

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS IS about the birth of a child in an obscure place to a Jewish couple living in Palestine under Roman occupation, who had to flee from an oppressive Herod and eventually ended up being reared in the small town of Nazareth. This is a very simple summary of the obscure and ordinary origins of a man whose teaching was to transform the world. This was something of a wonder in itself. Now over 2,000 years later, Christmas Day continues to be high-lighted and celebrated because of that remarkable act of God in favour of all mankind. The great wonder that out of the ordinariness of human history, Divinity made its presence accessible to all. When the word was made flesh, Jesus manifested the loving kindness of God to a broken and confused humanity. This free gift to the world should be a source of inspiration for us all. When we accept the gift of Christmas, we must also accept the responsibilities that come with it such as following the example set by Jesus of how to live our lives and by taking care of one another. Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of goodwill.

A Christmas Prayer Loving Father, as we remember again the Birth of Jesus, help us to share in the Song of the Angels, the Joy of the Shepherds, and in the Wonder of the Wise Men who travelled far. Close all doors to hatred and open the doors of compassion in the heart of the whole world. Let kindness be the wrapping of every gift we give and let the same kindness be in every smile and every name we speak of during this Christmas season.

Deliver us from all evil, especially the evil of war and violence, the evil of hatred and all words that wound, belittle and destroy. Fill us with that pure joy that is in the innocence of every child's eyes of trust, wonder and love. Keep all of us safe from all that would cause us harm as we travel the roads during Christmas. May the nightfall of Christmas fill us with a deep sense of gratitude, knowing forgiveness and showing that forgiveness which is forever the Face of The Christ of Christmas. *Amen.*

Carrigallen GAA Healthy Club Men's social 'walk and talk' group for all ages and fitness levels. You can walk and talk at your own pace. Meeting at the G.A.A. Park every Friday evening at 7:30 pm with a social cuppa afterwards. All welcome. Please join us.

Feast Days/Memorials during the Coming Week 26th Dec—31st Dec 2022
Monday – St Stephen • Tuesday – St John the Evangelist • Wednesday – The Holy Innocents
Thursday – St Thomas Becket • Friday – The Holy Family
Saturday – St Sylvester I

Priests Phone Numbers

Priests phone numbers. Fr John McMahon 049 433 9610. Mobile: 086 2126582.
Fr S Mawn (B'more) 071 9644039/087 6869040. Fr J Cusack (B'more) 087 2408409.
Fr D Hannon (Arva) 087 2830145. Fr C O'Gorman (Killeshandra) 049 4334179.
Fr Peter Tiernan (Cloone/Aughavas) 071 9636016/086 3500114.

You may place your notices in the Diaries in each Church before **5.00 pm on Thursdays**. Notices should be signed, and a phone number provided. Or you may email: carrigallen@kilmorediocese.ie by 5.00 pm on Fridays. The editors reserve the right to omit or amend any notice.

Parish Newsletter

25th Dec 2022—Christmas Day—Year A

Carrigallen • Drumeela • Drumreilly



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

At the beginning of the year, we hoped that things would get back "to normal." But there has been nothing normal about the past year, with the war in Ukraine, the forgotten wars in Yemen, Syria, Tigray, the famine and violence in many parts of Africa, the cost of living crisis and the dreadful tragedy in Creeslough leaving families facing a lonely Christmas.

There is a lot of darkness in our world.

However, our Christian faith teaches us that darkness gives way to light. The great light in the darkness of Creeslough was the shining example in the goodness of people who rallied around to help. Those who stood by families in their hour of need.

The same happens in our own communities when people lose a loved one or if there is an appeal for help from the Saint Vincent de Paul or from the friends of Ukrainian families. When the Angel visited a troubled Joseph who was wondering about the news of Mary's pregnancy, the Angel reminded him of another time of confusion and fear.

