



PARISH PASTORAL UNIT
ABBEYFEALE, ATHEA, TEMPLEGLANTINE, TOURNAFULLA, MOUNTCOLLINS



6th Dec 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent www.abbeyfealeparish.ie email fealechurch@eircom.net Fr Tony Mullins PP 087/2600414 mstrev@gmail.com

Fr Tony Mullins 0872600414
 Fr Dan Lane (Retired) 087/2533030
 Fr Denis Mullane 087/2621911
 Priest on duty this Sunday Rev J Cussen
 087/7810960

Intentions for this weekend

6.30pm Ramey Leahy, New Street Anniv.
 Michael Collins Upper Purt 1st Anniv.
 Sonny & Peg McCarthy, Caherlane
10am James O'Sullivan Knocknagoshel
 1st Anniv.
12noon Dan O'Riordan, Dromtrasna Collins
 Months Mind
 Deceased members of Dore & Flynn Families
 Liam & Kitty O'Callaghan, Ballybehy Anniv.

Mon 7pm Jim & Mary Lane
 Willie Leahy, Mountmahon
Tues 10am **Feast of Immaculate Conception**
Tues 7pm Vincent McNally
Wed 10am **Pro Populo**
Thurs 10am Mass of Thanksgiving
Fri 10am
Sat 11am Rosalie O'Callaghan her husband
 Jim and her son James

Intentions for next weekend

6.30pm Bridget Healy and deceased members
 of the Saunders family lower Knocknasna.
 Peggy Woulfe, Cratloe/Ballaugh
 Patie & Betty Lane, Kilconlea
 Mary Morrissey
 Jimmy Galvin, Ballaugh Month Mind
 Paddy O'Connor, Meenkilly Anniv.
10am Hannah Mai Scannell,
 Dromtrasna Collins
 Paddy & Eily Mai & Michael Barry
12noon Norrie & Paddy Kennedy
 Kathleen & Jerry Herlihy and son Danny
 Patrick Lane, Ballaugh
 Bill Lane, Ballaugh

Holy Communion Calls

Fr Tony has resumed Holy Communion Calls to those confined at home. He will ring in advance to check that it is ok to visit.

Recent Death:

We offer our sympathy to the family of Jimmy Galvin, late of Ballybehy whose funeral took place on Wednesday.
 We offer our sympathy to the family Johnny Doran, Hillview Drive whose funeral took place on Saturday.
 May they rest in peace.

Christmas with a difference

For the past few weeks everyone is saying 'It going to be a Christmas with a difference' and it certainly will be. Many parishioners have been asking about the arrangements for the celebration of Christmas Masses. The details will be finalized at a meeting of the Pastoral Council on Monday the 7th of December. Details of the arrangements will be published in next week's *West Limerick Observer* and on the Community Council Facebook and on the Abbeyfeale Youth Ministry Facebook. All our celebrations will adhere to the public health directives and our priority will be the safety of all our parishioners.

Everyone appreciates that it will not be possible to accommodate all who would like to attend Mass this Christmas. We are equally conscious that the birth of Christ is at the very heart of Christmas and we will do all that we can to ensure that parishioners have an opportunity for prayer either in the church or at home with the family. The religious aspect of Christmas is not just confined to what happens in the church. Some of our most memorable experiences of prayer have been experienced at home with those who are closest to us.

This Christmas more than ever, the Crib should have a prominent place in your home. A crib is an important part of Christmas symbolism and a doorway to deeper reflection and prayer. The crib remains a beacon of peace, hope and reconciliation and offers an opportunity for us to reflect upon the deeper message it represents. We are encouraging you to gather with your family members around the Crib on Christmas Eve, to ponder on the wonder of the birth of Jesus, son of God and what that means for you and your family. We will offer you some prayers that you can pray together. Very often what we consider to be a small effort at prayer on our part, can turn out to be a most profound experience, that leaves a lasting impression on our lives, and it becomes a memory that we carry with us for the rest of our lives.

