

Advent is like an alarm clock, reminding us to sit up and take stock and reminding us that our time is finite.

An alarm clock, by its very nature has to startle us, jolt us out of our slumber.

NEWTOWNCASHEL PARISH NEWSLETTER

So too the readings in Advent are dramatic and startling in tone. Our default mode, as human beings, is to press the snooze button. However, we all know the disaster of having pressed the snooze button once too often!



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C – 29th November 2015

Fr. Merlyn Kenny 043 3325112



✱ **Mass Times:**

Saturday (vigil) 8pm; Sunday 10.30am;
Wednesday & Thursday: 9.30am.
Monday & Friday 8pm.
No Mass on Tuesday.

✱ **Masses for the Dead:**

Saturday 5th 8pm: Alison Smyth, Lanesboro and New Row.
Sunday 6th 10.30am: James & Margaret Sweeney Greenhall & Carmel Belton.

✱ **Concern Christmas Fast**

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

✱ **The Alzheimer's Society** wishes to acknowledge the amount of €425.36 collected at Newtowncashel Church gate collection on 30th September last.

✱ **Tidy Towns AGM** will be held next Wednesday 2nd December at 8pm in the "Hill"
All are welcome.

✱ **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. Four Station Masses have already been booked.

✱ **Longford Harvest Festival** Dinner Dance in aid of St. Christopher's will be held in Gav's Bar Kenagh on Friday 4th December at 8pm.
Tickets €20. Presentation on the night.

✱ **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.

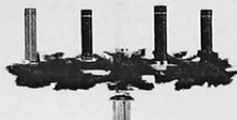
✱ Thank you for last weekend's offertory collection of €650

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

Reflection on Today's Gospel

About eighty years ago a man picked up the morning paper and, to his horror, read his own obituary! The newspaper had reported the death of the wrong man. Like most of us, he relished the idea of finding out what people would say about him after he died. He read past the bold caption which read, "Dynamite King Dies," to the text itself. He read along until he was taken aback by the description of himself as a "merchant of death". He was the inventor of dynamite and he had amassed a great fortune from the manufacture of weapons of destruction. But he was moved by this description. Did he really want to be known as a "merchant of death"? It was at that moment that a healing power greater than the destructive force of dynamite came over him. It was his hour of conversion. From that point on, he devoted his energy and money to works of peace and human betterment. Today, of course, he is best remembered, not as a "merchant of death", but as the founder of the Nobel Peace Prize – Alfred Nobel.

Sometimes it takes a shock to make us change!



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) "CHRIST CANDLE" – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)