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St. Mary's Drumlish  
**Drumlish & Ballinamuck Parish Newsletter**  
St. Patrick's Ballinamuck



Joy springs from a grateful heart

- POPE FRANCIS



Third Sunday of Advent Year B — 17th December 2023

**Mass Intentions**

**Drumlish**  
Sat 8.00: Katie Duffy, Aughadowry & Duffy/Kelleher Dfm.  
Sun 11.00: Jimmy Forde, Derawley Desmond/Leonard Forde, Dublin Fr. Jim Sorohan James/Mary/Peggy Dunleavy Philomena Gray  
Mon 10.00: Misa Pro Populo  
Fri 8.00: Michael Molloy, Barraghmore  
**Ballinamuck**  
Sun 9.30: Irene Collum

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

**Ministries for Next Week**

**Drumlish**  
Word of God Sat Evelyn Maher & Conf Cl.  
Sun Helena Crowe & Conf Cl.  
Communion Sat Mary Gearty  
Sun Elaine McKeon  
**Ballinamuck**  
Word of God Sun Nuala McLoughlin & Conf Cl.  
Communion Sun Breege Donnelly



Offertory €1700, Dues €100, Heating €70. Thank you for your financial support. You can also support using 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.** Drumlish Cemetery Committee wish to thank all who contributed so generously to our Christmas Hamper Draw that netted €2,000.

Copies of the *Irish Catholic* are available weekly inside front door St. Mary's Church, Drumlish.



- **Drumlish Senior Citizens Christmas party** will take place in the Olde Village Inn on Sunday January 07th 2024 at 4pm. Everyone welcome.
- **County Longford Social Services** have their annual Church gate collection for Longford Meals on Wheels this weekend. Please support.
- **Fr Manning Gaels annual table Quiz** will take place on Thursday night December 28th 2023 in Quinns Bar Drumlish at 9pm. Table of 4 is €40 and prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. There will also be a raffle on the Night and all proceeds from the night will be going to our minor club St. Vincent's. All support is greatly appreciated .
- **Mohill Computer Training** at the Mohill Enterprise Centre is now accepting registrations for its part-time 4-week QQI Level 4 Spreadsheet course, starting Monday, 8th January 2024. Register now by calling (071) 9632024 or emailing [feargalodonaile@msletb.ie](mailto:feargalodonaile@msletb.ie)
- **Vincent de Paul** have left envelopes at the entrance to the Church for those who wish to support the wonderful work they do in helping out those who are finding it difficult to meet their needs, especially at this time. Please support.
- **Fr Manning Gaels** are holding a St Stephen's day walk/run in aid of St Christophers Longford for all the family. It will leave Monaduff at 12pm on December 26th. Refreshments served afterwards in the clubhouse. Donations on the day. All welcome.
- **Drumlish Community Centre Fundraising Committee** thank all (sponsors, local businesses and general community) who supported Top Of The Pops Fundraising on 16th-18th of November. A total of €33,251 has been raised to date. These funds will go towards developments which are underway at the Community Centre and also future projects which will make Drumlish Community Centre a better place for everyone.



**GAUDETE SUNDAY**

The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath (hence the 'pink candle' Sunday). Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. *Gaudete* means "rejoice". This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

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**Arrangements for Christmas**

- Confessions/Penance Service will take place this
  - Monday at 7.30 p.m. in Newtownforbes
  - Tuesday in Ennybegs at 7 p.m.
  - Thursday in Drumlish at 7.30 p.m.
- Please use these times as your best opportunity to receive healing and reconciliation.

Vigil Masses for Christmas will take place on Sunday 24th in Ballinamuck at 7 p.m. and in Drumlish at 8.30 p.m. Masses on Christmas Day in Ballinamuck at 9.30 a.m. & Drumlish at 11 a.m.

*Note: No 9.30 Mass in Drumlish on Christmas Day*

He who binds to himself a joy  
Does the winged life destroy;  
But he who kisses the joy as it flies  
Lives in eternity's sun rise.  
*By: William Blake*

**Offertory Envelopes 2024**

The envelopes for the various collections in 2024 are now ready. Because of Data Protection restrictions, the envelopes cannot be displayed publicly and will be distributed over the next weeks. I ask those who did the distribution last year to help out again this year. If you don't get a packet of envelopes and wish to contribute to the upkeep of the parish and clergy please contact the Parochial House 086 8213422 or a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. Sincerely thanks again for your generous support. Regrettably many who use the services of the Parish & clergy don't feel an obligation to support the Parish & clergy. If you claim membership of the Church or Parish Community you have a moral obligation to support it. Could it be a new year's resolution!!!!

**Some thoughts on today's scripture**

John knew that his role was to bring people to Christ. So is ours. We try to live our lives right so that people will be able to know through us that faith in Christ makes all the difference. John knew that his baptism was preparatory; it was only 'with water'. Jesus baptises each of us with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in us; he leads and guides us. Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. The invitation is to welcome him in a world that does not know him. Even his own people did not accept him. From the beginning he was a sign to be rejected. Jesus desires to be at home with us and desires us to be at home with him. We pray to have room in our hearts and lives for him. *[Irish Jesuits—Sacred Space]*

Joy is distinctly a Christian word and a Christian thing. It is the reverse of happiness. Happiness is the result of what happens of an agreeable sort. Joy has its springs deep down inside. And that spring never runs dry, no matter what happens. Only Jesus gives that joy. He had joy, singing its music within, even under the shadow of the cross. - S.D. Gordon