



PARISH OF CASHEL LETTER
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 11TH DECEMBER 2016
FR. MERLYN KENNY-043 3325112

Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem.
May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God.



Mass Times as follows:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 8pm. Sunday: 10.30am. Monday and Friday 8pm. Tuesday 9.30am.

No Mass on Wednesday.

Masses for the Dead:

Sat	10th Dec	8.00pm	Alison Smyth.
Sun	11th Dec	10.30am	Frank Nolan, Portanure.
Mon	12th Dec	8.00pm	James Bermingham, Newtownllanagun.
Tues	13th Dec	9.30am	Special Intention.
Thurs	15th Dec	9.30am	Michael & Kitty Farrell, Longford.
Fri	16th Dec	8.00pm	James & Elizabeth Casey, Cornadough. Also Elizabeth Casey, Carrowstrawley.
Sat	17th Dec	8.00pm	Mary Quigley (nee Moughty), late of Dermacar.
Sun	18th Dec	10.30am	Beatrice Bawle, (Month's Mind).

A special thank you to all who have made the church so beautiful at this special time - including the Crib, the Star, the Advent Wreath, the Church itself and even the toilets and fixing the heating system.

St. Mary's N.S.: Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th December - Christmas concert commencing at 6pm in "The Hill." Bookings at 086 8517037

St. Mary's N.S. Building Project: School extension works commenced on the 1st. Nov. This includes a new classroom, toilets, resource room, car park and up-grading of existing facilities.

Offertory Collection 3rd Dec €510. Monthly €355. November Dues: €2,800.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday from 3pm to 9pm. Similarly, on Fridays after Mass, there will be Adoration from 8.30pm until 9.00pm.

Rosary recited every Friday evening at 7.30pm.

Parish Pastoral Council meeting in the "Hill" on Thursday 15th December at 8.30pm.

Reconciliation Service in Cashel Church on Wednesday 21st December at 7pm.

And in Lanesboro' Church on Friday 23rd December at 7pm.

Third Sunday of Advent:

The Pink "Candle of Joy," or "The Shepherd Candle."
The Angels sang a message of Joy.



Eucharistic Ministers' Roster:

8.00pm	Sat 17th Dec	Teresa Costello & Bernadette Farrell.
10.30am	Sun 18th Dec	Sandra Cassidy & Elizabeth Clyne.

Readers' Roster:

8.00pm	Sat 17th Dec	Siobhan Casey.
10.30am	Sun 18th Dec	Dermot Healy.

County Longford Social Services Church Gate Collection takes place next weekend 17th & 18th December. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Reflection

An artist asked a friend if he could paint his portrait for a class assignment. The friend agreed, and the artist painted and submitted the portrait only to receive a low grade - D minus. He was devastated. The art student approached his professor to ask why the grade was so poor. The academic told him that the proportions in the painting were atrociously incorrect. "The head is too big ... the shoulders are too wide ... and the feet are enormous," explained the learned don. With that, he turned on his heels and strode away arrogantly.

The next day, the student brought his friend who had posed for the portrait and introduced him to the professor. The eminent art expert gasped in astonishment, for his student's friend had indeed the biggest head ... the widest shoulders ... and the most enormous feet ... he had ever seen. "The portrait and the reality were indistinguishable.

"My ... Word!" stammered the illustrious art critic. "Excellent ... well, well ... I never ... That's alright then ... I will upgrade your work." And with that, he gave the student an A plus.

Moral: Even the experts do not know it all! God rarely fits into our neat expectations of him. Today, even the great John the Baptist is not sure of Jesus. Will you and I truly recognise the Master when He comes in a manger ... a poor, helpless little child ... this Christmas?

"If then, you are the work of God, offer Him your heart, soft and intractable ... and keep the form in which the Artist has fashioned you. Let your clay be moist ... lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of His Fingers." - St. Ireneus.

St. John of the Cross tells us that we can do this only through our prayer life. Mother Teresa prayed the complete Rosary as well as a Holy Hour every day and look at the work she accomplished! Am I too busy to spare even 5 minutes on a Wednesday as I pass the Church - heated and open from 3pm to 9pm? ... Or the Rosary - every Friday evening at 7.30pm?