

Ferbane Parish Bulletin

Sunday 22nd December 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Peter Burke - (090) 6454380 • Fr. Michael Morris - (090) 6454309 • www.ferbaneparish.ie

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, FERBANE

SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER - 7pm

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER - 11am

1. Hugh Gleeson.

Mon. 23rd: 10am

CHRISTMAS EVE - TUES. 24th DEC.
5pm Vigil for Christmas Day.
9pm Vigil for Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS DAY - WED. 25th DEC.
11am

Thurs. 26th: 10am

Fri. 27th: 10am - 1. Patrick Egan, Creggan.

2. Patrick & Sally Kenny.

Sat. 28th: 10am -

1. Philip, Mary & Brenda Gilsean.

2. Pat & Breda Daly & their daughter Claire.

SATURDAY 28th DECEMBER - 7pm

1. Kathleen Coughlan (*Months Mind*).

2. James & Anne Reamsbottom, their sons Noel & Joe, daughter Mona and grandson Christopher.

3. Peter & Mary Kearns and their daughter Anne.

4. Doreen Spillane.

SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER - 11am

SS. PATRICK & SARAN, HIGH STREET

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER - 12 noon

1. Patrick & Nan Kearns, their daughter Anne & deceased family members.

2. Patrick & Mary Rourke and their sons Pat, Tom, Joe & James.

CHRISTMAS EVE - TUES. 24th DEC.
7pm, Vigil for Christmas Day. *Pray & Play.*

CHRISTMAS DAY - WED. 25th DEC.
12 noon

SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER - 12 noon

1. Margaret & Michael Daly, their daughter Margaret, son-in-law James Murray and their daughter Mary Connaughton and deceased family members.

2. Alo Kenny (*6th A*), his parents Paddy & Bridget, his brother Kieran, sister Josie and nephew Kieran.

3. Michael Yates.

ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT, BOORA

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER - 9.30am

1. Mary Kate & Peter Grogan, Leamore.

CHRISTMAS EVE - TUES. 24th DEC.
7pm Vigil for Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS DAY - WED. 25th DEC.
9.30am

SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER - 9.30am

1. Margaret Earley, her parents Patrick & Elizabeth Tooher, grandchildren Vincent & Kevin and deceased family members.

CONFESSIONS - Christmas Eve in Ferbane from 11am - 4pm and in High Street from 12 noon to 1pm.

PARISH OFFICE - Will reopen on Wednesday 8th January. Tel: 090 6454309 OR Email: parishoffice@ferbaneparish.ie.

SVP - Confidential helpline 087 9272877.

COLLECTIONS - December 15th: Offertory/ Shrine €2,790. Thank you. Bank A/c details - IBAN: IE39 BOFI 9016 3475 9072 05.

MASSES - All ceremonies can be heard on 106.5FM Parish Radio. Parish bulletin is available on www.ferbaneparish.ie.

DEATHS - Please pray for the souls of Valerie Flynn (nee Connolly, Clononey) Park, Banagher; Michael Downey, Moore (father of Angela Harrington, Shannon Harbour); Danny McRedmond, Clonaslee (brother-in-law of Imelda Lawlor, Gallen View); Emmet Grogan, Tuillamore (nephew of Tess Egan, Shannon Harbour) and Fr. Eamonn Corkery, PP Emiritus, Dromard (former curate in Ferbane). RIP.

WALK WITH ME, TALK WITH ME - Annual Walk on Friday 27th December at Ballinahown Sports Park from 10.30am - 4pm. Proceeds to the Cenacolo Community in Knock helping young people with addictions. Please support.

PROGRESSIVE 25 - Cards every Friday night in Ferbane Heritage Centre at 9pm.

BELMONT GUN CLUB - Senior Citizens New Year Party will be held on Sunday 12th January 2025 in

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The exact birthday of Jesus is unknown. Pope Julius I who was Pope (337-352), is credited with selecting the 25th December to celebrate the coming of the Saviour into the world. It was a pagan festival in honour of the 'sun god', and since we believe Jesus to be the 'Light of the World', the date seemed especially appropriate. Take Christ out of these days and we are back in the pagan space. We should guard against returning to where we were! Let us, rather, be possessed by the mystery and message of these days. Our God is with us. As we stand before the crib, may we find there again the gentle reassurance of His presence, and may we understand with utter confidence, that we are loved. Then, let us fall silent and rest secure in the heart of God. *Céad fáilte romhat, a Linbh a rugadh sa stábla...* Nollaig shona.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving Father, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus your Son, may we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Wise Men and the peace of the Christ Child. May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

He was content with a stable when He was born so that we could have a mansion when we die.

High Street Hall. There will be Mass at 3pm followed by meal and music. Everyone welcome.

CARING IN OFFALY CE SCHEME - Home Respite Care Worker, Vacancy No. 2371079, Ferbane area, 19.5 hours per week. Please contact Alison Hackett for more information on 086-0213711 / ahackett@familycarers.ie.

FERBANE BELMONT CE - We currently have vacancies on our scheme for one Groundsperson/ Caretaker, General Operative, Caretaker Cleaner and Administration person. Successful applicants will continue with all existing benefits with a scheme top up. All successful participants can also avail of training and upskilling. For information call 090 6454068.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BISHOP PAUL

When I was appointed bishop of Ardagh & Clonmacnois by Pope Francis last year, I chose *Deus Spes Mea - God is my hope*, as my episcopal motto. A motto is defined in the dictionary as *a brief statement used to express a goal or ideal*. I chose it for a number of reasons, but most especially because it expresses what is at the heart of our Christian faith. Its core message is that God overcomes all obstacles through the fire of hope. We live in a troubled world where all around us there is difficulty and pain, so much so that at times we are inclined to despair.

What is needed in all of us, you and me, and all those who believe in Christ is that fire of hope. This is the gift that we give to others and pass on to our children. The people who have gone before us have left us a legacy of perseverance in the faith, keeping Christian hope alive in their time. Now is our turn to persevere, so that this same light of hope shines from us. We do not know what the future brings, but we do know that the flame of Christian hope can continue to burn brightly, even in the most difficult situations.

The beauty of the Christmas message is the hope that is found in this weak and vulnerable Christ child who has come to save us. We are reminded of the love that God has for each of us, that He is a kind and merciful God. We are reminded that despite the darkness that engulfs our world today, especially in the Holy Land, the light of hope, of faith will endure.

To quote Pope Francis: *Let us exult in this gift of grace! Rejoice you who have abandoned all hope, for God offers you His outstretched hand; He does not point a finger at you, but offers you His little baby hand, in order to set you free from your fears, to relieve you of your burdens and to show you that, in His eyes, you are more valuable than anything else.*

I wish every one of you a blessed, peaceful Christmas, full of the joy and peace that the Christ child brings into our lives.