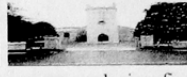


PARISH OF CASHEL NEWSLETTER
Fr. Merlyn Kenny Tel: 086 0603433
First Sunday of Advent / B 29-12-20



Mass Intentions for this week:

Sat 28th Nov Brendan Killian, (Month's Mind).

Sun 29th Nov William & Teresa Costello & son Harry Costello.

Also Johnny & Kitty Costello.

Mon 30th Nov Special Intention.

Tues 1st Dec 8.00pm Special Intention.

Thurs 3rd Dec 9.30am: Special Intention.

Fri 4th Dec 8.00pm: Joe Mulvihill, The Brow-Cross, (First Anniv).

Sat 5th Dec 8.00pm: Annie, Tommy & John Joe Murray.

& D.F.M., Caltramore.

Sun 6th Dec 10.30: Phyllis Dowler, Forthill.

Mon 7th Dec 8.00pm: Tomás Rowan, (Month's Mind)

Adoration continues on Wednesday 3-9pm.

Mass returns next weekend with 50 maximum present and with social distancing. Because of the limited numbers permitted to attend church at any one time, the weekend Mass will be kept free of bookings except where the family take up only *one seat* - those who wish to book Mass may avail of the weekdays.

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.

Please note: The first two rows of seating can be seen on Webcam in order to facilitate viewing of the deceased's coffin.

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

Enrolment to First year in Lanesboro Community College for 2021/2022 is now open. Application forms are available by emailing the school at Admin.lcc@lwetb.ie or by phone on 0906 500140.

Lotto draw held on Monday 23rd November. No's drawn 5, 7, 9 & 15 No jackpot winner. €30 €5 envelopes to Genny Casey; €30 to Ann Casey, Cornadough; €20 each to Sinéad Dillon and John Flood. Next weeks draw will be held in the Clubhouse on Monday 30th November at 9pm and the jackpot is €4,900.

Thanks for your support.

Advent Safeguarding Message 2020 from Bishop Francis.

The last nine months have been very difficult for many people with the continuing threat to health, lives and livelihood.

As we prepare for Christmas during this season of Advent we remember that Jesus Christ was born into a family and there he grew up. Although Church activities have been restricted for most of this year our commitment to safeguarding children continues.

I thank Parish Safeguarding Representatives and our priests for their thorough and vigilant work in ensuring the safety of children and adults at risk in our Church related activities.

Reflection: On an exam paper during final exams at seminary, a student wrote these words: "Only God knows the answer. Merry Christmas." With that, he went home for the holidays. Upon his return to school, he received his graded test paper, on which the professor had written: "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year!"

It's a humorous story but with a very serious warning ... **assuming is not a good idea** ... especially with our spiritual lives. "Stay awake for you do not know the day or the hour" - warns the Greatest Spiritual Director of them all.

"The clinical diagnosis is pancreatic cancer. His life expectancy is six months."

With those words, then 62 year old John Brandrick of Cornwall, England, decided to go out in style. He quit his job and stopped paying his mortgage. He emptied his savings account and sold all that he had (except the black suit in which he planned to be buried). He then spent every pound he had, enjoying expensive dining, entertainment and travel. But as time went by, Brandrick's health didn't deteriorate as expected. A subsequent scan revealed that he didn't have cancer at all. "It was such a relief," Mr Brandrick said after hearing the news. "But that wrong diagnosis has left me in financial ruin."

Moral: Rather than living like we might die **today**, most of us live like **we'll never die at all**. It's this "wrong diagnosis" that leaves us ill prepared for what awaits us when we stand before God to give an account of our lives during our short stay down here.

Professor Eugene Griesman outlines research that reveals **"Patterns stored in memory are the key to competence in any field."** One spectacular example is that of the great chess masters ... They learn to recognize between 15,000 and 50,000 possible patterns on a chess board. Astonishing as that may be, it is even more important to establish **patterns in our Spiritual Life** as all the great saints tell us.

Spiritual Patterns: Prayer, Mass, Devotions and following the Seasons like Advent and Christmas are so essential to our spiritual growth.

The wreath and candles are examples of **patterns** tied to the Christmas season. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple which signifies a time of **prayer, penance and almsgiving**. Even the individual evergreens on the wreath have their own meanings. The laurel signifies Jesus' victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify His gift of immortality and the cedar signifies the strengthening gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Advent is a time for examining our **assumptions** - a year is one more revolution (**pattern**) by the earth around the Sun - Sadly, I have only a limited number of these circles (**patterns**) to complete ... **"Stay awake!" Jesus counsels** us today. So let us ask ourselves: At what point are we on our little circle of life? ... How many more times have we left to go around it? ... **All we know is that, in 2020, we have one more chance** to adapt ourselves to the **pattern** of the Advent season ... so as to be **truly present** to the infant in the Manger when He comes this Christmas. "Stay Awake", the Lord says ... meaning ... **For we don't know about the next one ...**