

Clonskeagh Parish Newsletter

Let us remember those who are sick
and housebound in our Parish
today!

Everyone who attends Mass in our church
is to wear a face covering, to practice hand
sanitising and social distancing, in order to
protect everyone's health.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed from
12.00pm on 23rd December until 9.30am
Monday 4th January 2021.

Tel: 012837948

Email: parishofficeclonskeagh@eircom.net

Christmas Dues

Christmas Dues envelopes are available at the
back of the Church. Please take your envelope
and return to the Parish Office/Sacristy or you
can place them into the collection baskets at
the weekend Masses.

Sincere thanks to all who have already
contributed their *Christmas Dues*.

A Christmas Prayer for you and your family to pray before the Christmas Meal...

“Loving God, on this Christmas day we
give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has
come into our world bringing us gifts of
peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down
together at this table for our Christmas
meal. Bless the food we share and help us
to remember those who are hungry. Be
with our neighbours and our friends, those
who are lonely, sick or away from home.
We pray that our departed loved ones may
now sit at your table in heaven. May the
joy of this feast give us strength and light,
now and in the days ahead.

We ask this prayer through Christ, Our
Lord, Amen.”

(Blessings taken from the ‘Catholic Book of Blessings’)



Further to the Government announcement today regarding the move to Level 5, the following Religious Service restrictions

- Christmas religious services may take place up to and including the 25th December 2020
- With effect from the 26th December 2020 Religious services will move online
- Places of worship may remain open for private prayer

Funerals

- With effect from the 24th December 2020 up to 10 mourners can attend

Weddings

- Up to and including 2nd January 2021, up to 25 guests can attend a wedding ceremony and reception, whether indoors or outdoors
- With effect from 3 January 2021, up to 6 guests are permitted to attend a wedding ceremony and reception, whether indoors or outdoors

Travel outside your county will continue to be permitted up to and including 26th December 2020.

From 27th December you must stay within your county unless you need to leave for essential purposes, which includes:

- to attend a wedding or funeral
- to visit a grave

These measures will be reviewed on the 12th January 2021.

Weekend Church Collections –

There will be no baskets passed during Mass so place your offering into the collection buckets at the doors. Feel free to donate online at <https://www.clonskeaghparish.ie/> Thank you for your continued support to these collections.

Parish News & Announcements



Thank You

Sincere thanks to all who prepare and participate in the Christmas Celebrations. There are too many individuals and groups to mention by name, thank you to each one of you! All your efforts greatly enhance the Christmas experience for the whole parish community and the contribution of everybody involved is very much appreciated.

(Fr. Joe & Fr. Fergus)

The Christmas Crib



We hope that you enjoy the Crib this year!
We thank **Mr. Seamus O'Neill,**
Mr. George Corcoran & Mr. Gerry Hume
for all their hard work in setting up the crib.

Crib Offerings

The *Crib Offerings* will be donated to the Holy Family Maternity Hospital in Bethlehem under the care of the Sisters of Charity.

“Jesus born in Palestine, lives today in Bread and Wine” (Hilaire Belloc)

Few Words from Fr Joe –

“How wonderful that was, how wonderful!” these words flow out from ‘A Christmas Childhood’, Patrick Kavanagh’s memory poem, recalling the sights and sounds of a Christmas morning when he was 6 years old. He captures landscape and weather, family and neighbour, work and music and with the tightening of a belt on his coat suggests his readiness to walk out to Mass with his family. He doesn’t fill in all the details of the gathering in the church, the altar dressed, the carols sung there, the tree decorated and crib set with baby in place, but the wise men’s journey is suggested by the three whin bushes riding cross the horizon. “I can remember something of the gay garden that was childhood’s. Again”

We all have a reservoir of memories of past, of the Christmas days shared with parents and grandparents, friends and neighbours. Some are still with us and we share those memories together, others are long gone to God and recalling them with love and affection is so much a part of the gift of this holy time. I was struck recently, when turning 60, by the realisation that my mother was with me for the first 30 celebrations of Christmas and this year she is 30 years gone from us. Like Kavanagh I can recall with great clarity the way she shaped our Christmas preparations, decorating the house, shopping for gifts, assembling the many and varied flavours for the dinner. I guess she was the generous one behind the buying of gifts and certainly she had pen in hand recording who sent what and later overseeing the writing of thank you notes to grandparents and relatives who were “far too generous!”

Both parents, long gone, played their part in ensuring that the Christ child was at the heart of celebrations. In books bought to tell the story, music chosen to bring beautiful carols into the house, in the setting out for Mass, at midnight or dawn. We were sent out with gifts for neighbours living alone and aware of their support for the charities they held dear.

Then and now, parish played a central role in our experience of Christmas. The faith community takes this responsibility seriously, we have been blessed with this gift from God’s abundant love, we receive Christ with all the love that every new born baby brings and we renew our pledge to keep faith alive in our hearts, to live with Christian hope and love and to share this wonderful, wonderful news with all we meet. May God bless you and all you love, keep you from all harm and fill your hearts with joy this Christmas Day and in the year to come.