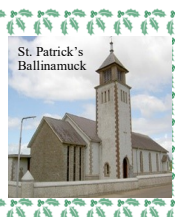


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Live Stream direct link:
www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-marys-drumlish or login to Parish Website



Drumlish & Ballinamuck Parish Newsletter



may you know
the comfort & joy
of God's
presence this
Christmas
season & always!



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

Anonymous

Christmas Day Year A — 25th December 2022

Mass Times & Intentions

Drumlish

Sat 8.00: Christmas Vigil: Peter Wallace
Sun 9.30: Private Intention
11.00: Christmas Day: John Davis
Tue 10.00: James Sorohan & Dfm
Sun 11.00: Rita Crowe, Derawley

Ballinamuck

Sat 7.00: Christmas Vigil Mass
Sun 9.30: For the people of the Parish
Sun 9.30: Elizabeth Sparks nee Duffy RIP

Note: Mass streamed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 a.m. Friday & Saturday 8 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m.

Ministers of the Word & Communion Next Week

Drumlish

Word of God Sat Theresa Whitney
Sun Dymna Davis
Communion Sat Terry Cooney
Sun Irene McNally

Ballinamuck

Word of God Sun Emma Clancy
Communion Sun Mark Duffy



Offertory €750 Dues €1525, Heating €60. You can also support our Church by electronic transfer if it is more convenient. Bank details are:

Account Name: Drumlish Church

BIC: AIBKIE2D;

IBAN: IE 15 AIBK 9321 4006 6850 07

Please write your name on your docket when making a transfer because Box numbers change from year to year. Thank you for your support.

Offertory Boxes for 2023 are now available. Due to data protection restrictions, I ask those who distributed boxes last year to help again this year, please. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Upcoming EVENTS

- **Alzheimer Café:** The Longford Alzheimer Cafe, will run on the last Wednesday of every month.
- **St. Mary's National School,** Drumlish admission into the Junior Infants Class of September 2023 are available on school website – www.drumlishns.ie, by emailing the school drumprincipal@gmail.com, by collection or by post. Closing date for enrolment will be Friday 13th January 2023. For further enquiries contact 043 3324065 or email the school.
- **Drumlish Senior Citizens Party** will take place on Sunday 8th Jan. at 4 p.m. in the Olde Village Inn.
- **English Classes for Our Ukrainian Families** have been running since July in Ballinamuck. With a recent increase in numbers we are looking for more volunteers to join our little team and help with conversation practice. No experience required, Mon & Fri mornings, 10-12 in Dillons. For more info contact Catherine Carthy on 0874433610.
- **Fr. Manning Gaels annual table quiz** will be held in the 98 Bar, Ballinamuck on Wednesday 28th December 2022. All proceeds go to St. Vincent's Minor Club. Table of 4 is €40 with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. All support greatly appreciated.

Wedding

Congratulations and best wishes to Pauric Gill, Corrig and Laura McManus Dromard who were married in Legga last weekend.

Death

Pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Molloy, Barraghmore who died on Thursday. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his family. Rest in peace.

St. Vincent de Paul



While these are difficult times for all, it is a particularly difficult time for those living on the margins. St. Vincent de Paul have, over the years, been very supportive in such situations. There are envelopes at the church doors if you wish to support the Vincent de Paul. Thank you.

Christmas Greetings



I take this opportunity to wish all our parishioners and all who join with us in prayer a very happy Christmas. The birth of Jesus is a constant reminder of God's deep love for his people. It is God's way of saying to each of us that each person is important, revered and loved whatever their circumstances or their profile may be. As we continue to come to grips with the fallout of Covid-19 and its consequences, the birth of Jesus gives us with hope that we are not on our own on this journey. When we look at the evil of war, the displacement of peoples, the ruthless destruction of families and property, the exploitation of the earth and its resources and the continuing hurt experienced by members of our Church we realise our need for redemption and the call to conversion which can only come about if we truly embrace Jesus and his teachings. Christmas points to hope. Jesus is that hope. We pray again in the words of John Henry Hopkins Jr. "star of wonder, star of night, Guide us to thy perfect light."

The following blessing by Wilda English is my wish for you at this time:

*God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.*

Copies of the [Irish Catholic](http://IrishCatholic.com) are available weekly inside front door St. Mary's Church, Drumlish.

Pope Francis: Keep the creche in Christmas

Stopping to gaze at and perhaps pray before a Nativity scene is one of the best ways to remember the real meaning of Christmas, Pope Francis said. "In its genuine poverty," the pope said, "the creche helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas and to purify ourselves of so many aspects that pollute the Christmas landscape."

"Simple and familiar, the Nativity scene recalls a Christmas that is different from the consumerist and commercial Christmas. It reminds us how good it is for us to cherish moments of silence and prayer in our days, often overwhelmed by frenzy."

"If we really want to celebrate Christmas," he said, "let us rediscover through the crib the surprise and amazement of littleness, the littleness of God, who makes himself small, who is not born in the splendour of appearances, but in the poverty of a stable."

To truly encounter Jesus, the pope said, people must meet him in the manger, leaving their own vanity and pretence behind.

"Prayer is the best way to say thank you before this gift of free love, to say thank you to Jesus who desires to enter our homes and our hearts," he said. "Even in the worst moments," the pope said, "he is there, because he is the Emmanuel, the God with us, the light that illuminates the darkness and the tender presence that accompanies us on our journey."

The lights on the Christmas tree, he said, are a reminder that Jesus came "to lighten our darkness, our existence often enclosed in the shadow of sin, fear, pain."

But, the pope said, the tree also should make people think about the importance of roots.

Like a tree, he said, only a person who is "rooted in good soil remains firm, grows, matures, resists the winds that shake him and becomes a point of reference for those who look upon him."

The Christmas tree, Pope Francis said, is a reminder of the need to remain rooted in Christ.

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 9:1-7
Theme: **A Son is given to us.**

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase;

A reading from the prophet
they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt, and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:

**Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.**

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13

Response *Today a saviour has been born to us;
he is Christ the Lord.*

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name *Response*

2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples *Response*

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.

Response

4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. *Response*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus 2:11-14
Theme: *God's grace has been revealed, to the whole human race.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus.

He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!
I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-14
Glory to you, O Lord.

Theme: *Today a saviour has been born to us.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said,

'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

