

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

## Wicklow & Rathnew

RCN 20016166

Fourth Sunday of Advent -Year C

**22nd December 2024**



### *Gospel Reflections Sharing and Celebrating Faith Donal Neary SJ*

One of **M**ary's first recorded journeys was after the announcement to her that she was to be the mother of **G**od. It was a journey of service, a visit to her cousin who needed help. When dealing with such challenges as pregnancy bereavement, redundancy, a son in prison, or a daughter on drugs - we want to talk and we want support.

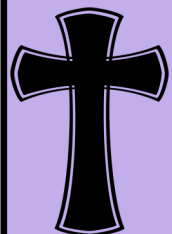
**M**ary and **E**lizabeth had something else to share - their **f**aith. The prayers they said have been said ever since. The stage was small but the audience has been millions ever since. They were not shy about their faith in their **G**od.

In a time like ours we need to externalise our faith - to go to Church, send a card with a Christmas greeting, not just a season's wish - not to parade, but to make present our faith.

The meaning this week is - *Jesus is born, and we celebrate that together*, with thanks, music, socialising, prayer and Mass. We need to find **G**od again, and let ourselves be open to him in the deepest areas of life, just like f both these women, **M**ary and **E**lizabeth, and their spouses **J**oseph and **Z**echariah were open to **G**od promptings.

Nothing need keep us from **G**od or from the crib at **C**hristmas. All are welcome. The real meaning of **C**hristmas is to meet with **G**od and to help our neighbour.

*Come Lord Jesus and bring joy and laughter among us.  
Come with , the music of eternity and the songs of the earth.  
Come among us and make us truly grateful for your birth and your love.*



*Sincere sympathies to the families of  
Elizabeth (Lily) Manley, late of Milltown Lane  
Maureen Walshe (née Breen) late of Ballynerrin Upr*

# Mass Intention List

## This Weekend ~ 21st & 22nd December 2024

- 6.00pm** Henry Tobin - 1st Anniversary, Deirdre O'Reilly (CR)  
Nick Healy (A), Margaret Healy (BR), Baby Mia Ronan,  
Edmond & Ciss O'Reilly, Des Doyle & son Adrian, Noel,  
Kathleen & Aidan O'Flaherty
- 9.00am** Mary Jameson nee Vickers (A), Terry Corkish & son Carl,  
deceased relatives of Michael & Margaret Jameson,  
Rita Jameson, Leo Devlin and the deceased members of the  
Duffy family.
- 10.30am** Michael Gleeson - 1st Anniversary, Liam Heffernan (A),  
Mary & Patrick Hendrick, Sheila & Jack Beamish & son  
James, Bridget Wickham (A), Evelyn Kelly (A)
- 12.00pm** John Noctor - 1st Anniversary, Michael (Mick) Merrigan,  
Liam & Tess Whyte, Des & Muriel Whyte, Matt Whyte,  
Betty & Patsy Byrne, Tommy & Margaret Hogan,  
Michael White (Christmas Remembrance)

## 23rd ~ 27th December 2024

- Monday** Jordan Giannikis,  
Michael, Patrick Murphy & Teresa, Ellen Murphy
- 7.00pm** Neil McGettigan (A) & his wife Agnes & Georgie  
Connor, Gaye McGettigan, Eugene McGettigan (RD)
- Tuesday** CHRISTMAS EVE
- Wednesday** CHRISTMAS DAY
- Thursday** Tom & Delia Murphy, Ned & Rosanna Hanlon & their  
sons, John & Eddie
- Friday** Sheila Maddock (1st A)

## Next Weekend ~ 28th & 29th December 2024

- 6.00pm** Ann Marah (MM) & her mother Margaret Malone,  
Baby Odin Parker Dunne (1st A), Seán Connolly (A)
- 9.00am** Nancy Ronan (A), Raymond Healy (A), Doreen Russell (A)
- 10.30am**
- 12.00pm** John King & Susan Ward (A), Phil & Nell Healy (A),  
Jack Roberts (A)

