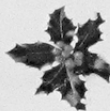




NEWTOWNCASHEL PARISH NEWSLETTER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C – 20th December 2015

Fr. Merlyn Kenny 043 3325112



- * **Mass** on Saturday (vigil) 8pm; Sunday 10.30am; Monday 8pm; Tuesday 9.30am; Thursday is Christmas Eve. (*Midnight Mass*) at 9pm, preceded by the *Blessing of the Crib*. *Christmas Day Mass* at 10.30am for the Intentions of the People of the Parish.

* **Masses for the Dead:**

- Sat 19th 8.00pm: Mary Quigley, Dermacar. (1st Anniversary)
- Sun 20th 10.30am: John Casey, Derrydarragh.
- Mon 21st 8.00pm: Catherine & Joe Casey, Lanesboro.
- Tues 22nd 9.30am: Michael & Kitty Farrell, Teffia Park.
- Sun 27th 8.00pm Michael Whitton, Forthill. (First Anniversary)

- * **Confessions** in Lanesboro Church on Tuesday at 7pm and Masses on Christmas Eve at 7pm & 8.30pm.

- * **Eucharistic Adoration** continues on Wednesday between 4pm – 8pm.

- * **The Recitation of the Rosary** will continue on Friday 1st January at 7.30pm.

* **Parish Pastoral Council Members please note:**

2016 Envelope Boxes are ready for distribution. Please collect in the Crying Room.

- * **Thanks** to all those involved for their excellent work on the Crib and Star.

- * Thank you for last weekend's offertory collection of €950.

- * **We welcome** all who have come back to Cashel to join family and friends for Christmas and we remember those who are not with their family at this time.

- * **First Friday Calls** will continue on Thursday 31st December and Friday 1st January.



Christmas Prayer

May the forgiving spirit of Him to whom
We dedicate this season prevail again on earth.

May hunger disappear and terrorists cease their senseless acts.

May people live in freedom, worshipping as they see fit, loving others.

May the sanctity of the home be ever preserved.

May peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme.



- * **County Longford Social Services** annual Church Gate Collection is on this weekend.

- * **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. Six Station Masses have already been 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.

Reflection on Today's Gospel

Moss Hart, screenwriter and playwright, tells the story about a time when he was small – 9 or 10 years old. His family lived in New York and were very poor. He and his dad went out searching for Christmas presents up on 149th street. There were pushcarts full of all kinds of presents and gifts. He was at an age where he had outgrown toys, but in his heart he longed for a chemistry set. He describes how his father walked up and down between the carts nervously, and every time he looked at the price tag, they moved on. In his own words Moss continues: "My Dad had only 75cents left for a present for me, and he didn't dare say so in case there was nothing to be had for so small a sum. With my child's mind, I looked up at his face. I was deeply touched by the look of despair and dejection that lay in his eyes. But at that moment I felt closer to him than at any stage in my entire life since or before. I wanted to throw my arms around him and say, "It doesn't matter. I understand. This is better than any chemistry set or even the most expensive gift. I know you love me Dad and that's all that matters." But instead, we stood shivering beside each other for a moment in the cold winter air, then turned away from the last two pushcarts and started sadly back home. I didn't even take his hand on the entire way back, nor did he take mine. We were not on that basis. Nor did I ever tell him how close to him I felt that night, - that for a little while the concrete wall between father and son had crumbled away, and I knew that we were two lonely people struggling to reach each other.

Moral of the story:

The poor father thought he could prove his love only by buying something for his son, when all the child's lonely heart wanted was to know that his father loved him.

We may spend a lot of money at Christmas, but this little story reminds us of its true meaning: Our Lady and the baby in total poverty, but with all the love in Heaven and Earth therein.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS