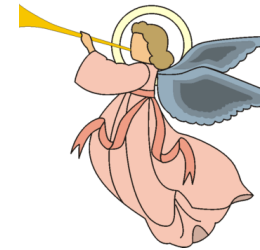


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Drumlish & Ballinamuck Parish Newsletter



*It's not what's under the
Christmas tree that
matters, it's who is
around it.*

Anonymous

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C— 23rd December 2018

Mass Intentions—St. Mary's Drumlish

Sat 8.00: Philomena Gray
Mon 9.30: Misa Pro Populo
8.00: Peter Wallace, Church View Drive
Tue 11.00: John Davis
Wed 9.30: Corrigan & McKenna Dfm
Thur 8.00: Danny McGee, MM
Sat 8.00: Jan Malinowski, RIP
Sun 11.00: Rita Crowe, Derawley

Mass Intentions—St. Patrick's Ballinamuck

Sun 10.00: Babs/Tommy Joe McLoughlin & dfm
Mon 9.00: Vigil Mass for Christmas
Tue 10.00: Patrick Ginty
Sun 10.00: James Quinn, Lettergullion

Ministries—St. Mary's Drumlish

Readers Sat: Shane Hagan
Sun: Elizabeth Devlin
Communion Sat: Mary Gearty
Sun: Brendan Murray

Ministries—St. Patrick's Ballinamuck

Readers Sun: Mary McKenna
Communion Sun: Mary Breslin

Money Matters

- Drumlish €800, Ballinamuck €295; Nov Dues €90.
- St. Vincent de Paul thank all who supported their recent collection of €964.30.
- Prize winners of the Drumlish Cemetery Christmas draw: Des Holloway, John Toher, Annmarie Prunty, Bernie Smith. Thanks for your support.

Trócaire Appeal for Yemen: "In Yemen people are facing the worst famine in a century, with five million at risk of starvation. In South Sudan, four million have had to leave their homes and seven million are in need of food aid. If you wish to make a donation this Christmas visit the Trócaire website at <https://www.trocaire.org/christmas> "



- **All Ireland Rosary Rally for Faith and Life** is taking place on 1st January 2019, Solemnity of the Mother of God, at 12 noon at Dáil Éireann, Dublin. This is to ask God through Our Lady to increase the Faith in Ireland and to protect the unborn child. To book on a bus from Longford: call 086-8775036
- **Drumlish Senior Citizens Christmas Party** is on 6th January 2019 at 4 o'clock in the Village Inn. All are welcome. Thanks to Vintage Club, Gavin Mitchel for generous donations. All donations appreciated.
- **Fr manning Gaels** are hosting their Annual Table Quiz on Friday night December 28th at 9pm in the Mill Bar Drumlish. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Raffle on the night also with great prizes. Table of 4 is €40.00. All support is greatly appreciated.
- **Mohill Computer Training** New Level 5 part time Design Skills and Digital Fabrication. This course will start on Friday January 18th and run for one day per week for approx 14 weeks.
- **St Vincent's Minor Football Club - AGM** - Sunday 6th Jan 2019 at 5pm in Monaduff Club House. All Welcome.
- **St Vincent's Minor Football Club: Information evening on Drugs, Alcohol & Cyber Security** Awareness on Friday Jan 18th 2019 in Monaduff Clubhouse. More details later.
- **Ballinamuck Bingo** resumes on 8th January. The committee thank all for their support during 2018..

Offertory Envelopes for 2019

- Envelopes for the new year 2019 are now available. Please take your packet and that of your neighbour if you know that he/she worship outside our parish.
- By using the envelope system the Parish is able to claim back taxes on your contributions if your total for the year reaches €250 or beyond. This year we received a total of €7630.49 for the years 2016/17. This could easily have doubled if more people used the envelope system. Please give this some thought.
- If your name is missing and you wish to receive envelopes for 2019, please contact Fr. Ber, Adrian Lennon or a member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Christmas Message 2018

As I look back on 2018 the high point of the year for me was the visit of Pope Francis to the World Meeting of Families. During his visit Pope Francis said "the World Meeting of Families has given us great hope and encouragement that families are growing more and more conscious of their own irreplaceable role in passing on the faith". For him family is a key aspect of life. Christmas is a family time, a time for all generations, just as the first Christmas was such a family moment, not just the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph but for the entire family of God, all people of all generations. At Croke Park Pope Francis reminded us that a society that does not value grandparents will end up lacking that quality that really matters - love. This is a love and dream that so many, including our parents and grandparents, lived out in the dream and reality of marriage. Pope Francis encouraged each married person to keep repeating in their heart: "I will never fail you or forsake you!" They are the same sentiments God has for his people (Heb 13: 5). The Christmas story is so familiar and yet it always seems fresh. There is the good news of a baby, the good news of a birth and good news of a bright future for all humanity. The Christmas story has expectation, joy and great hope for the future. But side by side with these positive elements are darker ones, uncertainty, vulnerability and danger. The circumstances of the birth of the Saviour were not at all easy for baby or parents. That is the way life often is. Side by side with great joy there can be sorrow, alongside hopes there can be fears, accompanying successes is sometimes failure. So the darker side, the vulnerable side of Christmas, is nothing new. It is very human and realistic that these contrasting emotions and circumstances coexist. Mary decided to invite the 'source of peace' to enter our world. Let us do the same. I wish you and your family members a happy Christmas, a peaceful and hopeful experience, as we remember the birth of our Saviour.

Francis Duffy
Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois

Death

Pray for the soul of Elizabeth Gunshinan, late of Lettergullion & Kiltycon who died in the UK and was interred in Tubberpatrick Cemetery last week. RIP

Mass Arrangements for Christmas

- † Vigil Mass in Drumlish on Monday at 8 p.m. and in Ballinamuck at 9 p.m.
- † Masses on Christmas Day in Drumlish at 9.30 a.m. & 11.00 a.m. and in Ballinamuck at 10.00 a.m.

Christmas Greetings and Good Wishes

On behalf of the priests of the parish I wish all parishioners and all who worship with us from other parishes a very happy Christmas. A special welcome to those who are visiting family and friends. As we come to the end of the year we have much to be grateful for as a parish—the involvement of so many people: readers, ministers of communion, servers, choirs, collectors/counters, parish pastoral council, finance committee and many other organisations and helpers who serve and enrich the life of our parish. The message of Christmas is a message of hope. A baby, born in a cow byre, with no maternity care, loved unto life by Mary and Joseph is more than just a story—it is at the heart of our very existence as Christians. While our Church remains wounded and weakened, the Christmas story invites us to continue our journey in humility and hope, knowing that we are loved even in our flawed and sinful state.

