# Looking back on 2025 and looking forward to 2026

Arklow Parish is a very busy Parish. We work very closely with our National Schools we have the following schools in our Parish.

St John's Senior School St Michael & Peter Junior School Scoil Ghormáin Naofa Castletown

Scoil Íosagain Coolgreany Gaelscoil an Inbhír Mhóir & St. Patrick's Bearna Chlé.

This year we celebrated First Confessions, First Holy Communions, Ceremony of Light and Confirmations with classes from these schools. We also celebrated Start of year Masses, Christmas carol Concerts and End of school year Masses and Graduations. We thank all the Principals and Staff of these Schools for all their support and help.

We also work closely with the Secondary Schools St Mary's College & **Arklow CBS** 

Celebrating Opening and Closing School year Masses, **Christmas Carols Services Graduations Masses and Mercy** Day for St Mary's College. We thank the Principals and Staff of these Schools too.

Registration for 2026 Sacraments took place in September in the Parish Hall and we have a large number of children taking part in the Sacraments of Communion and

we had a Family Mass every Second Saturday of the Month in Arklow at 6.30pm and in Johnstown every second Sunday at Churches. The Priests visit the 10am. Polish Mass takes place the sick and house bound on the first first Sunday of the Month in Arklow Friday of the month if you would at 10am and Chat N Cha takes place first Sunday of the Month after 11.30am Mass in Árus Lorcáin.

We had a very large number of Baptisms this year and we welcome all these Children and their families into our Church.

The Priests have celebrated a large number of funerals over the year, The Parish Council are in the process of forming a Funeral Ministry team. During the Summer the Blessing of the Graves took place and in November we celebrated the November Remembrance Mass which is a very sad but beautiful Mass to remember all our loved ones who have died in the last vear.

The Priests celebrated a small number of weddings this year, In September the very popular Wedding Anniversary Mass was held a large number of couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries followed by a Party after in Árus Lorcáin this is always a key date in the Parish diary.

The Parish Lourdes Group went to Lourdes and had wonderful week in September this is a great trip and planning starts early in the new year if you are interested in travelling in 2026.

Confirmation next year. This year The Priests are busy over the Easter and Christmas periods with extra Masses and lovely Ceremonies we celebrate in our like to Priest to visit please contact the Parish Office.

> The Organ Project was completed and a Special Mass by Bishop Donal Roche took place with the blessing and rededication of the Organ. After 3 years of fundraising the work was completed, donations from Parishioners, Business Community, Local Councillors, Church of Ireland and Presbyterian friends made it the success it was. The Organ sounds wonderful now.



We are blessed in our parish to have so many volunteers and without our volunteers a lot of these events could not take place The Parish Council planned a Volunteers Mass in June and a garden party. This was a wonderful evening and we are lucky to have so many wonderful Volunteers.

Thank You

Parish of Sts. Mary & Peter, Arklow with St David's Johnstown The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 28th December 2025

The Holy Family is seen as the model for the human family, the religious community, and the Church itself. The celebration of the Incarnation has brought us to see God's closeness. In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus, the simple acceptance by Mary and Joseph of the marvels of God. In the daily life of family and community we can touch the divine, we can come close to God. But we have to learn to live centred on God, with respect and love for each other

### **Mass Intentions**

#### **Saturday** 27th December 6.30pm

Sylvester Bourke (5th Anniv) Charles Lennon (Anniv) Christina Lennon (Birthday Remembrance)

#### Sunday 28th December 8.30am

James Heaney (1st Anniv) Jadwija Czekaj (Anniv)

### 11.30am

David Jeffreys (9th Anniv) Patsy Conroy (Anniv)

Tuesday **30th December** 10am John Briody (8th Anniv) Eugene Kane (Anniv)

## **Wednesday 31st December 10am**

Sally Farrell (5th Anniv)

### **Thursday 1st January 10am**

Ian English (Anniv) Eileen Dempsey (Anniv)

**Castletown** 

### 27th December Saturday 8pm

Matt Byrne (3rd Anniv)

## **Liturgical Calendar December /January**

Monday 29th St Thomas

**Beckett** 

Wed 31st St Sylvester

Thurs 1st Mary, The Holy

Mother of God

Friday 2nd St Basil

St Gregory

# Thursday 1st January Mary, The Holy Mother of God

At the message of the Angel the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave Life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer.

# **Polish Mass Sunday 4th January 10am**

Next Mass in Polish will take place on Sunday 4th January at 10am. There will be tea and cake after in Árus Lorcáin. All Welcome.

Kolejna msza wjezyku polskim odbedzie sie 04.01.26 o gods 10.00. Po mszy wszystkich serdecznie zapraszamy do Árus Lorcáin na kawe i ciastko.

# **Gathering Hymn**

### **Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night All is calm, all is bright Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child

Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night Shepherds quake at the sight Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia Christ the Savior is born Christ the Savior is born

# **Recessional Hymn Adeste Fideles**

Adeste Fideles Laeti trimphantes

Venite, venite in Bethlehem

Natum videte, Regem Angelorum;

## **Venite Adoremus, venite** adoremus

## Venite adoremus Dominium!

Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,

gestant puellae viscera.

Deum veru, gentium non factum

## **Venite Adoremus, venite** adoremus

## Venite adoremus Dominium!

Cantet nunc io chorus Angelorum

Cantet nunc aula caelstium:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!