

ST MANMANS NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas

Sunday 24th December 2023

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

Sister Terese Egan, Coonamoney & St Lucia
Ralph & Isabel Loomis, Washington State USA

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 6 pm Sunday 10 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday Christmas Day 10 am

Tuesday – St Stephens Day 10 am

No morning Mass Wednesday - Friday

View a video broadcast of masses in Clonaslee daily at 10 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: 30th/31st Dec: Team A

ANNIVERSARIES

Saturday 23rd December – 6 pm

Arthur Sealy, Mountmellick & Waterford

Fr Joe Shortall, former PP Clonaslee

John & Jane Dunne, Glenkeen

Sunday 24th December - 10 am

Patrick Hogan, Chapel Street

Sunday 24th December – 7 pm

Derry Keating, Ashbrook

Jim & Rose Young & Family

Monday 25th December – 10 am

Beth & Mick McEvoy, Sliabh Bloom Park

Saturday 30th December – 6 pm

Joe Lambe & his parents, Ashbrook

Mick & Phil Lambe, Brittas & grandson Christy

Anne Conroy & Marie Mahy nee Conroy,

Ballykaneen & deceased members Conroy Family

Sunday 31st December – 10 am

CHRISTMAS MASS

Sunday 24th Dec Christmas Eve mass will be celebrated at 7 pm

Monday Christmas Day mass will be celebrated at 10 am

Children are invited to bring their toys to be blessed during Christmas Day mass.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all who helped and participated in any way to celebrate this Blessed Christmas season. We wish you a Happy Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER LIST

The Christmas Flower list of names is available at all the doors.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY HOSPICE WALK

No official start time. Dogs are welcome on leads. Both walks start at the Community Centre. Long Walk is approx. 16 km long. It is advised to not start after 1 pm. Short walk is approx. 6 km and suitable for families. Donation options are the Community Centre on Dec 26th from 9 am

TAX RECLAIM

Letters have gone to parishioners who have donated €250 or more to the parish. The details of this are confidential and known ONLY to the parish office. Because Clonaslee Parish is a registered charity, tax refunds on your donation, are on offer to the parish from central government. This does not affect your personal tax benefits. If you didn't receive a form and believe you have contributed over €250 in the years 2019, 2020, 2021 please contact Fr O'Reilly. If you are willing to participate in this scheme it is important you return the form before 28th Dec. Thank you for your continued generous support.

SCOIL BHRIDE, CLONASLEE

Scoil Bhríde, Cluain na Slí will commence accepting applications for Admission to its new Junior Infant Class 2024-2025 from 8/1/24. The closing date for accepting applications falls on 29/1/24. A copy of the school's Admission

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Policy and Application for Admission form for the 2024-2025 school year is available as follows:

*To download at www.clonasleens.ie *On request: by emailing: clonasleens@gmail.com

Emily Kelly. Bottle sponsored by Pat O'Connell of Hickeys; Mary O'Keefe. Next week's Jackpot: €950. Lotto gift vouchers can be purchased from Dolores Murray on 087-414-8093 or Betty Finnerty, Chapel Street. Next draw on Dec 26th.

*On the Phone 057 8648334 (Between 2pm-4pm)

*On writing to: The Principal, Scoil Bhríde, Chapel St, Clonaslee, Co. Laois, R32WE51

THANK YOU

Scoil Bhríde Parents Association sincerely thank all who supported their recent church gate collection and Christmas raffle. Your support is appreciated. Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

NEW YEAR MONSTER BINGO

Graiguercullen Bingo will return on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 in St. Fiacc's Hall at 8:30 pm. Jackpot on 44 numbers €1,220. Double number €530. Lotto €3300.

TFI LOCAL LINK BUS

This bus travels to Portlaoise every Tuesday and Friday and to Tullamore every Thursday leaving from the village at 9:20 am. Travel

pass is accepted. Cost is €3 return for adults and children over 5 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, 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 information call 057-869-2168

CLONASLEE PARISH LOTTO

Jackpot not won. Winning no: 15-16-1.

€30 winners: Brendan Costello, 9 Hillview, Pat Dunne, Ballymacrory; Ava Carroll, c/o Jimmy Carroll; Nan Hill, Killeigh; Shane Doughan c/o A Rigney; Emily & Ruby, c/o E Kelly. €150: Holly Deanes, c/o Jimmy Carroll. Voucher: Mary Ann Hogan. Bottle: Seamus & Timmy. Biscuits: E O'Brien. Sweets: Liam Conroy. Bottle sponsored by Pat O'Connell of Hickeys: Ann Bates.

Promoter's prize: Hickeys, Fallons,

F Bates. €150: F Bates. Voucher: Mary O'Keefe.

Bottle: J Callaghan. Biscuits: Eileen Digan. Sweets:

CLONASLEE/ST MANMAN'S GAA LOTTO

Jackpot not won. Winning no: 13-15-18-19.

€30 winners: Finton Arthur Conroy, Rosie Smith, Denise Flynn, Joe Digan, Seamus Rigney.

Promoter's prize: Gearoid Kelly. €50 Voucher

winners: G Conroy, Roisin Scully. Next week's Jackpot: €4,300 in Fallons Bar on January 2, 2024

Kildare & Leighlin Christmas Message

There is something about a baby that captures all our attention. It's magnetic. Even the most stubborn heart softens in the presence of a new born baby. I saw it recently on a visit to bless a school extension, in the staff room later when their colleague on maternity leave, called in with her new bundle of joy, everyone just wanted to see the baby. The adult in us becomes the child again, cooing and making all sorts of funny faces! Babies make people smile and that's such a good thing. Christmas is about smiling; it takes much less face muscles to smile than it does to frown. We adults complicate matters. In the words of Pope Francis "Jesus is God's smile ... when we look down at the nativity scene; when we look at Baby Jesus, we can feel God smiling at us". It all began in Bethlehem, in the simplicity of a stable. This is the essence of what we celebrate at Christmas. God becoming a baby. God stooping down to be like one of us.

We are all conscious of the turmoil in the world at present. War in Ukraine and absolute terror in Gaza and Israel, the Holy Land, the place of that Bethlehem stable. Sadly, too many babies and children are caught up in conflicts.

My prayer and hope to all is that you will feel God smile on you this Christmas. Also, that you might smile, as you thank God for those around you, family, friends and colleagues. And next time you see a new born baby, remember that as you smile,

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God is smiling on you. We need to realise this, this year more than ever, in our war-weary and broken world. Into it a fragile baby is born, a baby whose smile has the capacity to soften the hardest of adult hearts.

Every blessing for Christmas and 2024,

Denis Nulty Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin