

Christmas Begins with Christ



Clonmany Parish Newsletter

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PARISH MASS AND PRAYER SCHEDULE

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CLONMANY

Monday only of this week at 9:30am.
 5:30pm Children's Mass in St Mary's Church on Christmas Eve (Tuesday)
 8pm Vigil Mass in St Mary's Church on Christmas Eve
 11:30am Mass in St Mary's on Christmas Day (Wednesday)
 Saturday—6:30pm Vigil Mass, Sunday—11:30am

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, URRIS

10am Mass in St Michael's on Christmas Day (Wednesday)
 Sunday—10am
 Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament—Friday 3-6pm
 (Rosary at 5.40pm)

MONTH'S MIND MASS

6:30pm Vigil Mass in St Mary's Church on Saturday 28th December will be offered for Kian O'Brien, Cloontagh, on his month's mind. May he rest in peace.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY MASS

7pm Mass in St Michael's Church on Saturday 28th December will be offered for Neily McGonigle, Roxtown, on the first anniversary of his death. May he rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEKEND

6:30pm Vigil Mass—Dan Devlin, Tullagh
 10am Mass—Rose McLaughlin, Urrismanagh & Dublin
 Peggy Forkan, Pollan Green, Ballyliffin & Manchester
 Mary & Michael O'Brien, Leenan

NOWDOC

6pm Friday—8am Monday call NOWDOC 0818400911



VOCATIONS

We pray for our seminarians and for those considering a vocation to serve as priests in this diocese that, like Mary and Elizabeth, they will be attentive to the power and movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

COLLECTION

Parish collection last weekend amounted to €1,820. Thank you for your generosity. The annual priests collection will be taken up on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

CLONMANY ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Grateful appreciation for all the support to our recent SVP Annual Christmas Appeal. The amount raised was €2865 also a generous, anonymous donation of €500.

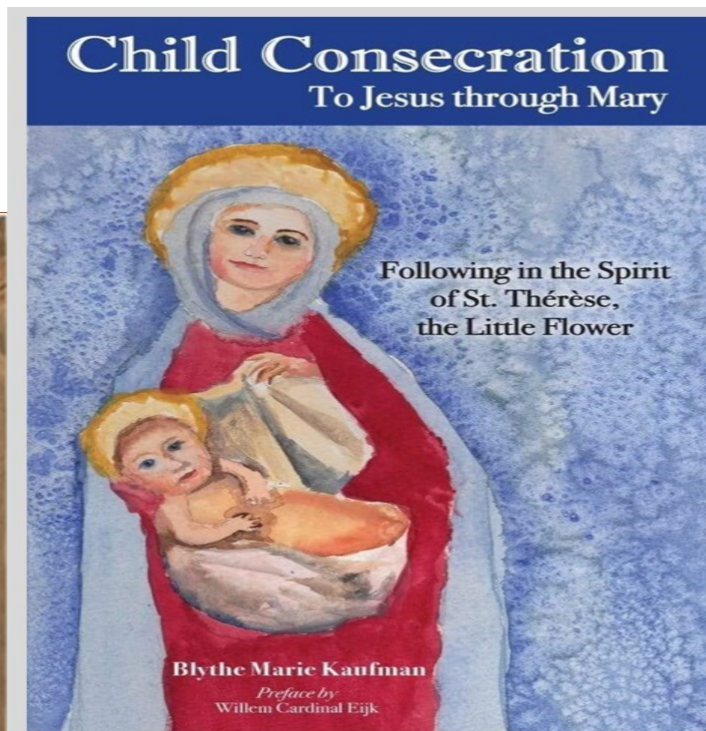
Anyone needing assistance at this time contact SVP on 086 2388789 in the strictest of confidence. Please do not suffer in silence. We are here to help.

SINEADS GIFT SHOP

Inishowen Florist now taking orders for fresh holly Christmas wreaths and fresh and artificial Christmas bouquets—to order call 0879457925 or call into the shop.

