



Parish of Sts. Mary & Peter, Arklow with  
St. David's, Johnstown  
Sunday 19th December 2021



### Mass Intentions

**Saturday 18th December**  
**St Flannan**  
10.00 a.m. Kathleen, Pat & Patricia Kinsella  
Special Intention  
6.30 p.m. Michael O'Neill  
Ann Winters  
Fred Ryan  
Charlene Kinsella  
Ann Kinsella  
Edward McLoughlin (his mother  
Lizzy father Ned and sister-in-law  
Peg)

**Sunday 19th December**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
8.30 a.m. Colm Kelly  
A Special Intention  
11.30 a.m. James & Elizabeth Walker  
Nadine Lott  
Lilly Barnwell  
Betty Breen  
James McKenna  
Margaret Doyle  
Colm & Declan Kelly  
Caryl Breslin  
Edward Kelly  
Michael & Rose Mordaunt & their  
grand-daughter Susan  
7.00 p.m. Paddy Murray

**Monday 20th December**  
**Tuesday 21st December**  
**St Peter Canisius**  
10.00 a.m. Luisa Arriojas

**Thursday 23rd December**  
**St John of Kanty**  
10.00 a.m. Special Intention

### Gospel Reflection

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

### Fourth Week—Purple Candle

Father, all powerful God, Your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### Thought at the end of the day.

'Pause and Pray in Advent' Every Wednesday @8pm join via the Webcam and radio for the return of our popular 'Thought at the End of the Day'.

### Parish Office Christmas Opening Times

The Parish office is open Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5p.m. if you need to book a mass or buy a Christmas Card or Christmas ornament. Árus Lorcaín will Close on Wednesday 22nd of December at 1p.m. and will reopen on Tuesday 4th January at 9a.m. Wishing everyone a Happy



The Annual Christmas Carol Service will take place on Sunday the 19th of December at 3pm.



**Friday 24th Dec - Christmas Eve**  
Morning Mass @ 10am followed by Confessions  
Evening Mass Arklow @ 5pm; 7pm & 9pm  
Mass Johnstown: @ 6pm  
Mass Castletown: @ 8pm

**Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day**  
Mass Arklow: @ 8.30am; 10am; 11.30am  
Mass Johnstown: @ 10am  
Mass Castletown: @ 11am  
NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

**Sunday 26th December - St Stephen's Day**  
Mass Arklow: @ 8.30am; 11.30am & 7pm  
Mass Johnstown: @ 10am  
Mass Castletown: @ 11am

**Dec 27th - 31st Weekday Mass @ 10am**

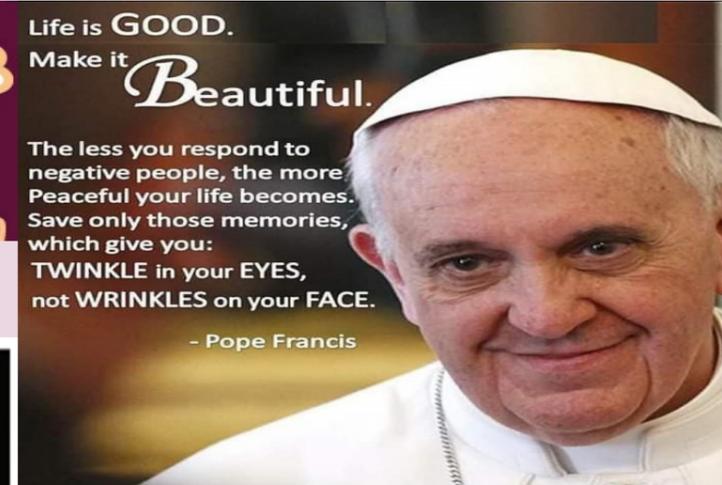
**New Year's Day January 1st 2022**  
Mass @ 10am - Solemnity, Mary The Holy Mother of God  
World Day of Peace

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSION**  
Each Saturday after 10am Mass  
Thursday 23rd Dec: @ 7 - 8pm  
Friday 24th Dec: @ 10.30am - 11.30am

**Wednesday 5th January The Epiphany of the Lord**  
Vigil Mass @ 7pm

**Thursday 6th January The Epiphany of the Lord**  
Mass @ 10am; 7pm

**Sunday 9th January The Baptism of the Lord**  
Normal Mass times



Happy 85th Birthday to the Holy Father. It was celebrated on Friday 17th December 'Ad Multos Annos'



The many traditions associated with Advent and Christmas make it a special time of the year for us. One of these ancient traditions is the *O Antiphons*: seven responses, or antiphons, that are sung or recited to introduce the canticle of Mary (the Magnificat) at evening prayer from December 17 to December 23, the octave before Christmas. *These antiphons are based on Isaiah's prophecies and refer to the different ancient titles given to the Messiah:*

- O Sapientia (O Wisdom) See Isaiah 11:2–3; 28:29.
- O Adonai (O Lord) See Isaiah 11:4–5; 33:22.
- O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) See Isaiah 1:1; 11:10.
- O Clavis David (O Key of David) See Isaiah 9:6; 22:22.
- O Oriens (O Rising Sun) See Isaiah 9:1.
- O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) See Isaiah 9:5; 2:4.
- O Emmanuel (God with us) See Isaiah 7:14.

We can bring these responses into our own prayers, as simple reminders throughout the day of the one whose coming we are joyfully expecting, or as words of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness throughout the ages and our lives.

Thank you to all who donated so generously to our recent collection we collected €2050 Thank You.

