bourke 087-411-6274 or follow us on our Facebook page.

Donations of fruit cakes are greatly appreciated.

TFI LOCAL LINK BUS

This bus travels to Portlaoise every Tuesday and Friday and to Tullamore every Thursday leaving from the village at 9 am. Travel pass is accepted. Cost is €3 return for adults and children over 5

MOUNTMELLICK LIBRARY

We will close Sat 21st Dec at 2 pm and reopen on Tuesday 31st Dec until 3:30 pm. We will close on 1st Jan and reopen Thursday 2nd Jan.

ALMAS CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS

There is still time! Almas Christmas mass bouquets are available from Dolores on 087-414-8093 or Betty Finnerty, Chapel Street. Donation €4.

LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT

A great gift to give at Christmas is 'A Different Era, Life in a Small Village' written by Fr. O'Reilly costing only €10. Available after masses and the Post Office.

CLONASLEE PARISH / COMMUNITY LOTTO

Why not give a Parish/Community Lotto Gift Card for Christmas. 5 weeks for €10 or 10 weeks for €20. Contact Dolores Murray on 087-414-8093 or Betty Finnerty 087-773-0734. A great Christmas gift to someone who has everything.

COMMUNITY & PARISH LOTTO

Jackpot won, congratulations to Benny Peavoy, Clonaslee and Carmel Dunphy, c/o N Dunne both winning €550. Winning no: 8-16-2. €30 winner: Val Rowney, Clonaslee; Jamie Langford, Clonaslee; Mary Parkinson, Kilmanman; John Troy, Clonaslee; Liam Rooney, Clonaslee.

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Voucher: Padraig Conroy. Bottle: Kathleen Blake.

Promoter's prize: D Flynn, C Horan, K Blake.

Voucher: Mary O'Keeffe. Bottle: Dolores Murray.

Next week's Jackpot: €500. Lotto gift vouchers can be purchased from Dolores Murray on 087-414-8093.