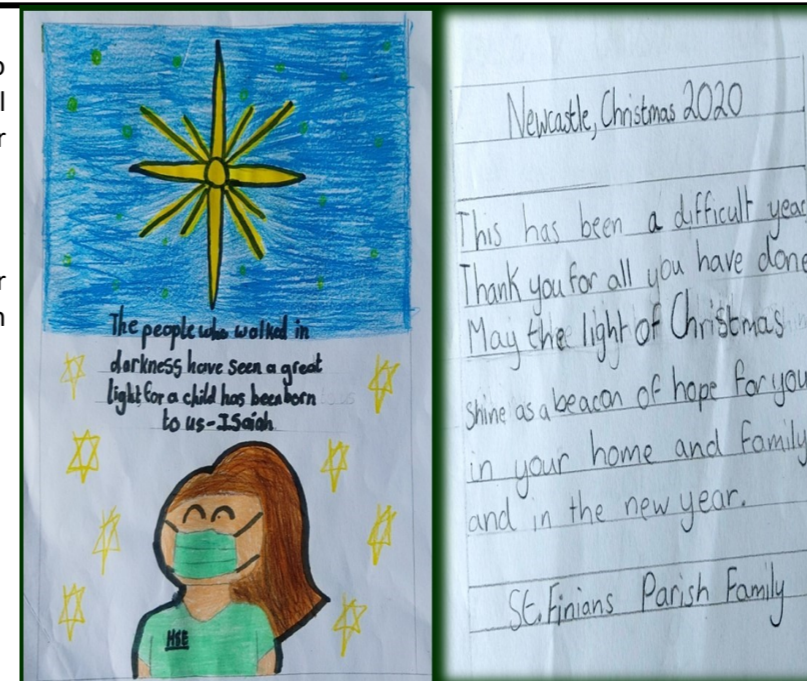
CLONMANY COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

1 Church Cleaner and 4 General Workers.
 For eligibility Information, please email: CEREFNW@welfare.ie or contact Clonmany Parish Resources CE Office on: Tel: 074 9376903/0868781701 email: clonmanyprl@gmail.com



INVITATION TO 33 DAYS OF FAMILY PRAYER

- Bishop McKeown will lead the diocese in 33 days of Family Prayer towards Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary.
- It will be delivered online on the Diocese of Derry Facebook, each evening at 7.00pm, starting on Thursday 9 January 2025 and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tuesday 11 February 2025.
- This is the (easy to follow) book that goes with the Prayer. It can be made available for families.
- Details and times of the prayer programme with a video message from Bishop McKeown can be viewed at derrydiocese.org/consecration



CLONMANY PARISH RESOURCES:

Clonmany Parish Community Employment Workers will close for Christmas holidays on Friday 20th December and will resume Tuesday 7th January so we would appreciate if owners of businesses in the village would take responsibility for litter during this period. It is in everyone's interest to keep our village tidy.

CLONMANY TUG-O-WAR CLUB

Annual Draw will take place on 26th December in the Square Bar Tickets are on sale and available from committee members. You can also get in touch with our New Facebook Page for tickets.

THE CHRIST CHILD... THE LIGHT WHO CAME TO US
 On new year's eve 2019, we had Mass in my then parish at 11.30 at night, The idea was to give thanks to GOD for the year passed, and ask blessings on the year to come. As it turned out 2020 became a year like no other, and some thought we should ask for our money back!

By March lockdown came. Hardship and worry came, about livelihoods and family, and the future. Covid-19 had arrived, and 'normal' life was turned upside down. Then there was a 'second wave', and a third. With it came sickness and death. Numbers were broadcast on RTÉ every day ... each 'number' a loved father or mother, husband or wife, brother or sister — a darkness and heartbreak compounded (if possible) by the way funerals were restricted to only some. The call was 'keep your distance'.

We did a survey with our Confirmation candidates about their Covid-19 experience. They said things like:

- *When we first went into lockdown I was happy because I could stay up late and sleep late. But I didn't realise I wouldn't see my friends or family for this long. I miss my grandparents most. I haven't hugged them since almost last year*
- *I for one was scared because when me or my family got sick we would have got tested, and there's a scary feeling about it.*

They also spoke about those on the 'frontline' — those who nursed us, cared for us, fed us, protected us.

At Christmas time the Confirmation children wanted to do something for their parish. They decided to send everyone in the parish a Christmas card, and had a competition to design a card. Some of the card chosen is shown here (her mother happened to be a health worker).

In the darkness of a terrible year, these children reminded us of the true Gift of Christmas ... using the very words we hear at Mass on Christmas morning — *that the Christ Child is the Light that no darkness can overcome.*



May each of us find this Light in ourselves, and our homes this Christmas.

Fr Kevin