

# Holy Family Parish, Askea

24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Vol 36 No 4

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Tom Little  
059 - 91-31559 /  
087 2481731  
Fr Tommy Dillon  
059 - 91-42565  
Emergency Priest on  
Duty

087 2588118

Askea Parish

Community

Centre Phone

059 91-42565

Parish Secretary

087 1269709

Mass Times:

Askea 9.30am Mon-  
Fri.

Sat 7pm.

Sun 9am, 10.30am  
& 12 Noon.

Bennekerry

Sun 11.30am.

Tinryland Tues & Wed

9.30am, Fri 7.30pm,

Sunday 10am

\*\*\*\*\*

Deadline for items  
for Newsletter is  
5pm on Wednesday by  
phone to 059

9142565 or email to

office@askeaparish.ie

Website:

www.askeaparish.ie

### Mass Times for Christmas and New Year

#### Christmas Eve: Sunday

Askea Church: - 6pm & 9pm

Bennekerry Church: - 7pm

Tinryland Church: - 8pm

#### Christmas Day: Monday

Askea Church: - 9am, 10.30am & 12 Noon

Bennekerry Church: - 11.30am

Tinryland Church: - 10am

#### St Stephen's Day Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December

#### Until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023:

Mass in Askea Church - 9.30am

#### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Askea Church – 7pm

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Askea Church: - 9am, 10.30am & 12 Noon

Bennekerry Church: - 11.30am

Tinryland Church: - 10am

#### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Feast of the

#### Epiphany

Askea Church: - 9am, 10.30am & 7pm

Bennekerry Church: - 11.30am

Tinryland Church: - 10am

# Keeping in Touch

**St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

## **Mass Times for Christmas and New Year**

### Christmas Eve:

Askea Church: - 6pm & 9pm

Bennekerry Church: - 7pm

Tinryland Church: - 8pm

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Askea Church: - 9am, 10.30am & 7pm

Bennekerry Church: - 11.30am

Tinryland Church: - 10am

# **St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry**

Fr Tom Little PP - Ph 059 9131559. Fr Tommy Dillon PE 059 9142565  
Newsletter Items - 059 9143881. Deadline for News items: - 9pm  
Wednesdays Emergency Number for the Priest on Duty 087 2588118.  
Parish Office - 059 9142565 087 - 1269709.  
Website: [www.askeaparish.ie](http://www.askeaparish.ie); email: [office@askeaparish.ie](mailto:office@askeaparish.ie)

## **Anniversaries 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2023**

## **Anniversaries 25<sup>th</sup> of December 2023**

Jack Kane, Kernanstown  
Michael and Annie Ivory  
The Carroll Family, Palatine

## **Anniversaries 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023**

Tom, Nan, Seamus, Kathleen and Pauleen Hutton, Rutland  
Andrea Dooley, Johnstown  
John Fitzpatrick, Ardnehue  
Tom and Mai Sheehan, Bennekerry  
Baby Christopher Shannon, Kilamaster

**Medjugorje Pilgrimages.** 24- 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Spiritual Director Fr. Yanbo Chen. CC. Fr Tommy Dillon CC - 11<sup>th</sup> Sept Fr. Theodore Tomasik CC. Deposit of €200 to be paid before 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb to avail of discount. Group Leader Noeleen 0862415986.

**Tinryland Xmas lights for Eist Cancer Support Carlow** Please support in any way possible. Either online (gofundme) or visit us at R93V3K0, from Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> 5pm - 10pm daily. Donations can be made through this website. Fundraiser by Philip Walker: Tinryland xmas lights for Eist Cancer Support (gofundme.com)

**Bennekerry N.S. Enrolments** Bennekerry N.S. will be accepting applications for enrolment for the coming academic year from January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All applications must be made on our Admission Application form which is available from the secretary at 059 -9143495 or email [bennekerry@gmail.com](mailto:bennekerry@gmail.com)

### **Junior Infant Enrolment**

#### **– Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Green Lane, Carlow September 2024.**

Scoil Mhuire gan Smál in an all-girls' primary school from Junior Infants to Sixth Class located in the Centre of Carlow town with a long-standing tradition of providing a holistic education for its pupils.