A king was promised a sign, "the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she would call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us." Is.7:14. This promise was fulfilled in Jesus' coming among us and giving us His spirit to continue this work in the world and in the communities where we live. May we be his hands, eyes and ears to bring his continued help to those in need.

My prayer for you this Christmas: "May the Christ Child be born again in your hearts so that we may bring His light into a darkened world."

Happy Christmas to you all. Fr John.

A Christmas Blessing "May the shining splendour of the star tonight spill into your darkness and fill you with its light, a light that seeks the shadows of your sheltered heart reaching ev'ry corner, touching ev'ry part. May the angel's music in the air tonight comfort all your sorrow like a lullaby. May it blossom within you and fill your broken soul, ease your pain and sadness and make your spirit whole. May the peace of Christmas fill our world this night, peace for ev'ry nation, peace in ev'ry life. May it heal our inward strife and may war cease on Earth. May peace be born within us with the Saviour's birth. *Amen.*

Parish Masses/Anniversaries/Other Events

Carrigallen

All Carrigallen Masses livestreamed on www.churchtv.ie

Sat 24th Dec 10.00pm Mass of the Nativity

25th Dec 11.15 am Mons John Cooke, *Gortermone* and Ashling Cooke, *New Jersey & Gortermone*.

Tues 27th 7.30pm Pat & Claire Masterson, Corner House Carrigallen.

Wed 28th 10.00 am Missa Pro Populo

Fri 30th 7.30 pm Mons. John A. Young Carrigallen.

Sun 1st Jan 11.15 am Jack & Mary Mc Manus Kilbracken

Eucharistic Adoration: Tues. 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Wed. 10.30 am to 11.30 am

Drumeela

Sun 25th Dec 10.00am Celine, Phil & Josephne Maguire and all deceased members of the Maguire family *Drumlara* & the Kiernan families *Cloncoose*

Sun 1st Jan 10.00am Missa Pro Populo

Drumreilly

Sat 24th Dec 8.00pm Candlelit Mass of the Nativity

Thurs. 29th 7.30 pm Patsy Murray *Manchester & Kinkeen*

Sat 31st 8.00am Seán & John Sutherland and all deceased members of the Sutherland family *Toome*

Eucharistic Adoration: None on Tues 27th Dec. Resuming 3rd Jan

The Editors of the newsletter would like to wish everyone a Happy & Peaceful Christmas

RECENTLY DECEASED: In our prayers, we remember Tommy McGuckian, Killahurk whose funeral took place on Tues. 20th Dec in St Mary's Church, Carrigallen followed by burial in the adjoining cemetery AND Philomena O'Reilly, Beaumont, Dublin and formerly of Corglass, Drumeela whose funeral took place in the Church of the Nativity, Beaumont on Tues. 20th Dec followed by burial in Dardistown Cemetery. AND James Davey, Ballygawley, Co Sligo (brother of Geraldine Cassidy, Drumleevan) whose funeral took place in the Church of the Assumption, Sooney on Fri 16th Dec. followed by burial in St Joseph's Cemetery. *May their souls rest in peace.*

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS (11th/18th Dec)

Carrigallen: €838 Drumeela: €202 Drumreilly: €352



Hey kids! It's Christmas Day!
SANTA! Ho! Ho! Ho!



Carrigallen Library is now closed for Christmas holidays. opening on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at the usual time.



Mary's Meals—Big Family Christmas: International school feeding charity, Mary's Meals, are inviting you to join their Big Family Christmas celebrations. A range of gifts are available, which will not only provide you with a wonderful Christmas gift for a loved one and will also provide life changing school meals for a child living in poverty. For just €18.30 a place can be set at their virtual Big Family Christmas dinner table, which will feed a child for an entire school year! This place setting can then be printed or emailed to someone as a special gift. A range of other gift cards are also available; from providing 100 meals for €9, to funding a cooking pot and stove for €250, and everything in between! Gift cards are available to download at www.marysmeals.ie or can be sent via post by calling 01 853 5163.



