



Masses - Ballinakill:

Sat. 19 Dec.: 8pm. (A) Willie Gardiner.
Mon. 21 Dec.: 9.30am (A) Jack Cosgrove.
Tues. 22 Dec.: 9.30am.
Wed. 23 Dec.: 8pm (A) Pat Joe & Eva Tuohy.
 Tommy & Mary Madden.
Thurs. 24 Dec.: Christmas Eve; 5pm & 9pm People of Parish.
Fri. 25 Dec.: Christmas Day 11am; (A) Jim Regan.
Sat. 26 Dec.: St. Stephen's Day 12 noon (A) Angela Connaire.
 8pm (A) Jim, Kathleen & Martin Spain.

Masses - Derrybrien:

Sun. 20 Dec.: 9.30am.
Thurs. 24 Dec.: Christmas Eve; 7pm.
Fri. 25 Dec.: Christmas Day; 9.30am
Sun. 27 Dec.: 9.30am.

Christmas Masses Arrangements Are As Follows:

All Masses are pretty well booked to capacity. It will be a different Christmas in what has been a very strange 2020. We heartily welcome all who will be able to attend Christmas Masses in Church in a safe manner. The usual guideline apply; sanitise hands, wear face coverings, social distance. If you are coming **as a family** you may use the one seat in the church, no need for social distance within families. If you are attending **as an individual**, please use the seat markers to indicate where you should sit. There are 2 seat markers on each seat as has been there all along since the Summer. If you are not able or sure about coming to the church for Christmas, rest assured that you can join us **via the parish radio link 107 FM**. Also, a **new outside speaker** has been erected outside Ballinakill Church for anyone who prefers to remain outside the church. We look forward to celebrating the Birth of Christ with family and friends in a happy and as safe a way as possible.

Lotto No's: 2, 19, 27, 29. Jackpot: €12,100. No Jackpot Winner:
Next Draw: 20/12 in The Clubhouse. **Win/Share €150:** Cancer Care West. Tickets; Available on Klubfinder Lotto Site/Klubfinder app. Draw/results on Facebook Sun. @ 7pm. www.klubfinder.com /Clubs_Larkins_GAA_Club_/lotto

Sincere Sympathy To The Family And Friends Of:

Josie Monahan nee Larkin, Loughrea, formerly Marbehill. May she rest in peace.

Sacrament Of Reconciliation – Is Still An Important Aspect:

Of our spiritual preparation for celebrating the Birth of Christ, even in these strange times. I will be available for the Sacrament in Ballinakill Church on **Tuesday evening from 8 – 9pm** for anyone who would like to attend.

Christmas Visits To The Sick And Housebound Will Be Made:

During **Tuesday & Wednesday and Christmas Eve morning if necessary**. Please contact me if anyone that is not usually on my calls would like the Sacraments for Christmas in their home.

COVID-19 Support Line For Older People ALONE Manage A:

National support line & additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff available to answer queries/give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm. Tel: **0818 222 024**. It will remain open over the Christmas period.

Timber & Kindling For Sale Bags Of Soft Wood/Hard Wood:

Curra area. Tel: Keith 0873490787.

Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line For Adults In:

Partnership with the HSE. Since June, we have received over 600 calls from those grieving in these exceptional times/in need of comfort/connection /support. People are calling about COVID-related deaths/deaths from other causes. But many are also finding a previous loss more difficult right now. We will continue to be there for the bereaved over the difficult festive period/ are delighted to let you know that the Line will be **open over Christmas**, every weekday, **except Christmas Day**. Freephone 1800 80 70 77, Monday to Friday, 10am - 1pm.

Cope Galway Domestic Abuse 24-hr Confidential Helpline 091 565985:

Older people who need to stay home to protect themselves/homeless families /individuals/inc. those in emergency accommodation. Women/ children experiencing domestic abuse. We need your help to continue supporting vulnerable people in our community most affected by Covid-19.

Every Shoebox Counts! Make Your Christmas Shoebox – Share The Joy:

Of Christmas with a child affected by poverty before 23 Dec. toothpaste /toothbrushes consistently being the most chosen items. Donate a shoebox on behalf of a friend/family member/colleague. We will send you a certificate to print for them and pop into their Christmas card.

We Really Appreciate Your Support To Not Just Our Local Business But:

To all of the local businesses that stock with us. Kylemore Farmhouse farm shop/café, Abbey, open Fri./Sat./Sun. 10am-4pm. Pre-built/build your own hamper. Tel: 083 8455272, kylemorefarmhousecheese@gmail.com Book/pay securely online.

In Hopeful Expectation: Advent Prayers At Home In Time of Pandemic:

We are invited to set aside some extra time/space for prayer/reflection/good works. With Covid-19 we may not be in a position to gather as usual for our religious services. This challenges us to find new ways of reflecting on our faith/praying. To assist us see www.clonfertdiocese.ie/ Facebook/Twitter.

Seeing Your Life Through The Lens of The Gospel – There Is One:

1. We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you ... a messenger of good news? 2. 'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path/wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety? 3. Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded? 4. Mary's response serves as a model for us – as one saying 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say: 'Here I am, Lord'?

“Happy Christmas”

*Every Blessing, Peace and Happiness To
 All Families In Our Parish This Christmas.*

*A Warm Welcome To All
 Who Are Visiting Our Parish
 For The Festive Season.*

