

Holy Family Parish, Askea

20th December 2020 Vol 31 No 4

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Tom Little
059 - 91-31559 /
087 2481731
Fr Tommy Dillon
059 - 91-64882
Emergency Priest on Duty
087 2588118

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Askea Parish Community
Centre Phone
059 91-42565
Parish Secretary
087 1269709

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Mass Times:
Askea 9.30am Mon-Fri;
Sat 7pm;
Sun 9am, 10.30am
& 12 Noon.
Bennekerry
Sun 11.30am; Tinryland
Tues 9.30am,
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

The role of Mary in the incarnation is celebrated. She is that house of David which God promised would be built according to His plan. The plan is revealed in Jesus Christ and is now made know to all people.

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

Keeping in Touch

St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Sunday 20th December 2020

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St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Fr Tom Little PP - Ph 059 9131559. Fr Tommy Dillon PE 059 9164882

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; email: office@askeaparish.ie

Sunday 20th December 2020

Pattie Tully, Brownshill

Theresa Ryan, Monkstown

Peg Murray, Seven Springs

Kay McDonald, Oaklawns

Mass Schedule for Christmas

Penitential Holy Hour

– Monday 21st December at 7pm in Askea Church.

Thursday 24th December – Mass at 7pm

Friday 25th December – Mass at 11.30am

Saturday 26th December – Mass at 7pm

Sunday 27th December – Mass at 11.30am

Samaritans Light Up Campaign

Samaritans provide a 24-hour helpline service for people who are in distress, struggling to cope and who are in need of emotional support, including those who are feeling suicidal. Every Christmas we mark the Winter Solstice on December 21st with an event called the Longest Night. Through this we let our callers know that we're there for them during their darkest hours, especially over the festive period. This year we are appealing to local authorities, businesses and church leaders to light up their buildings in green or where colour change is not possible, a light or lantern on to support us.

Samaritans can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week, of freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie

Broadcast Mass times:

We continue to broadcast Mass from Holy Family Church, Askea on Monday to Friday at 9.30am. Rosary is recited immediately before Mass at 9.05am.

Weekend Masses will be broadcast at 7pm on Saturdays and 9am, 10.30am and 12 noon on Sundays.

You can access our webcam at

<http://www.askeaparish.ie/our-parish/web-cam/>

Eucharistic Adoration takes place in Askea Church on Wednesdays from 10am to 5pm.

The Remembrance Tree

Fairgreen entrance, Barracck Street. To make a donation online visit idonate.ie/RemembranceTreeCarlow

All donations to local and Rotary charities.

A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE CATHEDRAL PARISH

Parishioners across the whole diocese are invited to join Bishop Denis for a livestream of the Cathedral Parish Carol Service on Sunday, December 20 at 8pm. The service can be accessed on iCatholic Facebook page <https://facebook.com/iCatholic> and the KANDLE facebook page , <https://www.facebook.com/KANDLEi/> as well as on the YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/c/icatholicplayer>

K & L Diocesan Lotto Results for Wednesday 9th December 2020.

Numbers drawn were 3, 18, 20 & 24. One Jackpot winner in Mountmellick Parish.

24 Match 3s won €42 each. Askea/Benekerry had NO Match 4.

Winner	Promoter
Mick Doyle	Askea Parish Church
Stephen McNally	Norah Holohan
Betty B	Marion Matthews
John Hennessy	Askea Church

Next week's Jackpot €10,000.

Tickets for the Lotto

Tickets for the Lotto are available in the Church.

You can also call to the Parish Centre during the week to buy a ticket.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul Society, Holy Family Askea Conference wish to advise that due to the Covid-19 pandemic they are unable to collect non-perishable food this year. Instead of preparing hampers to distribute they wish to raise funds so that they can provide food vouchers. A Go fund Me page has been set up in conjunction with the Lions Club. To donate to the fund please go to :

<https://ie.gofundme.com/f/CarlowLionsSVPCarlowChristmasFoodAppeal>

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Diocesan Carol Service Radio Broadcast

A Diocesan Carol Service in the company of Bishop Denis Nulty and Bishop Dermot Farrell - an evening of music, song, prayer and reflection on the Christmas story from the parishes of our two dioceses. Sunday, 20th December, 8pm live on KCLR 96fm. Congratulations to all involved.

Remember your loved one with a ribbon on The Remembrance Tree. (Safety measures will be in place.)

12 Days of Kindness

Carlow Mental Health Association are asking you to help us spread joy this Christmas with our daily countdown of Random Act of Kindnesses. The remaining days are:

- Dec 20th Take a walk with a loved one.
- Dec 21st Buy a coffee for a stranger.
- Dec 22nd Pick up some rubbish on your street, at work or school.
- Dec 23rd Smile at a stranger.
- Dec 24th Choose your own Act of Kindness.

Tell us how you get on.

