

# Kilnamanagh-Castleview Parish

## eNewsletter – December 2020

*In December  
We Prepare...*



### *A Word of Welcome from Fr Michael...*

Welcome to the December Issue of our Parish eNewsletter!

Normally, the arrival of winter with its colder temperature puts us in mind of our vulnerability and dependence. But this year is special. We are engulfed by the threat of Covid-19 to our welfare. We are hardly aware of what season it is. It is the Ads on TV etc. that are making us aware that Christmas is coming. Covid-19 has brought us to a sharp awareness of our vulnerability and our need of help regardless of the season.

The Holy Season of Advent speaks to our deepest needs, and promises a Redeemer who can answer those needs. The First Reading at Mass this First Sunday of Advent has this ancient yearning addressed to the Heavenly Father:

*Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down. (Is 64:1).*

Our Faith is that Jesus, whose Birth we prepare to commemorate and celebrate at Christmas, is the one who can save us from all that threatens us.

A year ago, in the run up to Christmas, none of us had an inkling of what was about to take place. Early in 2020 Covid-19 struck and almost brought the world to a halt. We had to cope with Lockdown, serious social restrictions and public health guidelines. We were all impacted in ways we could never have imagined. Who ever thought that churches would be closed and funerals would be restricted to family members? At this time we are looking at Christmas this year being very different from last year.

Advent, which begins this year on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November, is given to us each year as the season of hope. Advent helps us prepare for the Birth of Jesus. Jesus is the one who can lead us to a better place, if we follow his example and try to imitate his life.

I have no doubt that great good will accrue to us from the horror that is Covid-19. It may help to reveal some of the fault lines in contemporary Irish Society.

A year ago a major concern was homelessness. As I write, there are reports that another homeless person has died on the street of our capital, not far from the Dáil.

We pray and hope that 2021 will be a better year for all of us. In the meantime, I wish you all the Blessings of the Advent Season as we prepare for the Birth of Jesus who is 'the same yesterday, today and forever'. (Hb 13:8).

*Fr Michael Murphy.*

**\*\*Note\*\*** Anything that is blue and underlined in the newsletter can be clicked and will take you to that link. E.g. if you click where it says in blue "Webcam Link" you will be brought to the webcam.

[www.kilnamanaghcastleview.com](http://www.kilnamanaghcastleview.com)

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## Schedule for Liturgies from 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December

Sunday	Mass 10am – St Kevin's
Monday	Mass 10am – St Kevin's
Tuesday	Mass 10am – St Kilian's
Wednesday	Mass 10am – St Kevin's
Thursday	Prayer & Reflection 10am – St Kevin's
Friday	Mass 10am – St Kilian's
Saturday	Vigil Mass 6pm – St Kilian's



All Liturgies in St Kevin's are streamed  
[Webcam Link](#)

### Updated Website

Over the last few days, you may have noticed the website was out of action. We were working behind the scenes to update information and to redesign the website so that it was easier to use and items were clearer. Our new look has been launched and we look forward to hearing what you think. There will be a constant need of tweaks as we go along and fix bugs, but we hope you like it as much as we do!

### Financial Giving

Thanks to all who contribute to the 3 Collections at Weekend Masses.

- Be aware that you can contribute electronically at any time using the Donate facility on the Parish Website.
- You could also contact the Parish Office to make an arrangement to bring your Offerings to the church.

Sincere thanks to those who already do so.

### Advent Resources

Visit the Advent Wreath Prayer Station outside each of our 2 churches or click on the link for Advent Resources: [Advent 2020](#)

### Church Re-Opening

With the recent government announcement that places of worship can open from 1<sup>st</sup> December, we are planning to be back to our usual Mass Schedule from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. We await Diocesan Guidelines to aid us with the reopening and with the preparation for Christmas ceremonies.

We as parish need to do some preparation to continue to be in a position to open safely. This includes having volunteers on-hand for stewarding the various liturgies and help with sanitising after. We extend our sincerest gratitude to those who have worked so hard volunteering until the present lockdown and those who continue to volunteer at funerals. If you are in a position to help, we always need more. You sign up here: [Volunteer Form](#) or contact the parish office.

