

Gathering Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
To free your captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice, Rejoice O Israel,
To you shall come Emmanuel
O come great daystar, radiance
bright,
And heal us with your glorious light,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night.
And death's dark shadows put to
fight.
Rejoice, Rejoice, O Israel,
To you shall come Emmanuel.

Recessional Hymn

When creation was begun,
God had chosen you to be,
Mother of his blessed son,
Holy Mary full of grace.


Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.
When Creation was restored
You were there beside the Lord
Whom you cherished and adored
Holy Mary full of grace.

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.
Lead us to your child above
He will teach us how to love
How to pity and forgive
Holy Mary full of grace.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Parish Notices for the Week ahead

Sunday 18th December
Confessions in Johnstown after 10am Mass
Parish Carol Service 3pm with reflections
Methodist Carol Service (Methodist Church)
7.30pm
Monday 19th December 8pm
Wicklow Reconciliation Service
Tuesday 20th December 8pm
Rathdrum Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 21st December 8pm
Arklow Reconciliation Service
Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve
10am Mass followed by Confessions
Mass 5pm, 7pm and 9pm
Castletown Mass 6pm

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

Mass 8.30am and 11.30am 
Polish Mass 10am
Johnstown Mass 10am

Monday 26th December St Stephen's Day

Mass 10am
Saturday 31st December New Year's Eve
Morning Mass 10am
Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday 1st January Happy New Year

Mass 8.30am, 11.30am & 7pm
Polish Mass 10am

Friday 6th January Feast of the Epiphany

Mass 10am & 7pm



**The First Christmas
(By Ronald Byrne)**

"I think of that very first Christmas morn, when Jesus Christ, our Saviour was born, The wise men had travelled from afar, having been told to follow a star, In Bethlehem they behold the "infant child" Full of innocence ,meek and mild.

The Heavens were opened and the angels appeared saying to the Shepherds, "Have no fear" I think of that Christmas so long ago when God sent his Son that we should know his love for us and his saving grace, and his divine message of love to embrace".

With Sympathy

**Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of
Fr Anthony Sheerin
&
Sharon Crean
who died recently may they rest in peace.**

BAPTISM

**Congratulations to
Naoise Grace Dobson
who was baptised
Recently**



Thank you to all our wonderful Volunteers who look after our Church through out the year. Their help is invaluable to maintaining and keeping our Church looking so well. Thank you.

**Parish of Ss. Mary & Peter, Arklow
with St. David's, Johnstown
Sunday 18th December 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent**



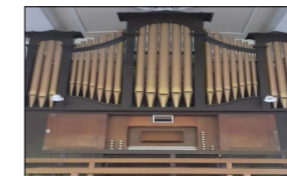
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angels Candle" The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace—He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

Liturgical Calendar 
Tues 20th Dec St Fachanan
Wed 21st Dec St Peter Canisius
Friday 23rd Dec St John of Kanty

Organ Restoration Fundraiser

Our Famous Organ needs to be completely renewed our campaign to cover the cost of this work is well underway. So far your generosity has ensured that 200 out of the 900 pipes can be fully repaired. All we need now is the remaining 700 to be covered. Envelopes are available around the Church if you would like to donate. You might consider it as Christmas Gift. The names of all donors will be included in our donors list to be publicly displayed in the Church when the work is completed. We look forward to hearing the Organ over the Christmas period.



CHRISTMAS WEEK AHEAD 18th to 25th December 2022

We associate Christmas with warmth, love, and family. They are what makes Christmas special. Sometimes we get caught up in the wrong way at Christmas. We're so busy getting things done that we can forget about people. We forget the heart and lose the spirit.

There is enough hard heartedness in the world. Think of the Irish soldier killed so cruelly in the Lebanon, the bombardment of ordinary peoples' homes in Yemen and Ukraine, the murders ever more frequent in our towns, the people sleeping in tents in this harsh weather, the harsh price of homes to buy and to rent.

Our country needs a softer heart and it begins with us, in our homes, in our parish. If your heart is not softened it will not be a happy Christmas for us and those we love. God loves us. He gave us His only Son, Jesus. A great way to soften our hearts towards God and other people is to make a good, sincere Confession. You have that opportunity on Wednesday at 8pm here in Arklow with visiting priests, and again on Christmas Eve at 10.30am.

We wish you a happy soft-hearted Christmas!



Christmas Dues Envelopes are available in the church with a copy of our Christmas Newsletter please take one home. Thank you to those who have already returned their Christmas Dues.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 17th December 6.30pm
Eamon Nolan (Months Mind)
Margaret & John Delaney
Michael & Chris Kavanagh
Babs Barnes
Michael O'Neill
Ann Winters
Betty Breen
William (Billy) Kelly
Edward McLoughlin
Lizzie & Ned & Peg McLoughlin
Fred Ryan
Brian McKay (1st Anniversary)
Castletown 8pm
Sean Maguire (Months Mind)
Sunday 18th December 8.30am
Nadine Lott
Colm Kelly
Johnstown 10am
Bernie Merrigan
Joe & Janie O'Toole
11.30am
James & Eileen Walker
John, Kevin & Kathleen Walsh
Paddy Fortune
Lily Barnwell
James Bermingham
James McKenna
Eamy Doyle
Martin & Peter Mulligan
Margaret Doyle
Robert (Bob) Moran
Colm Kelly
Edward Kelly
Rose & Michael Mordaunt and their Granddaughter Susan
7pm
Paddy Murray
Monday 19th December 10am Special Intention
Patrick (Paddy) McManus and his son John
Tuesday 20th December 10am Caryl Breslin
Wednesday 21st December 10am Mary Brauders
Friday 23rd December 10am Special Intention



**Parish Office
Árus Lorcáin
Christmas Closing
Thursday 22nd December
Re-Opening:
Tuesday 3rd January**