Tag us on #cmhachristmaskindess

Carlowmentalhealth@hotmail.com

085 8181353

Christmas Concert

Get into the festive cheer with the Portarlinton Christmas Carollers broadcast of their 2019 Christmas Concert. Premiering on YouTube at 4:00pm on Dec 20th. Though we can't be physically together, we can share in the experience, live comment during the broadcast, and sing along to all our Christmas Favourites. Type in the following to view online:

<https://youtu.be/avwCwjbM8Dk>

Diocesan Advent page

The Diocesan website, www.kandle.ie, has a dedicated Advent page that will be added to throughout the season of Advent. Parishioners are invited to access this page for a weekly Advent bulletin, Scripture Sharing reflections from Fr Liam Lawton, included this week is an additional prayer leaflet for use in the home over the 12 days of Christmas.

Askea Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday 21st December – 7pm – Penitential Holy Hour

Thursday 24th December – 9.30am Morning Mass

Christmas Eve – 4pm, 6pm and 9pm.

Friday 25th December – 9am, 10.30am & 12 Noon.

Saturday 26th December – 7pm.

Sunday 27th December – 9am, 10.30am, 12 noon.

A Christmas thought!

Christmas presents don't always come wrapped.

They don't always have to be purchased.

People appreciate all types of gifts.

How about some of these:

Offer to walk an elderly person's dog and dispose of any dog poo from their garden.

Phone somebody and have a chat.

Put a couple of screws in that falling gate.

Put up the decorations for that person who is not as flexible as you.

Make that phone call on somebody's behalf.

Not all companies treat the elderly in the best way.

Start the car for that person who is in lock down.

Say hello to a stranger.

Wish your neighbour the season's greetings.

Say a prayer for someone who needs one.

Happy Christmas to everybody

and hope ye all have a healthy New Year.

Liam Furlong, Tinryland Parish

Samaritans - WE ARE HERE FOR YOU THIS CHRISTMAS

Every hour, every day, a Samaritan is waiting to answer your call. This Christmas our volunteers will be here to listen 24/7, allowing you to talk without judgement, to relieve distress and reach a better understanding of your situation.

We hear from men and women of all ages who feel stressed, lonely, bereaved, have family or financial worries, or are suicidal.

Please don't suffer in silence. We are here today, and all over Christmas, on freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie

Samaritans Kilkenny/Carlow are 25 years old and we want to thank all our volunteers – past and present - and our supporters for their time and dedication

Evening Cleaner – GP Medical Centre

7pm to 9pm Monday to Friday - Start date 04/01/21

Working with one other person, cleaning tasks include:

keeping the building in a clean and orderly manner.

emptying bins, cleaning floors, glass, sinks, toilets etc.

dusting, polishing, keeping outside paths clean etc.

Drop in your CV and covering letter to us in Bachelors Walk, or email it to info@mbmedical.ie

Closing date for applications 23/12/20

Carlow County Council is organising a Celebration of Community Spirit Event to coincide with the Winter Solstice on Monday December 21st. As we reach the end of 2020 this year of the Pandemic, we wanted to acknowledge and celebrate the strength of the spirit in our communities which has gotten us all through this year as we look forward to brighter days ahead. We are inviting Community Groups across County Carlow to meet in their green / open space (observing social distancing) and light a candle at 7pm December 21st.

A candle has been distributed to groups around the County. Best wishes & keep well from The Members & Staff of Carlow County Council.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Global Goals, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are a **universal plan of action for people and planet** to be achieved by the year 2030. These goals aim to end poverty, combat climate change and ensure that we leave peaceful, just and equal societies for future generations. These goals are universal in nature, applying to developed and developing countries alike, and place sustainable development at their core. They are backed up by 169 specific targets which address challenges in areas as diverse as **poverty, education, human rights, food security, clean energy, climate, peace, sustainable consumption and urbanization**. They provide clear guidelines for all countries to adopt in accordance with their own priorities and circumstances. The SDGs work in the spirit of partnership, encouraging all people across the globe to **make the right choices now** to improve life, in a sustainable way, for our children and for generations to come. Each week we will feature some of the goals with suggestions of what you can do in your home to help.

Sustainable Development Goal Number 7



19. Cover the pan when cooking, it lowers the energy needed to boil water by 75%.
20. Only fill the kettle with the amount of water you need.
21. Turn off plug switches when going on holiday.

Actions to help transform our world

CALENDAR

Monday- 21st :-**St Peter Cnaisius**, 1521-1597, was born in Holland. He intended to become a lawyer but joined the Jesuits. Through courtesy and learning he promoted the Catholic revival after the Council of Trent. His greatest work was a catechism of 211 Questions & Answers, published in 1555.

Wednesday 23rd :-**St John Kanty** 1390-1473, taught theology and Scripture in the University of Cracow, Poland. He is also remembered for his austerity of life and generosity.

Thursday 24th:-**The Eve of Christmas**

Friday 25th:-**The Nativity of Our Jesus Christ**

Saturday 26th :-**St Stephen**, the first Christian martyr, was one of those in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for his forgiveness of his enemies. Patron of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.

THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday 27 **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.

Monday 28th: -**The Holy Innocents**, martyrs

Tuesday 29th: -**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.

Thursday 31st: -**St Sylvester** died on 335 after being Pope for twenty one years. Being elected in the year after the Edict of Milan was free to build many churches in Rome.

Friday 1st: -**Mary, The Holy Mother of God.**

Saturday 2nd: **St Basil**, 330-'79, Bishop of Caesarea, lived an ascetic life establishing norms for monastic life. He was a theologian of distinction.

St Gregory 329- '89 a friend Basil was bishop of Sasima and later of Constantinople. He retired to live a monastic life

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The New Year is set before us like an unwritten volume – all pages blank. Let us write upon each day's page things that at the end of the year we will look upon with rejoicing rather than regret.

Christmas Mass arrangements in Holy Family Church, Askea, Carlow.

Now that the country is back in Level 3 of the Government's COVID-19 Plan, it is wonderful to have our churches open again for public Masses. We have put measures in place for everyone's safety in accordance with the Government guidelines and regulations. Askea Church has been divided into three pods. The pods are 4 metres apart and have separate entrance / exits. Each pod can hold up to 50 people. This gives us a capacity of 150 people at each Mass. Our capacity is greatly reduced if people attend Mass one at a time. For this reason, we are asking people, wherever possible, to attend Mass in a household group.

We are very fortunate to have the assistance of volunteer stewards who direct people to their seats and ensure that all COVID-19 safety measures are in place. It is very important that people follow the direction of the stewards as you enter and exit the Church. Over the Christmas we will have to maximise the seating available and the stewards will direct you to your seat. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate personal preferences and favourite seats during this time. We ask for your cooperation, patience and understanding.

Traditionally families have made attendance at Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas day part of their family celebration. This year, we invite you to attend Mass on any of the 12 days of Christmas. In the past, we have had large gatherings of families at our Christmas Eve Mass when Santa Claus took time out from his busy schedule to join us for some Christmas carols. Unfortunately, this year, Santa, like all of us, must restrict the number of close contacts he has so he will not be joining us in Askea this Christmas Eve. He is doing this to make sure he can carry out the very important work he has lined up later that evening. We look forward to Christmas 2021 when we hope he will be able to join us again.

Due to the Covid-19 regulations the numbers we can cater for in the Church at each Mass is very restricted. We want to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend Mass. Our plan therefore, weather permitting, is to hold the Christmas Eve 4pm and 6pm Masses outdoors. We will have an altar set up in the Church grounds. You are invited to come as a family in your car and park in the car park areas around the Church. You can tune in to the Mass on FM Radio in your car. We will have details of the frequency to use later. We will also have an outdoor speaker system. For health and safety reasons we ask you to remain in your car during Mass and we will arrange to distribute Holy Communion.

For anyone attending on foot we ask that you adhere strictly to the 2 metre distance guidelines. You can stand on the grass area outside Askea Parish Community Centre where there is plenty of room to follow these guidelines.

While the Mass is taking place the roadways into the Church will be closed off. To avoid disappointment, you are asked to arrive to the Church in plenty of time and park safely following the directions of the stewards.

We understand that some people have decided not to return to Mass just yet and we hope they will be able to join us online as we celebrate Christmas in Askea Church.

Our Christmas Eve 9pm and Christmas Day 9am, 10.30am and 12 Noon Masses will all be broadcast on our website.

You can access these Masses at:

<http://www.askeaparish.ie/our-parish/web-cam/>

If all the seating in the Church has been filled at the Mass you wish to attend, you are invited to remain in your cars outside the church and listen to the ceremony on the radio. We will arrange to distribute Holy Communion to you.

To ensure the safety of everyone attending our ceremonies we ask that you wear a face covering and sanitise as you enter and exit the Church. You are also asked to delay your family visit to the crib until later in the week when the church is not in use. These restrictions are in place to meet COVID-19 regulations. For your own safety and the safety of others please do not congregate in groups either inside or outside the Church.

Strict hygiene regulations are in place between Masses. To complete this cleaning schedule and to ventilate the building between Masses you are asked to leave the church promptly after the Mass ends. A special word of thanks is due to our volunteers who help to sanitize the church.

We hope to make this special time of year, a safe, happy and spiritual experience for everyone taking part. We wish all our parishioners and visitors a happy and holy Christmas.

Christmas schedule:

Monday 21st December – Penitential Holy Hour – 7pm

Monday to Thursday: 9.30am Mass

**Christmas Eve: 4pm & 6pm (outdoors weather permitting)
& 9pm (indoors)**

Christmas Day: 9am, 10.30am & 12 Noon.

St Stephen's Day: 7pm

Sunday 27th: 9am, 10.30am & 12 Noon.

Monday to Friday: 9.30am

Saturday 2nd January: 7pm

Sunday 3rd January: 9am, 10.30am & 12 Noon.