# *Scripture & Feast Days for the Month of November*

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

#### **First Reading:**

Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1,3-8

#### **Psalm:**

79(80): 2-3,15-16,18-19

#### **Second Reading:**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

#### **Gospel:**

Mark 13: 33-37

*'And what I say to  
you I say to all:*

*Stay awake!*

## **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

#### **First Reading:**

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

#### **Psalm:**

84(85): 9-14(Advent)

#### **Second Reading:**

2 Peter 3: 8-14

#### **Gospel:**

Mark 1: 1-8

*'A voice cries in the  
wilderness:*

*Prepare a way for the  
Lord, make his paths  
straight.'*

## **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Immaculate Conception of BVM**

#### **First Reading:**

Genesis 3: 9-15, 20

#### **Psalm:**

97(98): 1-4

#### **Second Reading:**

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

#### **Gospel:**

Luke 1:26-38

*'I am the handmaid of  
the Lord,' said Mary  
'let what you have  
said be done to me.'*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading:**

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

**Psalm:**

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

**Second Reading:**

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

**Gospel:**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

*'The one who is  
coming after me; and  
I am not fit to undo  
his sandal-strap.'*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading:**

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

**Psalm:**

88(89): 2-5,27,29

**Second Reading:**

Romans 16:25-27

**Gospel:**

Luke 1:26-38

*'Rejoice, so highly  
favoured!*

*The Lord is with you.'*

**Feast Days and Solemnities in November/December**

29<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday of Advent

30<sup>th</sup> – Saint Andrew, Apostle

3<sup>rd</sup> – Saint Francis Xavier

6<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent

7<sup>th</sup> – Saint Ambrose

8<sup>th</sup> – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

13<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent

14<sup>th</sup> – Saint John of the Cross

20<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent

25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day

26<sup>th</sup> – Saint Stephen, first Martyr

27<sup>th</sup> – The Holy Family

28<sup>th</sup> – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

## *Advent at Home*

As I begin writing this, I have just come back to the office having walked through the Mall section in Dunnes, Kilnamanagh. There was quite a queue for the post-office, meaning the air was filled with noise. But piercing through the din of chatter was a piece of music I recognised. It took a number of seconds to tune my ear into it, but when I did, the name sprang straight to mind. *O Holy Night*. It was only when I took in my surroundings did I notice the decorations that were hanging from the ceiling. I walked back to the office with a slight feeling of unease. While it is close to the end of November, it all felt a little too soon. At this time of year, we seem to put the cart before the horse. We are all guilty of getting swept up in the hustle and bustle of the commercial side of this time of year. But, Advent is a gentle reminder to us to step back. Advent offers us the opportunity to take a pause and breathe. It connects us in to a time of hopeful expectation. In this moment of ease, we can tune ourselves into the true meaning of the season and prepare for the wonder that is the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

As you read this, some of you might be thinking: "Why is she reminding us of basic facts we already know?" The truth is, whether we know it or not, we all need the reminder. If you're already connected into Advent, then maybe your task is to remind someone else of the wonder of Advent. After the year we have had, many may be thinking that Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November is a Sunday like all the rest we have survived this year. Yet, as Catholics we see this Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November as our First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of our New Church Year.

I often explain Advent to children as preparing for a party or having a visitor to the house. The event doesn't happen without a little elbow grease beforehand. The house needs to be cleaned, shopping needs to happen, maybe some decorations put up, and food prepared and cooked, and that's even before we thinking of the clean-up! Spending time consciously preparing for a party, is like consciously preparing during Advent for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

In this year like never before, what can we do to connect, to actively prepare, and to show we are people of faith? Connecting in with the main symbols of Advent is one way. Churches are now donning the colour purple to show the preparations. Is there any way you could bring some purple into your every day? Maybe you have a purple hat, scarf, jumper or tie you

could wear. Do you have a piece of purple material or ribbon that you could put in a prominent place in the house? Our Advent wreaths have moved into position in our sanctuaries. Can you do up your own Advent Wreath at home? You could use some leaves, and a simple candle. If you are stuck, an image of a candle could work. You could place the candle and leaves along with your piece of purple and create your own unique Advent space.