So, this week we ask you to start to prepare for what promises to be a *Christmas with a difference*, by preparing your family crib. Maybe it needs a dusting down or a some fixing. Maybe you will decide to replace the one you have. Our hope is that all families will have a crib in a prominent place this Christmas and that it will be a source of Christmas joy, love and hope for everyone in your families.

'Living our faith in a time of Covid-19' 10 Tips from Bishop Leahy

TIP 5. Build up your family as a "domestic church". Everyone belongs to the family. Each of us can build up our family as a community of love for one another, a community of sharing and mercy. We can always start again to care for one another, every time we fail. The full text of Bishop Leahy's Pastoral letter is available on the diocesan website www.limerickdiocese.org

Pastoral Support to Parishioners in Nursing Homes

Due to the necessary Covid -19 restrictions it is not possible for Fr Tony to visit parishioners in Nursing Homes this Christmas. Fr Tony is asking family members to let him know which nursing homes their relatives are resident in so that he can write to them for Christmas. All contact details will remain confidential to Fr Tony. You can email the contact details to mullinstrev@gmail.com or text 087-2600414

'Impossible Choices'

Many families will face impossible choices this Christmas say St Vincent de Paul as they launched one of the most difficult Annual Appeals in their history. Christmas will be different for everyone this year, but the theme *Impossible Choices* reflects the really hard situation families on low incomes face in the lead up to Christmas. If you are struggling to keep a roof over your head, how do you choose between a decent dinner or a warm house? What do you sacrifice to buy your children those precious gifts after such a tough year? Launching the Annual Appeal, Rose McGowan, SVP National President said that between January and early November almost 112,000 requests for help had already been received

"When Christmas comes around, we all have to make lots of choices – what presents to buy? What food for the Christmas dinner? But for those who struggle to make ends meet there are additional, sometimes impossible, choices. Do I borrow or go without? How can I make Christmas a happy time for my children and pay the bills? Do I buy essentials or heat the house?"

Due to the Covi-19 restrictions it is not possible to have the annual St Vincent de Paul Church Gate Collection. However, you can help by putting your donation into the Vincent de Paul blue envelope which are available at the door of the church this weekend and in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel during the week. You can drop the envelopes into the collection boxes next weekend. You can also Donate to your local Vincent de Paul conference by phone. Just call: ROI 0818 176 176. Your donation could save a family from impossible choices this Christmas.

And when we say 'Lord hear us' it's not as if God might not be listening. (it might well be about increasing our awareness and desire). When we ask the Lord to hear us, when we pray with one heart, as one body, the Spirit 'hears our prayer into the heart of God. (From *Exploring Eucharist* by Donal Harrington)

Exploring Eucharist.

We continue to reflect on phrases from the Mass. This week we reflect on

'Do this in memory of me'

Each year a group of friends gather for a meal, around the anniversary of the death some years earlier of one of their number. There is no difficulty in assembling the group. Everything else is put aside. Everybody turns up. They gather to remember. In remembering, they stay faithful. Their friend continues to mean much to them. Remembering keeps something alive. Their friend goes on living, in their hearts and minds, in their courage and conscience. As we obey the Lord's command, may our remembering keep us in touch with who He is and who we are.

(From Exploring Eucharist by Donal Harrington)

Prayer to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception

O most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession.

O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God.
 (state your intentions here)

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son.
 O Mary conceived without sin,
 pray for us who have recourse to thee. Amen

Christmas Lights

The town has taken on a festive mood since the Christmas lights were switched on. On Monday evening the 7th we will have the blessing of the Crib in the town square. Christmas is the feast of light when we celebrate the birth of Christ 'The Light of the World'. We are grateful for the commitment and dedication of all involved in this community project who do so much to brighten up our lives and help us enter into the season of joy hope and love.

Shop Local: We are grateful to all the local shops and businesses who help distribute the Parish Newsletter each weekend. It helps parishioners keep in touch with the parish. At this challenging time of restrictions for all shops and businesses we encourage parishioners to support where possible local shops and businesses, especially in the lead up to Christmas.