



PARISH OF CASHEL NEWSTON
Fr. Merlyn Kenny Tel: 086 0603433
Third Sunday of Advent / B 13-12-20



Mass Intentions:

Sat 12th Dec 8.00pm: The Smyth, Skelly & McDermott Families, Tipper.
Sun 13th Dec 10.30pm: Bea Mulvihill, Dermeana.
Mon 14th Dec 8.00pm: Matt & Mary Skelly and son Bernard, Caltramore,
Tues 15th Dec 8.00pm: Patrick, Molly & Annie Forde & D.F.M. Forthill.
Also John Duke Pollagh.

Wed 16th Dec No Mass.

Thurs 17th Dec 8.00pm: Special Intention.

Fri 18th Dec 8.00pm: Mary Quigley (nee Moughty) Dermacar.

Sat 19th Dec 8.00pm: Special Intention.

Sun 20th Dec 10.30am: Nellie Browne, Streamstown.

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Margaret Brennan (née Hopkins) Lismacanus, Lanesboro, whose funeral took place during the week & also Olive Hevehan, late of Clonmee, who died in Pennsylvania on 8th December. *Adoration* continues on Wednesday 3-9pm.

Rosary continues on Saturday before Mass at 7.40pm

Please note: Mass is now on Webcam — Search for Churchtv.ie ... Then Click on Longford ... then Newtowncashel ... and finally Click on the picture of the Church. Younger family members might like to assist seniors.

Also the first two rows of seating are on Webcam to facilitate viewing the coffin.

Anointing of the sick may take place *when invited by the family*.

Lotto draw held on Monday 7th December. No's drawn 1,4,18&25. No jackpot winner. €30 €5 envelopes to Seán Mulvihill; €30 to Henry and Mary Ramsbottom; €20 each to Sophie and Ollie Davis and Ciarán Kilian. Next weeks draw will be held in the Clubhouse on Monday 14th December November at 9pm and the jackpot is €5,100. Thanks for your support.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection: Donation envelopes are on the porch table. Your kind support would be much appreciated.

24 Hour Fast in aid of Concern will take place on the weekend of the 12th and 13th December. Well done to all involved reminding us of the true spirit of Christmas in both collections.

CHY 4 Forms: Please return as soon as possible as we can still claim as far back as 2016. Thank you for your very kind support.

Reflection:

A troubled monk went to his Abbott for guidance. After listening intently, the Abbott asked his colleague to go for a walk around the pond at the back of the Monastery. Then, he asked the monk to pick up a stone and throw it into the pond, which he did. "Now," said the Abbott, "as the ripples come closer to the shore, put your hands in the water and stop them." As the brother tries his best he becomes frustrated and gives up in failure.

The confused monk looks up at his mentor and complains, "Abbott, I can't! My actions just cause more ripples".

The Abbott smiles and says, "So you cannot stop the ripples?"

"Correct," answers the monk.

"But, could you have stopped yourself from tossing the stone into the pond in the first place?"

Moral: Treating the *symptoms* is like trying to stop the ripples in a pond ... Impossible! Addressing the cause is the only way we will make progress. Jesus came as a babe in a Manger to help heal the *cause* of our anxieties - our sinful and fragile nature - God became as fragile as a child to help us identify with Him more easily. Seeking solutions to our longings without Him is simply treating the *symptoms* of our condition. Maybe this Christmas we will hear the profound call from the heart of God Himself through the infant lying in the straw ... "I understand the causes of your frailties ... I alone can address them! ... That's why I came as a vulnerable child."

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 ... 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. 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. Irenaeus

Am I too busy to spare 5 minutes on a Wednesday as I pass the Church - heated and open from 3pm to 9pm? ... Or the Rosary - every Saturday evening at 7.40pm? Or at home in the comfort of my own corner ... a simple gesture to make this Christmas a truly Spiritual One!