Enrolment for Junior Infants for September 2024 will open on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 and closes on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2024. Enrolments can be made by phoning the school 059 9142705, by emailing the school ([smgscarlow@gmail.com](mailto:smgscarlow@gmail.com)) or via the school office to collect an enrolment form, (R93FP57). See our Twitter or Instagram for an insight into Scoil Mhuire.

**Rainbows Spring Programmes** Twice yearly, Carlow Rainbows offers a nine- week programme for young people aged 7 to 16 who have suffered the loss of someone close to them, or the separation of their parents. A NEW PROGRAMME is now being offered for those aged 13-16. Held in Askea Parish Community Centre, the programmes are free to participants and will commence on February 5, 2024. For further information contact Anne on 0876636499 or email [carlowrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:carlowrainbows@gmail.com).

## **Christmas holiday arrangements in Askea Parish Community**

**Centre** closed for Christmas break on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 8pm. Centre re-opens on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 9.30am. Requests for anniversaries can be left into the Church or telephoned to 0871269709.

**Christmas Dues** for the support of the Bishop and priests of the parish will be taken up at all Masses over the Christmas period. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## **Volunteers to help in Parish Ministry**

Volunteers are invited to participate in various roles in the life of the Parish

- Readings at Mass,
- Becoming an Extraordinary Minister for Holy Communion,
- Helping with the Power Point at Mass,
- Joining the Choir,
- Becoming a member of the Baptism Team to name but a few.

Each of these roles is vital to the Parish and we thank everyone who participates already. Training will be provided for each of these ministry positions.

**Power Point Screens** we urgently need volunteers for the Power Point screens in Askea Church at all Masses.

**In you can help in any of these Ministries** please contact the Parish Office at 059 91 42565 or 0871269709 or leave your details in the Sacristy after Mass.

## **Information Page on local support groups**

**Carlow MABS Ltd** (Money Advice & Budgeting Service),  
72d Tullow Street, Carlow Telephone 076 107 2070.  
Free and confidential, Money Management and Advice Service.  
Assisting people in dealing with their existing debts  
and helping them to begin to manage their own resources.  
Community Education Programmes provided.

### **Al-Anon Family Groups Carlow**

Support for friends and relatives affected by someone else's drinking.  
Meetings in Askea Parish Community Centre on Mondays  
at 8pm and Thursdays at 7.45pm.  
Phone 01 8732699 and [www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk)

**Carlow Women's Aid** is a voluntary organisation  
providing support and information for adult women  
who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence  
in the home or in close personal relationships.  
Contact: 1800 444 944 or 059 91 73552 or 059 91 73553  
Carlow Women's Aid is located at 7 Old Dublin Road, Carlow

**Nar-Anon** Family Groups are a worldwide fellowship  
for those affected by someone else's addiction.  
Meetings every Tuesday at 8pm  
in Askea Parish Community Centre.  
Further details from [www.nar-anon.org](http://www.nar-anon.org)

**"You are not alone"** Family support group for families  
living with drug abuse. Meetings in Askea Parish Community  
Centre on Wednesday from 6.30pm to 8.45pm.  
Men's group every second Thursday of the month  
for those who are affected by alcohol or drugs use  
within the family unit. Contact 085 7872730.

