



#### Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:

Sat 15th Dec	8.00pm	John Casey, Derrydarragh, (10th Anniv.)
Sun 16th Dec	10.30am	Nellie Browne, Caltramore, (2nd Anniv.)
Mon 17th Dec	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Tues 18th Dec	8.00pm	Mass for the people of the parish.
Wed 19th Dec	No Mass	Adoration from 3pm to 9pm.
Thu 20th Dec	9.30am	Special Intention.
Fri 21st Dec	8.00pm	Richard & Anne Farrell, Cross.
Sat 22nd Dec	8.00pm	Mary Quigley (nee Moughty) Dermacarr.
Sun 23rd Dec	10.30am	Frank Nolan, Portanure, (20th Anniv.)
Mon 24th Dec	8.00pm	Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass
Tues 25th Dec	10.30am	Christmas Day

**Eucharistic Adoration:** continues on Wednesday 3pm-9pm and Friday 8.30pm-9pm.  
**Eucharistic Roster:** 8.00pm Sat 22nd Dec Liz Hanley & Caroline Murtagh.  
 10.30am Sun 23rd Dec Yvonne Kenny & Elizabeth Whitten.  
 8.00pm Christmas Eve Anna Costello & Thomas Denningan.  
 10.30am Christmas Day Oliver Costello & Teresa Farrell.  
**Readers' Roster:** 8.00pm Sat 22nd Dec Laura Dermody.  
 10.30am Sun 23rd Dec Nora Nolan.  
 8.00pm Christmas Eve Gerard Brennan.  
 10.30am Christmas Day Brid Sweeney.

**CONFESSIONS: SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** will take place here in Cashed Church on Sunday evening 23rd December at 6.30pm. Fr. Michael Reilly, Lanesboro and Fr. Duma-manta, Ballyleague will also be present. Service in Lanesboro on Friday evening 21st December at 7pm.

**Trocaire:** In Yemen people are facing the worst famine in a century, with five million at risk of starvation. In South Sudan, four million have had to leave their homes and seven million are in need of food aid. Trocaire's Christmas Appeal focuses on providing food and support for the people in countries such as South Sudan and Yemen. If you wish to make a donation this Christmas please visit the Trocaire website at <https://www.trocaire.org/christmas>  
**Christmas Cards** designed by Declan Gilmore – now on sale in "The Local", and also in "The Hill" on Monday evening from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. Scene: Sunset at Barley Harbour with a Christmas theme. Proceeds will go to Church Funds.  
**Reflection:**

Armand M. Nicholi, M. D., professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, explains that Sigmund Freud died at the age of 83, a bitter and disillusioned man. Freud wrote in 1918, "I have found little that is good about human beings on the whole. In my experience most of them are trash." This, coming from the most famous name in all of psychology, points to the reality that the human soul has little to offer of any real significance without the grace of the One born at Christmas.

When he was an attorney, Abraham Lincoln was once approached by a man who passionately insisted on bringing a law-suit for \$2.50 against an impoverished debtor. Lincoln tried to discourage him, but the man was bent on revenge. When he saw that the man would not be put off, Lincoln agreed to take the case and asked for a legal fee of \$10, which the plaintiff paid. Lincoln then gave half the money to the defendant, who willingly confessed to the debt and paid the \$2.50! But even more amazing than Lincoln's settlement was the fact that the irate plaintiff was satisfied with it!

*Again we see the mean-ness of the soul without Jesus ... and in Lincoln's case what a difference a little bit of the Lord's Grace can do.*

A mother was working in the kitchen listening to her son playing with his new electric train in the living room. She heard the train stop, and her son said, "All you sons of bitches who want to get off, get the hell off now, cause this is the last stop! And, all you sons of bitches who are retreating and want to get on, give your asses on the train now cause we're going down the tracks!"

The mother went into the living room and told her son, "We don't use that kind of language in this house. Now go to your room and stay there for TWO HOURS." Then, you may go back and play with your train, but only if you use nice language." Two hours later, the boy came out of the bedroom and resumed playing with his train. Soon, the train stopped and the mother, eavesdropping behind the door, heard her son say, "All passengers who are disembarking the train, please remember to take all of your belongings with you. We thank you for travelling with us today and hope your trip was a pleasant one. We hope you will journey with us again soon." She hears the little boy continue, "For those of you just boarding, we ask you to stow all of your luggage under your seat. Remember, there is no smoking on the train. We hope you will have a pleasant and relaxing journey with us today." Mommy was chuffed with herself that her reprimand had worked so well. Then, the child added, "And for those of you who are hopping with rage about the TWO HOUR delay ... see the WITCH in the kitchen."

**Moral:** *How much we all (even children) need the grace and forgiveness of the Baby born in the Manger* – that is the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. We will give presents to many people over the next couple of weeks. *What present have you in mind to give to Jesus on His Birthday – Christmas Day 2019?*

My mother would always say to us: "Christmas is not Christmas without going to Confession first, and she would always bring us to the Sacrament and then visit the Crrib to say a little prayer afterwards. These are the things you remember after they are long dead and gone. I would encourage parents/grandparents to bring your children to Confessions on Sunday evening at 6.30pm - they are still so close to God that when they say sorry to Him on His Birthday He restores their souls to their original beauty at Baptism. *There is no better present you could give to Jesus on His Special Day.* And just like my mother they will remember what you did long after you've gone.

**The great Indian leader Gandhi** waited on the platform at a railway station for the train to arrive. In those days, it was not unusual for the British rail company to stop the train at a station only if some whites wanted to get on or off. In the case where there were no white passengers, the train would *slow down* at the station - and Indians - old and young - would scramble onto (or off) the moving train. And it so happened that as the young Gandhi climbed onto the moving train, one shoe slipped off his foot. And as he bent to try and grab it, it slithered down onto the track, even as the train gathered momentum.

In a flash, Gandhi reached for the shoe on the other foot, and threw it down towards the fast-disappearing shoe on the track. As a perplexed onlooker wondered aloud if Gandhi had indeed lost it completely, he explained: "Ah well, if someone were to find one of my shoes, what good would it be to him. Now, hopefully he'll find the other one too, and thus have a fine new pair of shoes for himself!"

And what a wonderful Christian response! A number of pastors tried to convert Gandhi to Anglicanism. He refused to engage with them. One pastor asked him directly why he would not be baptised. He finally answered ... and typically his reply was as devastating as it was brief. He said: "If you Christians were more like Jesus ... I might have." Gandhi studied over and over again Jesus' Sermon on the Mount ... and tried to live it - "Turn the other cheek ... Do good to those who hate you ...etc." But he baptised Christians seldom even try. Do we need to ask Jesus' forgiveness for this? I believe we most certainly do ... otherwise Gandhi's words (he was never baptised) may come back to haunt us. So perhaps it's time we shifted focus. And instead of jostling to become go-getters - wanting more, more, more, we ought to learn to become go-givers. Learning to give. To share. Instead of spending our waking lives worrying about the shoe that got away, maybe we should thank God for the shoe we still have, and discover how giving it away could make us - and someone else - happier. After all, we are never truly celebrating Christmas until we do.