## **WEEKLY COLLECTIONS FOR WICKLOW & RATHNEW: 15th December 2024**

**ENVELOPE/CHURCH COLLECTION** - goes towards maintaining our parish **€2075**  
**1ST COLLECTION /COMMON FUND** - pays salaries of Priests of Diocese **€1150**  
**2ND COLLECTION/SHARE FUND** - goes towards Diocesan Administration **€1060**

*Many thanks for your continued support.*

## **NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS**

To reflect on the readings please check  
[catholicireland.net](http://catholicireland.net) / [sacredspace.ie](http://sacredspace.ie) / [universalis.com](http://universalis.com)

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28**

**PSALM: 83**

**SECOND READING: 1John 3:1-2, 21-24**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52**

## **Baptisms in the St. Mantan Pastoral Area**

Wicklow	First Saturday	2pm
	Third Sunday	1pm
Rathnew	Fourth Saturday	2pm
Ashford	First Sunday	12 noon
Glenealy	Third Saturday	12 noon
BBK	Second Saturday	2pm



*Please note : The next meeting will be on Thursday, 9th January 2025, at 8pm in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre*

## **PARISH CONTACTS**

**Fr Aquinas Duffy : 0404 67196 // Fr Gerard Deegan : 0404 67133**

**Parish Office: 0404 61699**

[parishofficewicklow@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficewicklow@gmail.com)

**Office opening time Monday - Friday: 10am – 12.30pm**

**For all enquires and bookings**

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Ashford: 1st Friday after Mass

Wicklow: Mondays and Thursdays after Mass

Kilbride: 1st Thursday at 7pm (Divine Mercy)

Brittas Bay: Tuesdays at 9am



### **CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER**

5.00pm Wicklow

Family Christmas Liturgy with Holy Communion

#### **VIGIL MASSES**

6.00pm ~ Ashford

6.00pm ~ Brittas Bay

7.00pm ~ Wicklow

8.30pm ~ Barndarrig

9.00pm ~ Wicklow

### **CHRISTMAS DAY: WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER**

9.00am ~ Rathnew & Kilbride

10.30am ~ Wicklow & Glenealy

12noon ~ Wicklow & Ashford

### **ST STEPHENS DAY: THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER**

10.00am ~ Wicklow & Ashford

#### **FRIDAY 27TH**

10.00am ~ Mass in Wicklow only

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

It has come to our attention that there is an organised begging group outside the Church doors before some of the Masses We would ask parishioners not to give anyone from this group money. All genuine collections will be announced in the Church or in the Newsletter.

If you ever feel under pressure from anyone either inside or outside the Church to give them money please let us know as soon as possible. It is very important to us that all parishioners feel safe and comfortable in the Church and in the Church grounds.

# De La Salle Parish Office

*Will close on Friday 20th December  
at 12.30pm and re-opens on  
Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 10am.*

*Wishing all our clients a  
very happy and peaceful  
Christmas and new year.*

**GROW** run peer support groups in Wicklow on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 to 4.30 in De La Salle Parish Centre.

They are self referral and no charge for anyone struggling with depression, anxiety, low mood or just the stresses of life. They offer a tried and tested method of self help and personal growth.

Experience new hope and meaning through working on issues together in a peer support setting

**MEETINGS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.**

Ring Trish for further info on 086 0129 082

And see [Grow.ie](http://Grow.ie) to listen to stories of Hope and Recovery.



Unit 2, First Floor,  
Rear of Boots Pharmacy  
Abbey Street, Wicklow

*Have you, or a family member,  
been diagnosed with Cancer?*

*We're here to help -*

*All our services are free of charge*

0404 32696 or 086 821 6694

Email [info@wicklowcancersupport.ie](mailto:info@wicklowcancersupport.ie)

Open: Mon-Fri: 10.00-5.00.

Closed for lunch 1-2p.m.