Another is to follow the Scriptures. In this eNewsletter, we have provided the references for the Sunday Scriptures. In our Advent resources section, we have included a superb resource produced from Elphin Diocese called *In Hopeful Expectation: Prayers at Home for Advent in a Time of Pandemic*. You could also follow our online Advent calendar on the website and social media pages, where an image and line from the scripture for that day is posted at 12noon each day.

Maybe you have your own tradition for celebrating this wonderful season. If so, why not share it with us as your idea might be exactly what someone else needs. In this year where we need the light of Jesus more than ever, we invite you to do one thing this Advent. This season of Hopeful Expectation is one not to be missed.

Wishing you and yours continued safety and every blessing for Advent.

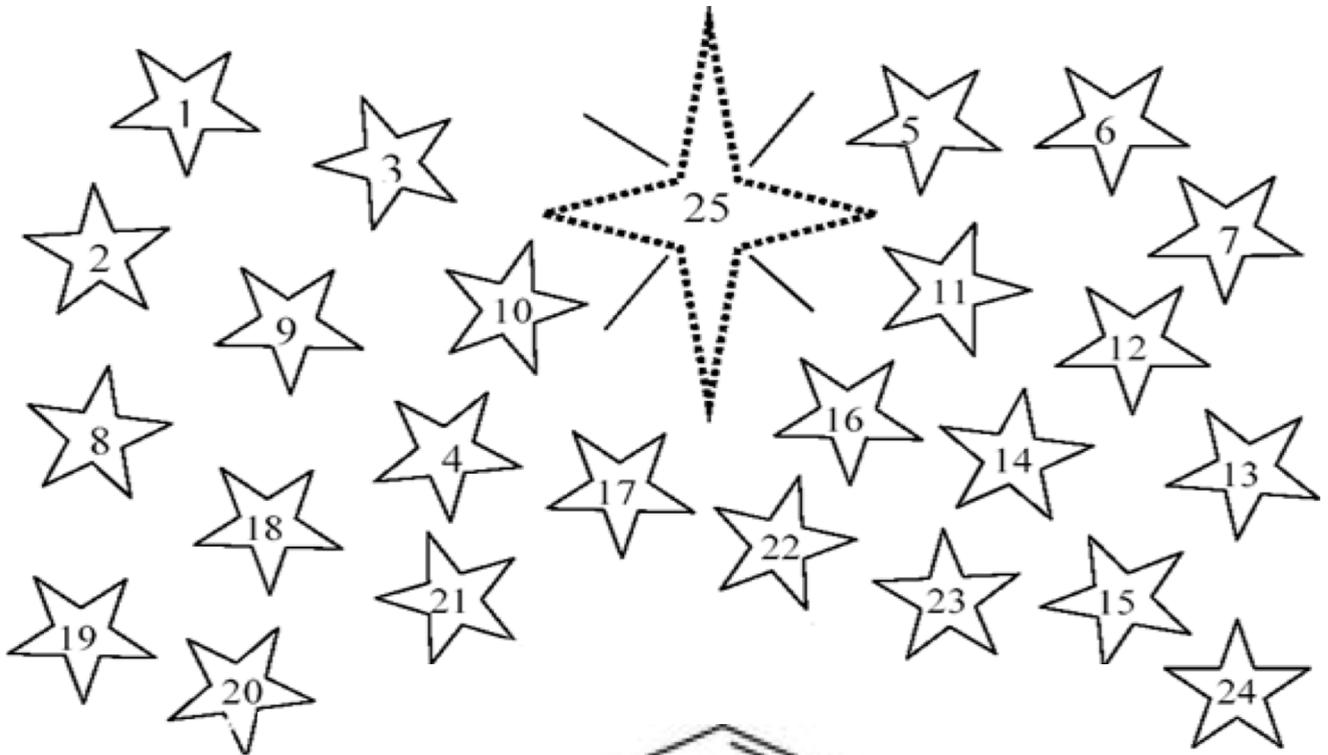
*Natalie Doherty - Parish Catechist*

### *Looking Ahead to Christmas Liturgies...*

As we await further clarity on the situation relating to churches and public liturgies following the government announcement, we would like to let you know that we have been working for a number of weeks on possible situations for Christmas Liturgies. Our plans will include a wide range of liturgies for Christmas week, including many opportunities for Mass and specific Liturgies for Families on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