## **Bennekerry Senior Citizens'** **Christmas Draw results;**

1st Lucy Kiernan c/o Brigid Kiely.  
2nd Paul Sheehy c/o Supervalu  
3rd Andrea Connolly c/o Supervalu  
4th Paul Cullen Palatine  
5th Fiadh Woods c/o Mgt Woods  
6th Kate Zerafa c/o Supervalu.  
7th Teresa & Martin Jordan Palatine  
8th Jackie Comiskey c/o Mary Bolger

A sincere thanks to all who donated prizes, sold tickets or who helped in any way over the last year.  
We would like to wish everyone  
a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Seniors' Christmas party takes place on Sun 14th Jan 2024  
in Woodford Dolmen Hotel.  
Meal served at 7pm.  
Please contact committee members if you wish to attend.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

The Most precious gifts you can give loved ones for Christmas are loving words and deeds, compassion, forgiveness, appreciation, understanding and acceptance.

## CALENDAR

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Eve**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Day:- The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> **St. Stephen Day**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> **St. John Apostle and Evangelist**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>- **Holy Innocents, martyrs**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup>: -**St Thomas Becket**, 1118-1170, as Archbishop of Canterbury came in conflict with King Henry 11 over Church rights. He was killed in his cathedral on this date.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>:- **The Holy Family** is seen as the model for the human family, the religious community and the Church itself. The celebration of the Incarnation has brought us to see God's closeness. In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus, the simple acceptance by Mary and Joseph of the marvels of God. In the daily life of family and community we can touch the Divine, we come close to God. But we have to learn to live centred on God, with respect and love for each other.



## **Winter**

Winter, a sharp bitter day  
the robin turns plump against the cold  
the sun is weak  
silver faded from gold  
he is late in his coming and short in his stay  
Man, beast, bird and air all purging, all cleansing,  
earth already purified awaits the rite of spring  
Her bridal gown a virgin snow and frosts in her hair  
A snowdrop by the road today bowed gracefully  
and high upon the wing up in the sparkling nothingness,  
a lone bird began to sing  
Can gentle spring be far away?

*Tommy Makem*

## **A Blessing Prayer by the Family Crib**

God of all people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have shown us your love:  
when our need for a Saviour was great  
you sent your Son  
to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives He brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy, and love.  
Lord, bless our family and all who will look upon this crib  
in the coming days;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and lift our thoughts to Him,  
who is God-with-us,  
our Emmanuel and the Saviour of all. Amen.

## Advent

We have tested and tasted too much, lover-  
Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder.  
But here in the Advent-darkened room  
Where the dry black bread and the sugarless tea  
Of penance will charm back the luxury  
Of a child's soul, we'll return to Doom  
The knowledge we stole but could not use.

And the newness that was in every stale thing  
When we looked at it as children: the spirit-shocking  
Wonder in a black slanting Ulster hill  
Or the prophetic astonishment in the tedious talking  
Of an old fool will awake for us and bring  
You and me to the yard gate to watch the whins  
And the bog-holes, cart-tracks, old stables where Time begins.

O after Christmas we'll have no need to go searching  
For the difference that sets an old phrase burning-  
We'll hear it in the whispered argument of a churning  
Or in the streets where the village boys are lurching.  
And we'll hear it among decent men too  
Who barrow dung in gardens under trees,  
Wherever life pours ordinary plenty.  
Won't we be rich, my love and I, and  
God we shall not ask for reason's payment,  
The why of heart-breaking strangeness in dreeping hedges  
Nor analyse God's breath in common statement.  
We have thrown into the dust-bin the clay-minted wages  
Of pleasure, knowledge and the conscious hour-  
And Christ comes with a January flower.

*Patrick Kavanagh*

## **K & L Diocesan Lotto Results for Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Numbers drawn were 07, 21, 27, 31. No €12,000 jackpot winner.  
Match 3s get €59 each. Askea / Bennekerry had No Match 3s.

Winner

Promoter

Next week's Jackpot €13,000. Ticket for the Lotto are available in the Church. You can also call to the Parish Centre during the week to buy a ticket.

