

Parish of Sts. Mary & Peter, Arklow with  
St. David's, Johnstown  
Sunday 2nd January 2022  
Second Sunday of Christmas



COME LORD JESUS  
CELEBRATING  
CHRISTMAS

### Mass Intentions

**Saturday 1st January**  
**Solemnity Mary The Holy Mother of God**  
10.00 a.m. Ian English  
6.30 p.m.

**Sunday 2nd January**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**  
8.30 a.m.  
11.30 a.m. Ann Holt (Months Mind)  
Eileen Dempsey  
Roisin Elliott  
Betty Kelly  
Andrew Enriquez

7.00 p.m.

**Monday 3rd January**  
**St Munchin**  
10.00 a.m. Michael Mullin (Months Mind)

**Tuesday 4th January**  
10.00 a.m. Dymphna Kelly

**Wednesday 5th January**  
**Before the Epiphany**  
10.00 a.m. Eileen Kane  
Bernard Hannigan

7 p.m. Annie, John & Peter McCarthy

**Thursday 6th January**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
10.00 a.m.  
7 p.m.

Mass 10am Monday to Saturday  
Rosary Daily following 10am Mass  
Weekend Mass 6.30pm Sat Vigil.  
Sunday 8.30 am, 11.30am & 7pm  
Adoration Holy Hour Tuesday, Friday & Saturday  
5 to 6pm

#### Confession

Each Saturday after 10am Mass

#### 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

#### Parish Office Christmas

#### Opening Times

The Parish office is closed and will reopen on Tuesday  
4th January at 9a.m.

Hope you and all your family  
had a lovely Christmas and  
We wish you all a very  
Happy New Year



From

Fr Pádraig & Fr David

#### Thank you to all the Volunteers who clean our Church.

Thank you for the wonderful job you do keeping our Parish Church looking so beautiful and safe for all of us to visit.



We are now looking for more volunteers to help out. If you have time and would like to help please contact one of the Priests or Siobhán in the Parish Office on (085) 2534718.

If you wish to book a mass please contact the Parish Office on (0402) 31716 or email office@arklowparish.ie or alternatively call in, the Office is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

If you would like the anniversary to be included on the weekly newsletter please ensure you have booked the mass before 10am on the Thursday.

We remember all our parishioners who are sick or in hospital at this time. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers



### Epiphany of the Lord 6th January 2022 Vigil Mass Wed 5th 7pm Mass Thurs 6th @ 10am & 7pm



The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. We know little about the

Magi. They came from the East and journeyed to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned incense in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus laying down his life for us.

"When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne." Entrance Antiphon today's Mass.

#### Gospel Reflection on John 1:1-18

Our Gospel passage today is one very familiar to us all. It consists of the opening verses of the Fourth Gospel and presents the incarnate Word of God in terms reminiscent of the figure of Wisdom in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Word was with God in the beginning and was God's agent in creation. The themes of light, life, believing, glory and truth will all feature prominently in the Johannine narrative.

The sentence which is particularly significant for us at this time of Christmas is "The Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us." There can be no stronger affirmation of the dignity of human nature than this, to say that God entered our world as one of us.

Word implies communication. The Christmas mystery is all about God reaching out to human beings in the most radical way imaginable. God is offering the chance of an intimate relationship. However, John's Prologue acknowledges that not all people will accept the Word, and that Jesus is rejected is another major theme in the story. Ultimately, everyone has to make a choice and on this judgment hangs. But at this time, the liturgy is asking us to consider the length to which God was prepared to go in reaching out to human beings. The Christmas crib is the artistic illustration of this.

#### The Tradition of Nollaig na mBan

The twelfth day of Christmas, January 6th, was known in Ireland as "Nollaig na mBan" or Women's Christmas or Little Christmas. As a reward for their hard work over the Christmas season, it was a day off from all house work for women and traditional roles were supposed to be reversed in the home: men did the work in the house while women rested and gathered together informally! The custom was that women made social calls to the homes of their friends and neighbours and enjoyed tea and the last of the Christmas goodies. Women's Christmas was well known in some areas, such as in Cork and Kerry. By the mid 20th century, the tradition of Nollaig na mBan had largely died out, but is slowly undergoing a revival. Hotels and restaurants are advertising ladies' afternoon teas and evenings out. January 6th was also the night of the big wind, Oíche na Gaoithe Móire, in 1839. A devastating hurricane hit Ireland leaving over 100 dead and thousands homeless with mass structural damage throughout the country.

