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Drumlish & Ballinamuck Parish Newsletter



"The manger at Christmas means that, if you live like Jesus, there won't be room for you in a lot of inns."

-Tim Keller



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A — 21st December 2025

Mass Intentions

Drumlish

Sat 8.00: John/Elizabeth McAvey & McAvey & McKeon Dfm. Michael Molloy
Mon 10.00: Private Int
Wed 10.00: Private Int
Wed 8.00: Olivier Helmrich Peter Wallace
Thur 11.00: John Davis
Fri 8.00: St. Stephen's Day
Sun 11.00: Josie Farrell Joanna Kaniewska Sabina Helmrich Rita Crowe

Ballinamuck

Sun 9.30: Irene Collum James McKenna
Wed 7.00: Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
Thur 9.30: Christmas Day Mass

Ministries for Next Weekend

Drumlish

Word of God Sat Mary Ross & Conf
Sun Sarah Mollaghan & Conf
Communion Sat Kathleen McNally
Sun Marian McNally

Ballinamuck

Word of God Sun Mark Duffy & Conf.
Communion Sun Breege Donnelly



Offertory €1782, Dues €63. You can also use electronic transfer if it is more convenient. Bank details:

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. Thank you.

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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Longford County Choir** Christmas Celebration Concert with Soloist Maria Matthews and The Arioso String Quartet in St. Mel's Cathedral this Sunday at 7.30 p.m.
- **Drumlish Senior Citizens Party** will take place on Sunday, 11th January in the Olde Village Inn at 3 p.m. The invitation is open to anyone who would like to join us for food and festive fun.
- **ALONE**, the organisation that enables older people to age well at home, is urgently seeking volunteers for their Support and Befriending services in Longford, particularly in the areas of Aughnaccliffe, Drumlish and Moyne areas. If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please visit www.alone.ie/ volunteer or call 0818 222 024.
- **TheWay.ie** is a new digital platform set up by the Irish Bishops Conference dedicated to sharing the 'Good News' and the witness of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It is intended to help people discover the faith, live the faith and pass on the faith. It is for both seekers and followers.
- **A FREE We Can Quit (WCQ) Stop Smoking** Programme starts January 6th. In the Temperance Hall at 6.30pm Get support in a welcoming community setting, led by trained community facilitators. FREE nicotine replacement products included to help you quit and improve your health. Contact 087 4304222, or EDI Centre 043 3347515 or healthylife@edilongford.ie
- **Ballinamuck Social Dancing** in the '98 Memorial Hall, Ballinamuck, is taking place Sunday the 28th of December from 5pm – 7pm. Music by Eddie Quinn. Contact Aisling on (086) 3663901.

Deaths

Pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Fuhrer nee Reilly, Denver, USA/Cloonmacart and also for Margaret Moran nee Cunningham, Ballyleague/Gaigue whose deaths took place this week. May they rest in peace. We extend our sympathy and prayers to both families.

Offertory/Dues Boxes 2026



The Boxes for the various collections for the coming year 2026 are now available for distribution. I ask those who did the distribution last year to please collect for your area as early as possible; thank you for doing this work. Thank you again for your continued generosity.

Fr. Manning Gaels Club News

- Fr. Manning Gaels annual Charity Walk takes place starting at Monaduff on Dec. 26th at 12 p.m., following the Rebel Walkway towards Ballinamuck. Refreshments in the Clubhouse afterwards. Money raised goes to Féileacáin.
- Fr. Manning Gaels annual Table Quiz is on Sat. 27th Dec. in the Tavern Drumlish at 9 p.m. Table of 4 is €40. Prizes 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Money raised goes towards the Minor Club St. Vincents.

Christmas Arrangements

Masses:

Vigil Mass on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Ballinamuck and at 8 p.m. in Drumlish
Christmas Day Mass at 9.30 in Ballinamuck and at 11 a.m. in Drumlish.

Confessions

Penance Service with individual Confessions on Monday in Newtownforbes at 7.20 p.m. and in Drumlish at 8 p.m.
Confessions in Ennybegs on Tuesday at 7.00 p.m.

Baptisms

The following babies were baptised and welcomed into our faith community last weekend:

- † Brian James McDowell s/o James and Amanda, Cloonaugh Upper
 - † Shay James Connelly s/o Desmond and Dyane, Briskill
 - † Maya Eileen Connell d/o Gary and Aisling, Cloonee
- Congratulations to all three families.

Christmas Message 2025.

This Christmas I am more aware than ever of the startling and profound reality that I am a Christian not because of anything I have done but because a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes—yes to God, yes to a wholehearted call she could not possibly understand, yes despite the judgement of society, yes to the considerable risk of pregnancy and childbirth, yes to a vision for herself and her little boy of a mission that in the words of her wonderful prayer, the Magnificat, would bring down rulers and lift up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill the hungry with good things, that would scatter the proud hearted and raise up the lowly, yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son's. God simply asked her to trust Him and she did. To understand Mary's humanity and her central role in the story of Jesus is to remind ourselves that the true miracle of Christmas, the true miracle of the Incarnation is the core Christian conviction that God is with us, plain old ordinary us. God is with us in our fears and in our pain, in all our joys and sorrows, in the everyday events of our daily lives. In all these things, God is with us—and God is for us. God is our one, true dependable friend who will never abandon us. This Christmas, as we conclude the Jubilee Year of hope, we reflect on the legacy of faith, hope and practice gifted to us by our parents who in turn received it from their parents. It was something they cherished above everything else, the sense of the presence of God in their daily lives. Last week Pope Leo reminded us that the core message of the Jubilee Year, the one important thing is no one should be lost, all should be saved. This is what God wants, this is His Kingdom, this is the goal of His actions in our world. God does not want us or our children to be among the lost. This Christmas as we reflect on the miracle of the Christ Child amongst us, let us recommit ourselves to honouring the presence of God in our lives, to honouring the hope that He brings through the example of faith, belief and practice gifted to us by our parents, and which we too in our turn witness to our children. [+ Paul Connell]