

Jesus is the reason for the  
season of Christmas,  
Keep Christ in Christmas.

# ABBEYFEALE PARISH NEWS



18th Dec 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

www.abbeyfealeparish.ie

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**Samaritans:**  
061 - 412111 or Free phone 1850609090  
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**Bereavement Support:**  
068 / 31203 068/ 31262 068/51984  
**Parish Support Worker** 068/31019

**Counselling Appointment** 061/314213  
**Church Tel** 068/51915 during Mass times

**Accord** 069/61000 NCW

**Penitential Service on Monday 19th @  
7pm Visiting clergy will be assisting for  
confessions that evening**

**Death**  
We offer our sympathy to the family of  
Peggy ( Margaret ) O Riordan whose funeral took  
place on Tuesday.  
To the family of Patrick Flynn, Convent Road whose  
funeral took place on Saturday May they rest in peace.

**Christmas Dues** for the support of the Clergy can be  
handed in at all Masses over Christmas.

**O Come Emmanuel**  
This Sunday's Gospel is moving us from Advent preparation  
into the Christmas story as Joseph begins to realise that Mary  
is with child.

We all have an image of perfect families that we seem to  
believe we must live up to. What does perfect look like? -  
a perfect courtship? a perfect start to a marriage? children at  
the appropriate moment? ... it turns out that the Holy Family  
didn't start out perfect at all, in the way we perhaps describe  
perfect. But all was in order in God's plan.  
St Joseph is mentioned only a little in the scriptures but  
Pope Francis has brought him more to the centre, of  
Mass and of our preparations. Near his office in Rome  
he has a little  
statue of Joseph sleeping - dreaming as he did when he  
realised Mary his fiancée was pregnant. Even as he slept  
he was open to God, and so God spoke to him, and  
Joseph listened and took care of Mary and her  
child. Pope Francis places little notes of petitions under  
the statue, asking Joseph to pray for us all, as he prayed  
for his family. Christian life is not about perfect families  
- we come as we are, in all our fractured relationships,  
poorly timed circumstances, well intentioned love.  
We come awake or asleep, we recognise Emmanuel,  
God who is with us, and we say our yes to God in the  
simple things of daily life.

As we enter these final days of Advent, we thank God  
who is with us, even as we prepare. O come O come  
Emmanuel. Amen

## Plan Giving

**Dear Parishioner,**

I would like to acknowledge the very warm welcome that has been  
extended to me since I took up my appointments in the parish in  
September. I am grateful for the encouragement and support that I have  
received from so many parishioners. As someone who has come to live  
in the parish recently, I am struck by the strong sense of community and  
the importance of faith amongst the people here. We have much to be  
grateful to God for. This Christmas we give thanks for such blessings.

This week we are distributing a Box of Weekly Envelopes to each home  
in the parish. This is an annual event and we would like to take this  
opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the parish funds in the  
past twelve months. As in all other parishes, the weekly offertory  
collection is the main source of funds for the running of the parish and  
the ongoing maintenance of parish properties. We are thankful to you  
for what you continue to contribute and all donations are gratefully  
received.

Your continued support is necessary if the parish is to remain  
financially viable into the future. It would be great if we could spread  
the burden across the entire parish, rather than leaving it to a decreasing  
number of parishioners. We are appealing to all parishioners to support  
the ongoing funding of the parish by using the Weekly Envelope. Your  
donation no matter how small will make a difference. A small number  
of parishioners prefer to make an annual donation and we are happy to  
facilitate them in this way.

Many of you will be familiar with the Tax Rebate Scheme on donations  
to recognised charities which has been in place for a number of years.  
Since budget 2012, the tax refund for donations from all donors  
regardless of their tax status (PAYE or Self-Assessed), will now go to  
the charity in all cases at a blended rate of 31%. This means that more  
parishioners will qualify for the refund scheme. Therefore it is  
important that as many parishioners as possible use the weekly  
envelopes to maximize the benefit for the parish which is a Registered  
Charity with Revenue.

We thank you for all that you give to the Church and the many worthy  
causes who appeal for funds. The commitment to support the parish to  
the best of our ability is our shared responsibility.

On a personal note, Fr Joe and I wish to thank all who contribute to the  
collections held in support of the priest's income. May the Lord  
continue to bless you for your generosity and support. Wishing you and  
your families every blessing for Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

With renewed thanks,  
Fr Tony Mullins

Fr Joe Foley



## Christmas Greeting and Plan giving

We ask our usual distributors to collect the  
envelopes at the church.