For best health and safety practice, we would like to make you aware now that there will be a **ticketing system in place for all liturgies**. Tickets will be available online and via the parish office. You might alert those you know that don't engage with online about this so they don't miss out. We will be sending a specific Christmas Newsletter the week before Christmas which will give full details of how to book, Mass times and Christmas resources.

# Family Corner



In December we  
prepare with Advent

Colour in the stars on this advent calendar to countdown through advent

## Parts of the Mass:

We give thanks to God at every Mass to say thank you for the love given to us throughout the week, our friends, our families, all the wonderful things that have happened.

We say or sing the Gloria to show our appreciation for God.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

# December's Activity



## Getting Ready for Next Month:

- Practice saying the Gloria where we give thanks at Mass.
- Practice making the Sign of the Cross.
- Say a prayer for those who may not have a home or food this Christmas.

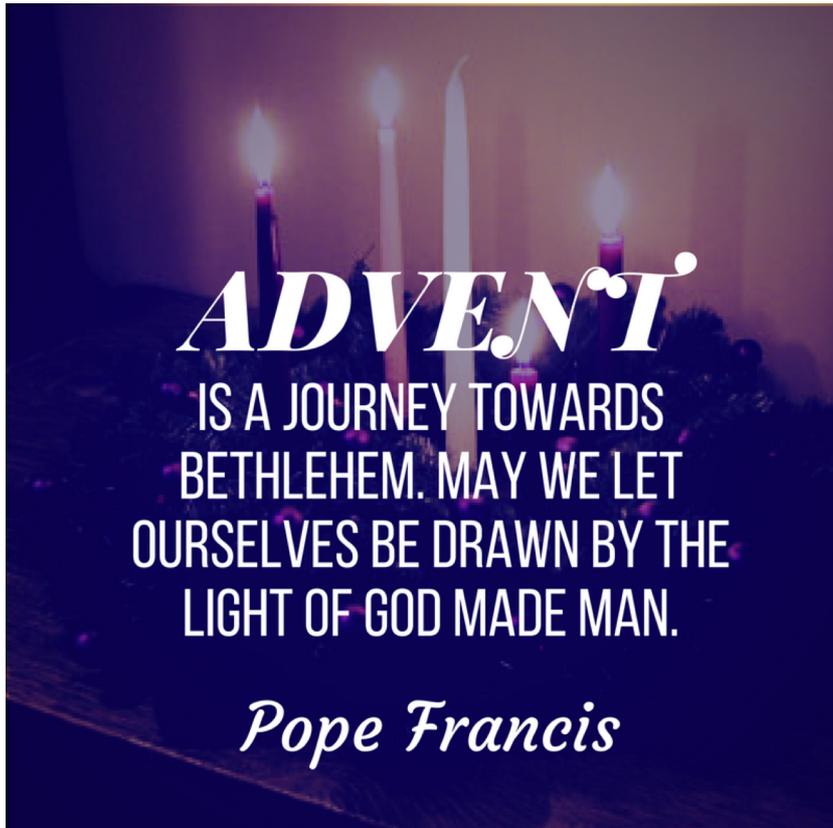
## At Home:

- Talk about what you saw and heard at Mass on the webcam.
- Begin to bring a bit of Advent into the house: start with a piece of purple and hang it somewhere prominent to show your preparation.
- Get a crib to add to your house or your Sacred Space.

## Helping Our Planet

- We produce a lot of waste over Christmas time. Can you reduce the amount of packaging on presents you give this year and make sure the wrapping is recyclable?

## Quote of the Month...



If you have a favourite quote, or have read something recently, that you think should be our quote of the month, send it into us on our designated newsletter email address below to be featured as the quote of the month for next month

## Stay Connected...

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