



NEWTOWNCASHEL PARISH NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C - 5th December 2015

Fr. Merlyn Kenny 043 3325112



* Mass Times:

Saturday (vigil) 8pm; Sunday 10.30am;
Monday & Friday 8pm.
Tuesday 8th December Feast of the Immaculate Conception Masses 10.30am & 8pm
Wednesday & Thursday: 9.30am.

* Masses for the Dead:

Saturday 5th 8pm: Alison Smyth, Lanesboro and New Row.
Sunday 6th 10.30am: James & Margaret Sweeney Greenhall & Carmel Belton.
Monday 7th 8pm: James & Elizabeth Casey (Cornadough) & Elizabeth Casey, Carrowstrawley. Remembering also Maura Casey.
Tuesday 8th 10.30am: James Healy, Pollagh.
Friday 11th 8pm: Richard & Annie Farrell, Cross.
Saturday 12th 8pm:
Sunday 13th 10.30am: Kiernan Eustace, New Ross. (1st Anniversary)

* Recent Deaths:

Pray for the happy repose of the soul of Peter Nolan, late of Carrickmoran.

* Concern Christmas Fast:

The annual fast and Church gate collection takes place this weekend 5th & 6th December. Once again your support would be greatly appreciated.

* Panto Time:

This year the students of Ballymahon Vocational School are performing 'Mother Goose' on the 9th, 10th & 11th December at 8pm. Adults €10/ Students €5. Tickets may be booked at (090) 6432211. All welcome.

During Advent there is much wisdom to reflect upon:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

'Prepare a way for the Lord' (Luke 3);

Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going on (Luke 2);

If anyone has two tunics they must share with one who has none (Luke 3);
and

'Of all women you are the most blessed,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb' (Luke 1).

Symbols of His Coming

Advent is a joyous time of year, a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Emmanuel (God-With-Us) is coming into the world. We prepare, we rejoice, we celebrate! The Advent Wreath reminds us of God's unending love for us – a love that was so self-giving that he gave us his only Son so that we might be saved.

* **The Local:** Gerry Keenan plays on Saturday night & Santa arrives on his sleigh at 3pm Sunday. All welcome.

* **November Dues** are due at this time.

* The Station Mass:

Those who would like to host a Station Mass in February can arrange to do so now. It is a real privilege to have such a blessing in one's home. Seven Station Masses have been already booked.

* Visiting the Sick:

It is an important part of our ministry to support people in times of sickness and bereavement. If you or someone you know is sick and would like the priest to visit them at home or in hospital, please let me know.

* Thank you for last weekend's offertory collection of €635

* **Rosary** recited for your departed loved ones – each Friday evening at 7.30pm in the church.

Advent Wreath

Symbol

Circle
Evergreen Wreath
Candle
4 x Candles
3 x Purple
1 x Rose (Pink)

Meaning

Eternity of God
Life, Immortality
Jesus is the Light of the World
Four weeks of Advent
Prayer, Penance & Preparation
Rejoicing

Reflection on Today's Gospel

A giant ship engine failed. The ship's owners tried one expert after another, but none of them could figure out how to fix the engine.

Then they brought in an old man who had been fixing ships since he was a young. He carried a large bag of tools with him, and when he arrived, he immediately went to work.

He inspected the engine very carefully, top to bottom.

Two of the ship's owners were there, watching this man, hoping he would know what to do. After looking things over, the old man reached into his bag and pulled out a small hammer.

He gently tapped something. Instantly, the engine lurched into life. He carefully put his hammer away. The engine was fixed! A week later, the owners received a bill from the old man for ten thousand dollars. "What?" the owners exclaimed. "He hardly did anything!"

So they wrote the old man a note saying, "Please send us an itemized bill."

The man sent a bill that read:

Tapping with a hammer - \$2.00. Knowing where to tap - \$9,998.00.

Effort is important, but knowing where to make an effort makes all the difference! *And only the Lord truly knows where to tap!* Have we really given Him a chance? Advent is a time to let Him try again.