We appreciate your help with this distribution.  
Tel sacristy 068/51915 during Mass times.  
Your help will be greatly appreciated

## Intentions for this weekend

**7pm** John Hayes, Fealesbridge Anniv.  
Peggy Woulfe, Ballaugh 1st Anniv.  
Mary Enright, Caherlane Anniv.  
Ricky Loughnane. Dromtrasna Anniv.  
**9.30am** Quinn & Codyre Family members  
John Shannon Main Street Anniv  
John, John D Collins & Mary Ita Collins,  
Bogmount Anniv.  
Phil Kelly, Killarney Road  
**12noon** James Power O'Connell, St Ita's Rd 4th  
Geraldine Woulfe, Cratloe Anniv.

## Intentions for next week

**Mon 7pm** Philly Cusack, Cratloe Anniv.  
Tues 8.15am Sick Person  
**Tues 10am** Sheila & Timothy Murphy Anniv  
**Wed 10am** Mary Scannell remembrance Mass  
**Thurs 8.15am** Private Intention  
**Thurs 10am**  
**Thurs 8.15am** Special Intention  
**Fri 10am** Edward & Kate Reilly and  
deceased family members.  
**Sat 11am** John Riordan, Upper Purt Anniv.

## Advent

It is to remember a young woman confused  
and afraid. Saying 'Yes' to an angel.  
A simple carpenter, upright and gentle, say-  
ing 'yes' to a dream.  
An old woman barren and shameful saying  
'yes' to the impossible.  
Their 'yes' brought life, life to a world  
waiting from the beginning.  
In a word 'yes' The word 'Jesus'  
Broke into our world with brilliant light  
and grace. A radiant dawn!  
It is time to remember. It is time for us to  
say 'yes'.  
To an angel, to a dream, to the impossible.  
Jesus lives!

Doesn't Advent seem to have flown! Suddenly there  
only one un-lit candle on the wreath, and we are  
approaching the final countdown to Christmas.  
This however is not about panicking!! Its just a  
reminder that in these days we need Gods grace even  
more as we prepare for Christmas - to show us the path,  
to clear blocked ways, to help us to love one another as  
we prepare together. .... O come o come Emmanuel,  
help me to follow you now, not just on Christmas day!

## Carol Concert

Congratulations to all who participated in the Annual Carol  
Concert last Sunday night. It was a wonderful celebration  
of music, song and story. Thanks to all who took the time  
to attend. We would like to acknowledge and thank Dee  
Denison for directing and co-ordinating the event.  
We thank the teachers and children from each primary  
school in the parish. We are grateful to our Senior Choir  
and members of the singing group Lost Souls. We express  
thanks to all our soloists, musicians and accompanists.  
We are grateful to Ann our Sacristan and all our church  
helpers who assisted in so many ways during the night.  
We would like to acknowledge our sponsors and all who  
helped in any way. The feast of music and song performed  
at the concert has helped all who attended it to appreciate  
the significance of Christmas in our lives. We give thanks  
to God for the richness of talent in our parish and for the  
sharing of these gifts with the community during last  
Sunday nights gathering.

## Christmas Ribbon Ceremony

Prayers and a remembrance service will be held at Reilig  
Ide Naofa graveyard @ 3pm on Sunday 18th Dec.  
Ribbons and Candles will be available.

**Parish Clerks Collection** will take place on the 31st Dec  
& 1st Jan. We thank you for your continued support and  
wish you peace and happiness for Christmas and the New  
Year.

**Readers Lists for 2017** are available in the sacristy for  
collection during any of the Masses.

**From January, After-school care** is available to pupils of  
Dromtrasna N.S. in the school hall every full school day.  
Enquiries to Deirdre 085 7252419.

## CONNIE HARNETT MEMORIAL SWIM:

The Third annual Connie Harnett Memorial Swim will take  
place in Ballybunion on New Year's Day at 1pm. . Donation  
buckets will be in place on the day and there will be a raffle with  
loads of prizes to be won. Monies collected will be divided be-  
tween local charities. See posters. Sponsors cards available  
Enquires to 086 3151447

We have 16 new CD titles available on the lighthouse Catholic  
Media stand at the back of the church. Wonderful reflections on  
Advent and the true meaning of Christmas. Please help to deepen  
your family and friends faith by giving them as Christmas gifts.  
€2