

Louth Parish



Bulletin | 05th December 2021 | Second Sunday of Advent

During this Sunday's mass the priest prays the following over the gifts of bread and wine, *'Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy.'*

Over the past few days I have found myself at a loss in terms of my interaction with people. I am more cautious about wearing my face mask, visitation on the First Friday week has been postponed, and the news headlines are ringing with familiar warnings. I am not alone in feeling such hesitancy and loss. In fact, I am quite sure that I am with the majority of people on this one.

It appears that restrictions are beginning to tighten again on our daily activities and interactions. This is no longer a novelty for us, it is painful, stressing and at times suffocating. It is important for each of us to listen to our own reactions to the guidance and limitations of living in a post-vaccine environment. It is in recognising where our pain is that we can truly listen to our own self. If we know where our pain is, then we can be patient and gentle with ourselves in how we take care.

To listen to yourself, to listen to your real and raw emotions, can be difficult, yet such a self-focus can also be humbling. Seeing our own 'raw edges' opens the possibility of reflection that enables us to recognise that there is one that is greater than us. John the Baptist does this. John knows that there is one greater than him who is coming, John knows that, although he proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, there is another who will baptise in water and the Holy Spirit. Jesus.

Each of us have been baptised in water and the Spirit. We have been won by Jesus Christ. In recognising our pain, isolation and suffering, we must also recognise the great baptism that each of us have had. We are never on our own. Even in restrictions, Jesus is with us. Jesus has given each of us his Spirit, and he is with us always, even to the end of time.

Remember the one that is greater than you is with you, even when you think that you are on your own in these isolating times. Not only is he with you, turn to him in your humbleness because he is always ready to protect you with his mercy.

With best wishes for the week – Rev. Stephen Wilson

BAPTISMS: will normally take place on a Saturday at 4pm. To book please email louthparish@gmail.com or contact Rev. Stephen Wilson on 042 937 4285.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, LOUTH

WEEKEND: Vigil Mass *First Saturday of every Month* at 4.45pm

Anniversaries: Nicholas, Bridgid & Bridie Kieran;
Sean & Eileen Gartlan

Sunday – Mass 09.30am (Second Sunday of Advent)

First Anniversary: Thomas Byrne.

WEEKDAY: Tuesday – Mass 9:30am

(Memorial: St Ambrose, bishop and doctor)

Wednesday – Mass 7:30pm

(Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Anniversary: Jem Martin

ROSARY: Recited after weekday liturgies and on Sunday at 3pm.

ADORATION: Wednesday – after mass until 12noon.

CONFESSIONS: can be heard on request either after mass or by appointment.

OUR LADY OF SNOWS CHURCH, STONETOWN

Closed until further notice

LATELY DECEASED: Please pray for Gerard Watters; Josephine Donnelly.

COLLECTION: Sunday 28th November 2021: €470.00

If you wish the Church to obtain tax relief from your earnings then please collect a form from the sacristy. Many thanks for your generosity.

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK: Sunday: Peadar Marron; Kevin Conlon and deceased family members. Wednesday: Month's memory of Gerry Watters.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: Mass will be celebrated on the evening of Wednesday 08th December at 7.30pm. This day of solemnity celebrates our blessed mother Mary as free from all stain of original sin. It may be of personal profit to reflect on the concrete decision of this parish community to dedicate the parish church in honour of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

VISITATION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Will again be suspended due to recent government advice on visiting the vulnerable. In an emergency a priest will still be available.

ALPHA: Concludes with its last session in Kilkenny Community Centre on Thursday 09th December from 7-9pm. If you would like to participate in this last week then please email lorrynemquigley@gmail.com to facilitate catering and public health compliance.

COMBONI MISSIONS APPEAL: Founded by Saint Daniel Comboni in 1867, the Comboni Missions often work in an unstable political climate in the midst of extreme poverty. Many thanks to Fr Sean Dempsey who travelled to speak to us. Your generosity is greatly appreciated

ST VINCENT DE PAUL: annual Christmas appeal will take place next Sunday 12th December. Many in the local community depend on the Saint Vincent de Paul to ease their burden and help them hold their cross over the Christmas period. Thank you for your generosity and support.

DIGITAL ADVENT CALENDAR: Archbishop Eamon has launched the 2021 interactive digital Advent Calendar which is live on www.catholicbishops.ie. Why not check out this resource. Open a virtual door each day during the season of Advent to find resources to aid you in prayer and reflection as we journey toward Christmas.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE: Fri 24th Dec – Midnight Mass: 7.30pm (Louth)
9.00pm (Stonetown)
Sat 25th Dec – Christmas Day Mass: 9.30am (Louth)
Sun 26th Dec – Feast of the Holy Family: 9.30am (Louth)

LOUGH DERG ONLINE SHOP: offers unique Christmas Cards and gifts with nationwide delivery. Why not check it out at www.loughderg.live/shop

UNIVERSAL SYNOD 2021-2023: Pope Francis has called for opinion on the ground. This is our chance to offer our voice to the governance of the Church. Participation is open to everyone. I urge you to discuss the following questions in your family/social group and provide individual responses in an open and honest freedom:

1. What memory or experience of the Catholic Church do you value or cherish most in your life?
2. How can our Church be a welcoming and inclusive community?
3. How can we be listened to more effectively and encouraged to participate in decision-making processes in the Church?
4. What inspires you in the life of your parish community to bring the love of Christ into the world? What discourages you?

Question sheets are now available in the Church. It is important that all voices are heard, both those who have an involvement in the parish, and especially those who feel distant from the faith community. Response sheets must remain anonymous and can be posted through the door of the Parochial House in a sealed envelope.

An online option is also available at <https://forms.gle/sF2diqjQt1Jdq74UA> For further details please visit www.armagharchdiocese.org

A PRAYER BY TELEPHONE: The Sisters of Mercy "Bethany" 34 Point Road, Dundalk welcome any person who may wish to request prayer, especially during these difficult times. All requests are confidential. One of the sisters will be happy to LISTEN & PRAY with you, 9am -9pm daily. Call on 042 933 1602.

THE JESSE TREE

You may notice that the Jesse tree has reappeared in our Church. So what is it?

The Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus' family tree. On the tree you will see decorations hanging. Each decoration symbolises a bible passage of Jesus' family. God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations.

The Jesse tree is rooted in a bible passage from the prophet Isaiah 11:1. "A shoot shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol on the tree represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.



Many thanks to Marian Hanratty for providing us with a Jesse Tree for our Church. Another lovely way to opening our minds and hearts to the coming of the Christ child at Christmas.

When you are in the Church, why not take a walk up to the tree to look at the different decorations, you may recognise what scriptural passages they come from.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clergy:	Very Rev. Gerry Campbell	042 937 4125 gerrycampbell65@gmail.com Parochial House, Knockbridge, A91 NA03
	Rev. Stephen Wilson	042 937 4285 louthparish@gmail.com Parochial House, Louth Village, A91 XE42
	Very Rev. Brian MacRaois	042 682 7049 brianmacraois49@gmail.com Parochial House, Kilkerry, A91 VK18

Sacristan: Mr Anthony Loughran 086 348 0382

Masses and other events are broadcast live via webcam and can be accessed through either: www.ourladyqueenofpeacepa.org or www.churchmedia.tv Recording is possible on request by contacting Rev. Stephen Wilson in advance.

COVID GUIDANCE: In this time we are asked to continue to wear face masks, respect social distancing, and use the sanitiser when entering church buildings.

BULLETIN NOTICES: If anyone would like to include notices in the weekly bulletin, please forward them to louthparish@gmail.com by the previous Wednesday.