## WICKLOW COPD GROUP

**COPD Exercise class to help  
improve your breathing every  
Monday in the De La Salle  
Pastoral Centre.**

**Fully qualified Instructors  
Further information from  
Denis Teevan on 086 8174 703**



**Rathnew Senior Citizens**  
**Christmas Party.**

**Doreen and Elaine would like to thank all those who came to the party in St. Brigid's Hall, all the sponsors who supported us, all the helpers and Eoghan and staff who did the catering.**

**PLEASE .....**

**Do not park in the 'Disabled Parking Bays' unless you have a badge permitting this.**

**We do have Parishioners who need these spaces and unfortunately it makes it difficult for them to attend the Mass/Service when these spaces are not available.**

**Unfortunately, these parking spaces are regularly used by inconsiderate people with no badges, which is very unfair to those who genuinely need them.**

**PLEASE ..... MAKE SURE YOUR MOBILE PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF WHILE IN THE CHURCH.**



**Lions Appeal**

**A huge thank you to all who donated to the Guides' food appeal for the Lions Club.**

**There was a great response and the collection was a fantastic success.**



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024**

**There is a full schedule of all Masses and Services in the St Mantan's area available in all churches. Please take one home with you to reference over the**

**TAP & GO**

**During the month of November 2024 the Tap and Go machines in Wicklow Parish collected €1,217.00 from 152 transactions. This is split 60% to the Common Fund and 40% to Share.**

## Christmas Newsletter 2024

### Let Peace Flourish

There is something very special about this time of year. It stirs up in us something very deep inside us. Despite all the problems of our world, we are brought back to the things that really matter. Our thoughts often go back to former Christmas times and to the people who loved and nurtured us. This is a time to give thanks for them and to treasure those around us. At the darkest time of the year, a light of Hope is given to us. That light is God, who loves us profoundly and who came and lived among us. As we celebrate his birth, we are once again reminded of who we are, created in God's image and likeness.

God has high hopes for each one of us because he sees in us what we can be.

This Christmas, I am thinking about the people of Palestine as they try to survive amongst the rubble of what was their country. This past year we have seen atrocities committed that are hard to understand in 2024. One wonders how those responsible can sleep at night, given the cold and calculated murder of Men, Women and Children in their thousands. In so many parts of the world, it is often the innocent who suffer amidst terrible injustices. We are called this Christmas to pray for peace and stability in our world and an end to war. God became Human in order to reveal to us who we are and the great potential that we have to love. That message is as fresh today as it was over two thousand years ago.

Over the last few years, we have been on a journey as a partnership of three parishes. It has been a good experience to try to work together. I would like to express my thanks to all the people of the three parishes for your support and love of your parish. We are on a journey, even though we do not know where that journey will ultimately take us. But that is how it is for all who are born of the Spirit. We know that we are being guided by the Spirit and we have entrusted that journey to God.

I would like to express my thanks to all the staff of the parishes and volunteers who make the parishes alive and vibrant. The parishes could not exist without you. What you do is much appreciated. A special thank you to Fr Gerard and Fr Eamonn. May the wonder and love of God touch your hearts this Christmas. May I wish you a peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the journey of 2025.

Fr Aquinas Duffy



Many thanks to the sponsor of our newsletter  
**McCrea's Funeral Home, Dublin Road,**  
Phone 0404 69000, 24 hours  
www.mccrea.ie - info@niallmccrea.com

## Parish Lotto Results for 19/ 12 / 2024

**NO JACKPOT WINNER THIS WEEK**



The winner of the €50 weekly raffle prize is:

**Tanya Moyseyeva**

Next Week's Jackpot will be: € 1,600

Your contribution to the Church is your appreciation for your parish.  
If you would like to become a regular contributor to the Parish, please fill in this slip and return Parish Office or Sacristy

Name.....

Contact Number.....

Address.....

*“Faith is salted and peppered through everything at Christmas. And I love at least one night by the Christmas tree to sing and feel the quiet holiness of that time that's set apart to celebrate love, friendship, and God's gift of the Christ child.”*

— AMY GRANT

