

Lawrencetown & Kiltormer


St. Mary's Church
Lawrencetown H53 DC80
Fr. Christy O'Byrne P.P.

St Patrick's Church
Kiltormer H53 DK33
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Third Sunday of Advent - 17 December 2017

<u>Masses:</u>	K. Saturday:	8:00 p.m.	Margaret and Liam Tierney
	L. Sunday:	11:30 a.m.	Peter and Agnes Naughton
	L. Monday:	7:00 p.m.	Private intention
	K. Tuesday:	7:00 p.m.	Johnnie & Hubert Hardiman and dec. mem. Hardiman family
	L. Wednesday:	9:00 a.m.	November Mass for the Holy Souls
	K. Thursday:	6:00 p.m.	Mgr. Dan Downey
	L. Friday:	7:00 p.m.	Josephine Hoban (month's mind)
	K. Saturday:	8:00 p.m.	Deceased members of the Downey family
	L. Sunday:	11:30 a.m.	For the people of the parish
	L. Sunday:	10:00 p.m.	Private intention
	K. Monday:	10:00 a.m.	

Confessions: Saturday, 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. in Lawrencetown; 12:45 – 1:15 p.m. in Kiltormer.

 An Induction Loop System has been provided in Lawrencetown church to assist Hearing Aid Users. Please switch your Hearing Aid to the 'T' position.

Penitential service will be held as usual in St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe tomorrow (Monday) at 7.30 p.m. I will be available for Confessions after Mass in Kiltormer Church on Tuesday and at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday in Lawrencetown Church.

There will be adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Lawrencetown church tomorrow (Monday) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and in Kiltormer church on Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please give some of this time to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Mass servers this week: Lawrencetown—Luke Donnelly, Darragh Quinn-Moloney, Oisín Donnelly, Emelia Donnelly; Kiltormer—Adam Roche, Isaac Markham, *Amy Roche*. Next week: Caoimhe's and Rebecca's groups. Readers next weekend (L)—Rachel Whyte, (K)—Brendan Glynn. Eucharistic minister (K)—Mary Fahy.

Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The readings at Mass are II Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38.

If you did not attend a station this year, please put €20 (station dues €6, fuel €14) in an envelope with your name and station area and hand it in as soon as possible. Thanks to all who have already done so.

EWTN TV (Sky #589). Programmes every day include *Holy Mass* at 1:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (not Sunday) and 11:00 p.m., *Holy Rosary* at 12:30 p.m. and *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* at 3:00 p.m. Also this week, children's programmes at 3:30 p.m. include *The Joyful Mysteries* on Monday, *We are Catholic* on Tuesday, *A Fruitcake Christmas* on Wednesday, *Saint Nicholas* on Thursday, *God Came to Earth for You* on Friday and *Best Present of All* on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. *Reflections on Advent* is today (Sunday) at 7:00 a.m. and Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. *EWTN Pro-Life Weekly* is today at 7:30 a.m. and Monday at 7:30 p.m. *The Choices We Face* is today at 9:30 a.m. and Thursday at 2:00 p.m. *Angelus with Pope Francis* is today at 11:00 a.m. A series: *Women of Grace* is Monday to Friday at 4:30 p.m. *Catholics Come Home* is on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday at 2:00 p.m. *Living Right with Dr. Ray* is on Tuesday at 9:30 p.m. and Friday at 6:00 a.m. *Papal Audience* is on Wednesday at 8:50 a.m. *Father Spitzer's Universe* is on Thursday at 6:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

As a unique Advent prayerful resource, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has provided its online Advent 2017 Calendar which can be enjoyed by people of all ages. The calendar is available online, and on your smartphone, on catholicbishops.ie. This year's Advent Calendar focuses on the theme of family as we prepare together for next year's World Meeting of Families in Dublin from 21 – 26 August. Each day during Advent you are invited to click open a virtual door where you will find faith content for family, school and parish. During Advent, families are invited to take special time together to pray, to talk, and to be together. Family members are encouraged to undertake a daily act of kindness or charity – as suggested by the calendar – and by so doing reaching out to help those around us. By using the online calendar, we hope that you will be part of our journey through Advent this year.

A World Meeting of Families Icon of the Holy Family has been prepared. You can see it at the lectern. There is a copy for every house in the parish. Please take one from the porch. You are requested to place the icon on the Christmas dinner table or in another prominent place in the home and to pray together the official WMOF2018 prayer for families which is printed on the back of the Icon. An explanation of the Icon can be found and downloaded at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Icon

A Community Carol Service and Nativity Play will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm in Lawrencetown Church. Please come along. All are welcome to attend and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas: the birth of Jesus. Refreshments afterwards in the Community Hall.

Christmas and New Year is often a time when we are reminded of our deeper selves and deepest hopes, and deepest pain. The vision of *Towards Peace* is to provide a safe supportive space for people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context, and who are seeking to explore the spiritual impact of the abuse. If you have been abused and would like a space to reflect on the impact of the trauma of abuse on your own relationship with God and spirituality, *Towards Peace* is here for you: www.towardspeace.ie / 01 505 3028.

Ladies of the Lawrencetown Altar Society are asked to come to the church at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 18th December to set up the crib and clean the church for Christmas. Anyone else who is free is welcome.

Thank you for your contributions to the door collection—€97.00 (L), €185 (K) on the holy day and €213.90 (L), €144 (K) last weekend and to the St. Vincent de Paul collection—€280 (L), €281 (K). I have sent €496 (L), €472 (K) to the bishop for the Mission collection.

Kiltormer N.S. school concert on in the Complex on Mon 18th Dec @ 7p.m. All welcome. Raffle on the night. Admission free.

Doctor on call for emergencies on Sat 16th Dec. & Sun 17th: Marina House Medical Centre ☎ 087 2030217; Further details not available at time of printing.

Kiltormer Christmas party is today (Sunday) at 2 o'clock with Mass in the complex. All welcome

Kiltormer GAA Club Lotto: Last week's numbers: 17, 24, 26, 1. No jackpot winner. Lucky dip: Marian McDonagh, James Murphy, Declan Hough, Ciarán/Shane/Gearóid Finnerty, Tom Clarke. Seller's prize: Mattie Curley. House prize: Noel McEvoy. Draw this Saturday for €3,500 is in The Bird.

ATÚS worked commenced on 4th December in Kiltormer Church. They will be responsible for the weekly Hoovering, dusting, mopping of tiles and cleaning of the toilets, and some outdoor work.

Progressive 25 card game in Clontuskert National School on Thursday 21 December at 8.45pm. All Welcome!

Bingo in Killimor Community Centre on Thursday Dec 28th at 8pm. Guaranteed jackpot of €800

Advent is a time of waiting, of conversion and of hope:

- waiting – memory of the first, humble coming of the Lord in our mortal flesh; waiting – supplication for his final, glorious coming as Lord of History and universal Judge;
- conversion, to which the Liturgy at this time often refers quoting the prophets, especially John the Baptist, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Mt 3:2);
- joyful hope that the salvation already accomplished by Christ (cf. Rom 8:24-25) and the reality of grace in the world, will mature and reach their fullness, thereby granting us what is promised by faith, and 'we shall become like him for we shall see him as he really is' (Jn 3:2).

Seeing Your Life through the Lens of the Gospels

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know *about* Jesus but do we *know* him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?
2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

(by John Byrne osa in Intercom)