

# Holy Family Parish, Askea

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 Vol 28 No 1

## First Sunday of Advent

Fr. Tom Little - 91-31559

Fr Tommy Dillon - 91-64882

Sr. Joan Pierse 91-42565

.....  
Emergency Priest on Duty

087 2588118

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Askea Parish Community

Centre Phone 91-42565

087 1269709

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Collections last weekend:

Development €1,714

Offertory €1,623

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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

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Deadline for items for

Newsletter is 5pm on

Wednesday by phone to

9142565 or email to

office@askeaparish.ie

Website: [www.askeaparish.ie](http://www.askeaparish.ie)

## *Advent*

Now the natural world  
is dormant,  
now is the time of  
darkness,  
sunlight is waning,  
life is in seeming stasis,  
and in this dark time,  
this time of dormancy  
and twilight,  
the church moves into  
Advent.

*Susan Palo Cherwien*

# Keeping in Touch

St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

First Sunday of Advent

## The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice — that time in the year when the sun reaches its most southern point in the heavens and the days are the darkest and gloomiest. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens in their celebration halls.

There they waited the return of their sun-god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought. Celebrations culminated in the "Nativity of the Sun" —the turning point of the year.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life: the Nativity of the Saviour. We add one light on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin help us prepare for His Saving Birth.

Placing four candles on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian countries and North America. The Advent wreath with the progressive lighting of its four candles Sunday after Sunday, until the Solemnity of Christmas, is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Son of Justice.

# St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Fr Tom Little PP - Ph 059 9131559. Fr Tommy Dillon PE 0599142565

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 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**

Denis O'Grady, Moyle

Mary Murphy, Brownhill

## **Anniversaries 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

James Reid, Bennekerry

## **Month's Mind**

Jonathan Burroughs, 6 Ashley Court,  
Pollerton Road, Carlow

## **Holy Day Mass Times**

Next Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass in Bennekerry Church at 11.30am

## **Palatine GAA Club Lotto Results of draw 27<sup>th</sup>**

**November 2017.** Numbers drawn 3, 14, 29 & 32. NO Jackpot winner. Four lucky dips win €50 each

**Winner**

Micko & Kids

Vinnie O'Brien

J W Tyres

Vinnie O'Brien

**Promoter**

John Kelly, Bennekerry

John Kelly, Bennekerry

Willie Mullins

John Kelly, Bennekerry

**Seller's Prize:** Michael (Mono) Kinsella, Bennekerry. Next week's draw takes place in Palatine GAA Clubhouse on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. Jackpot €8,600.

## Kildare & Leighlin Weekly Lotto Results

For Wed 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Numbers drawn were 6, 15, 31 & 32. NO JACKPOT Winner. 7 Match 3s won €143 each.

Askea/Benekerry had NO Match3s. Next week's Jackpot €13,000.

Winner

Promoter

Tickets €2 each – available from Askea Parish Centre. Please note the draw takes place on Wed at 4.30pm in Portlaoise. Tickets must be returned by 5pm each Tuesday to Askea Parish Centre.

## Holy Day Mass Times

Next Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass in Askea Church takes place at:

9am, 10.30am and 7pm.

## The Advent Wreath

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## **Vacancies for Community Employment schemes.**

**Cleaner** All cleaning duties for the Cathedral, to include but are not limited to polishing, washing of floors and seats, keeping all aspects of the Cathedral clean and tidy. Setting up for tea /coffee morning every week in the Parish Centre. 19.5 hours will be spread over 5 mornings per week.

**Maintenance** Duties will include but are not limited to setting up for bingo, cleaning up after bingo, cleaning toilets during bingo, car park duties and all other maintenance duties that arise. Hours will be Friday and Sunday evenings, Monday mornings.

**Project Assistant** Duties to include, cleaning, general housekeeping, light shopping, setting up rooms for activities, occasional reception duties such as answering the telephone or the door. This will be a 2.5 day position.

*All positions on Assumption Parish Services Employment Scheme are subject to eligibility for CE and Garda vetting. For further information please contact Jo on 0858726367 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.*

**Carlow Regional Youth Services** are currently recruiting for the following positions on their CE Scheme: Youth Support Worker in their after schools Programme and also a Cleaner. They are also recruiting a Youth Support Worker /Caretaker to work with teenagers in Bishops House, Tullow. If you are interested in any of these positions please ring Lisa/Marie on 085 2101494 for further information.

**Oil Painting Workshop** for beginners and improvers Sat 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 4pm. Light lunch included. €50. Full details 087 2636520.

**Friends of the Sacred Heart Hospital** would like to thank the Nurses and Staff for the wonderful work they do for the patients. The AGM of the Friends of the Sacred Heart is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December in the Sacred Heart Hospital, Carlow at 7.30pm. New Members welcome.

**Mobile phone found** in Tinryland Clubhouse car park. Contact 087 9549186.

## **The Legend Of Robin Redbreast**

On that first Christmas, it is said, the night was wrapped in a bitter chill. The small fire in the stable was nearly out, and the Mother Mary worried that her baby would be cold. She turned to the animals about her and asked them for help. "Could you blow on the embers," she asked the ox, "so the fire might continue to keep my son warm?"

But the ox lay sound asleep on the stable floor and did not hear her. Next, Mary asked the donkey to breathe life back into the fire, but the sleeping donkey did not hear Mary either. Nor did the horse or sheep. She wondered what to do.

Suddenly, Mary heard a fluttering of little wings. Looking up, she saw a plain, brown-coloured little robin fly into the stall. This robin had heard Mary calling to the animals and had come to help her himself. He went over to the dying fire and flapped his wings hard.

His wings were like little bellows, huffing and puffing air onto the embers, until they glowed bright red again. He continued to fan the fire, singing all the while, until the ashes began to kindle.

With his beak, the robin picked up some fresh, dry sticks and tossed them into the fire. As he did, a flame suddenly burst forth and burned the little bird's breast a bright red. But the robin simply continued to fan the fire until it crackled brightly and warmed the entire stable. The Baby Jesus slept happily. Mary thanked and praised the robin for all he had done. She looked tenderly at his red breast, burned by the flame, and said "From now on, let your red breast be a blessed reminder of your noble deed."

And to this day, the robin's red breast covers his humble heart.

## HE WISHES FOR THE CLOTHES OF HEAVEN

HAD I the heavens' embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half-light,  
I would spread the cloths under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

**William Butler Yeats**

### **John Paul II Award:**

Are you aged between 16- 18 and interested in getting more actively involved in the life of the Church and in the community? Then come along to a meeting on Monday 11th December at 6'o clock in Askea Parish Community Centre to find out more.

**CBS Parent's Association** are holding a Christmas Fair in the Sports Hall on Thursday 14th December from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Free admission and visit to Santa. Local Crafts and TY mini-companies with ideal Christmas gifts available. Teas/Coffees, Cakes & Sandwiches available. All are welcome.