Volunteer Drivers

Leitrim Volunteer Centre needs drivers for vulnerable members of the community who cannot access public or other forms of transport to and from essential appointments with G.P's, Hospitals etc... The scheme operates through the Social Car Scheme. Call 071-9622537 or email: info@leitrimvolunteer.ie

North West STOP would like to most sincerely thank all parishioners for their support during 2022. Demand for our services has risen steeply in the past year and your support has ensured we could meet that demand. We wish you and yours a healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Our office will be closed until 3rd Jan. 2023. Our counselling line will be available throughout the Christmas period by call or text to 086-777 2009.



LEITRIM GUARDIAN 2023



On Sale Now! Lots of local interest

Nuala Curran Gretta and Leila McCabe

Hubert McMorrow on Jim Williamson RIP • Kevin McManus
Tommy Moran • Eugene Reilly • Kevin Patrick
Bishop Martin Hayes on Drumeela with Edel & John McCartin
Gerry Mangan • Eamon Daly • Tony Fahy • Fr John Sexton
Prof Michael O'Rourke • John Kenny • Dave Kelly
Charlie McGettigan • Fr Oliver Kelly

In all the local shops

LEITRIM GUARDIAN for sale in Dublin at
Books Upstairs 17 Dolier St Dublin 2 or Tel Mary: 087 6216635
The 2023 magazine is now for sale in the usual outlets, or you can purchase online at www.leitrimguardian.ie

ST VINCENT DE PAUL-CARRIGALLEN, DRUMEELA & AUGHAVAS

At this time of the year the Saint Vincent De Paul volunteers are busy responding to calls for assistance, especially now as food and fuel prices have increased and the cold weather has arrived. Our appeal for funds is now taking place so that people in need of help can be visited before Christmas. You can contribute to SVP by placing your donation in an SVP envelope available in any of the churches and then putting it into the box in the front porch. If you need a visit or would like to assist financially, please contact our confidential number 087-6024223. Thank you.



ART CLASS

The Ukrainian Art Group are inviting children to attend a winter themed Art class on Saturday 7th January 2023 from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm. National school classes 7 years of age upwards. Ten places available and it's free. Please book your place by calling 086-3522476. Thank you.

Drumreilly GAA

are hosting their annual under 30's V over 30's Mc Girl Tournament on St. Stephen's Day in the G.A.A. Park, Carrickmakeegan at 1.00 pm. All proceeds are going towards the provision of a new defibrillator in the Park. This is a valuable piece of equipment for the whole community. All support on the day will be appreciated.

Carrigallen Club On-Line Lotto Jackpot capped at €20,000 until won. 4 lucky dip prizes of €25 if not won. Extra prize for holders of "weekly recurring tickets". Click on "Automatically Renew Purchase" at checkout. Draw this weekend on our Facebook Page. Tickets from local vendors or online at <https://member.clubspot.app/c.../carrigallen-gaa/lotto/tickets>

Hedge Cutting Grant Leitrim County Council invite Applications for this Scheme, which aims to encourage the cutting of roadside hedges/trees along Public Roads which need attention. A Grant of €75 per km of roadside hedge/overhanging trees available. Scheme is open to individuals, communities and groups of applicants/residents. Minimum length of road per application is 1km. Applications open until the last day of January 2023. Forms are available as follows: Roads Department, Leitrim County Council, Park Lane House, Carrick on Shannon. Phone: 071 9620005 Ext: 630. Email: roads@leitrimcoco.ie

Christmas Bingo Events

On Friday night 30th Dec in Drumreilly Community Centre at 8.30 pm and on Sunday night 1st Jan 2023 in Carrigallen Hall at 8.30 pm. GREAT PRIZES! raffles etc...Please support your parish bingo sessions.



Thought for the Week: "It isn't the size of the gift that matters, but the size of the heart that gives it."