### **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LOTTO ARRANGEMENTS**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December was the final draw of 2023.**

**First draw of 2024 will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

**We wish all our tickets sellers and ticket purchasers a Happy and Holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued support.**

### **In Memoriam**

We ask the Lord to grant eternal rest to:

**Bernadette (Bernie) Stynes (née McAssey)  
Kernanstown, Bennekerry, Carlow  
Margaret Bolger (née Bolger)  
Kernanstown, Bennekerry, Carlow**

and we offer our sympathy and the support of our prayers to all  
who have suffered the loss of a loved one at this time.

### **Pioneer Association 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next Wednesday 27 December and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on that day at 10am (Irish time) around the world via [www.pioneerassociation.org](http://www.pioneerassociation.org)

## Kildare & Leighlin Christmas Message

There is something about a baby that captures all our attention. It's magnetic. Even the most stubborn heart softens in the presence of a newborn baby. I saw it recently on a visit to bless a school extension, in the staff room later when their colleague on maternity leave, called in with her new bundle of joy, everyone just wanted to see the baby. The adult in us becomes the child again, cooing and making all sorts of funny faces! Babies make people smile and that's such a good thing.

Christmas is about smiling; it takes much less face muscles to smile than it does to frown. We adults complicate matters. In the words of Pope Francis "*Jesus is God's smile ... when we look down at the nativity scene; when we look at Baby Jesus, we can feel God smiling at us*". It all began in Bethlehem, in the simplicity of a stable. This is the essence of what we celebrate at Christmas. God becoming a baby. God stooping down to be like one of us.

We are all conscious of the turmoil in the world at present. War in Ukraine and absolute terror in Gaza and Israel, the Holy Land, the place of that Bethlehem stable. Sadly, too many babies and children are caught up in conflicts.

My prayer and hope to all is that you will feel God smile on you this Christmas. Also, that you might smile, as you thank God for those around you, family, friends and colleagues.

And next time you see a newborn baby, remember that as you smile, God is smiling on you. We need to realise this, this year more than ever, in our war-weary and broken world. Into it a fragile baby is born, a baby whose smile has the capacity to soften the hardest of adult hearts.

Every blessing for Christmas and 2024,

✠Denis Nulty

Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

*Sr Cecelia Molloy has composed a new hymn in celebration  
of the Holy Family. You are invited to join in singing the hymn  
at the 12 Noon Mass on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023  
– the Feast of the Holy Family.*

### **Hymn for The Holy Family**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
I give you my heart and my soul.  
You are the family we honour.  
You give direction to all.  
We come to ask for your blessing.  
Bless all our families today.  
Keep us from harm and safe in the storm.  
Support us and show us the way.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
you lived in challenging times.  
The Inn had no room for your baby.  
The rule of your country unkind.  
You became migrants to Egypt.  
You had to flee for your life.  
Angels were near to shield you from fear.  
Protect you and guard you in strife.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
may we stay true to your word.  
Our families peaceful and loving.  
The Gospel and story well heard.  
This was the message you gave us.  
We try to bring it to birth.  
Glory to God in the highest and  
peace to all people on earth.

# Thank You!

...to **all parishioners** who constantly support and take part in the life of our neighbourhood, community and Parish;

...to **all who subscribe to the** various collections throughout the year. Without your support the Parish could not function.

...to the **Sacristans, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir, Musicians, Ushers/Collectors, Servers, Flower Arrangers, Carers of Altar linens, those who help clean the Church and care for the grounds and other occasional Special Ministers and all other helpers** in our Parish Liturgies;

...to the staff of Askea Parish Centre and all who help to produce the Parish Newsletter each week; to the staff of the Carlow Day Care Centre and the Askea Community Childcare Centre;

...to all members of the **Parish Council** and **Parish Groups** for their commitment and dedication to the Parish;

...to the **School Principals and staff** for their care and co-operation with families and Parish;

...to **all who deliver** flyers, letters etc. during the year;

...to **all who promote** and **support** the Parish Lotto each week;

If your name has been omitted,  
please forgive us and know  
that you are thanked also.