

Holy Family Parish, Askea

29th November 2020 Vol 31 No 1

First Sunday of Advent

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087 2481731
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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](mailto:office@askeaparish.ie) Website:
www.askeaparish.ie

Prayer for Advent Liturgy – Waiting in hope

Lord,
the light I choose
to let into my life today
is based on my hope in you.

It is a small flame,
but I believe that it can dispel
a bit more darkness this night.
I join this flame to the flames
that are lighting in homes
across our diocese
for it is through us
that Christ's light will shine,
in the midst
of the struggles and cares
of the world. Amen.

– Waiting in Hope – will be livestreamed from
the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow this
Sunday night at 7:30pm via
iCatholic.ie.

You can access this liturgy on the iCatholic
Facebookpage: <https://facebook.com/iCatholic>
the KANDLE Facebook
page: <https://www.facebook.com/KANDLEi/>
as well as on the YouTube
channel <https://youtube.com/c/icatholicplayer>

Keeping in Touch

St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Sunday 29th November 2020

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 southern most 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 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 29th November 2020

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

Sunday Mass on Local Radio

KCLR (Kilkenny Carlow Local Radio) are broadcasting Sunday Mass at 9.30am. The frequencies for KCLR station are 96.6FM and 96.9FM.

Prayer for Advent Liturgy – Waiting in hope

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as well as on the YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/c/icatholicplayer>

Waiting in Hope Liturgy:

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan Commission Liturgical Formation are inviting people across the diocese to begin the Advent journey with him in a moment of prayer and a spirit of hope. The Bishop will lead a livestreamed service of music, prayer, scripture and reflections at 7:30 pm on Sunday November 29 from the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow. You can access this livestream on the **iCatholic Facebook**

page <https://facebook.com/iCatholic>, the **KANDLE Facebook page**, <https://www.facebook.com/KANDLEi/>. as well as on the **YouTube**

channel <https://youtube.com/c/icatholicplayer> **Please have an individual candle ready to light and to hold during this service.** In the words of Bishop Denis, *'together let us wait in hope, let us turn down the dial and be gentle with one another and ourselves as we prepare in the strangest of times to welcome Jesus, Emmanuel, among us.'*

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, videos on making and blessing an Advent wreath and on creating an Advent prayer space in the home and more!

Mini Advent Retreat on Zoom

For three sessions, during Advent, you are invited to take part in a mini-retreat that will explore the themes of Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be led by Fr Billy Swan, St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy and will take place from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd December beginning at 8pm. To take part, all you need to do is send an email to thehookoffaith@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Come and join us to prepare for Christmas.

Tarsus Scripture School

The first online Advent Programme of Tarsus Scripture School, Resilient faith: Advent spirituality for a time of pandemic, has just been launched. The emphasis will fall on Advent spirituality and the course offers six presentations (two from each speaker) and a joint webinar on 10 December. The presentations will be available on Vimeo from 23 November onwards.

The charge for the course is €20 per household. Registration is [open now](#).

1. Praying the Psalms in Advent: Honest prayers when life is hard

Jessie Rogers (two Vimeo presentations)

2. Reading Mark in Advent: Wakefulness in Winter as We Attend to the Gift.

Sean Goan (two Vimeo presentations)

3. Learning from Paul: Holding on to the word of life (Phil 2:16)

Kieran J. O'Mahony (two Vimeo presentations)

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

November – a Month of Prayer

During the month of November, we remember the Holy Souls.

You are invited to write out the names of anyone you wish to have included for prayers at Mass during the month of November.

You can do this by

- filling out the list in the Development Envelope box OR
- by hanging a card with names on the Remembrance Tree in the Church

Due to Covid 19 regulations you are asked to fill out your card at home and bring it to the Church / pen to the Church.

- by writing the names in the book on display in the Church OR

Please use your own pen when filling in the display book in the Church.

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 and 10.30am 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.

K & L Diocesan Lotto

Kildare & Leighlin Weekly Lotto Results for Wednesday 25th November 2020.

Numbers drawn were 2, 13, 21 & 31. No Jackpot winner.

11 Match 3s won €91 each. Askea/Benekerry had NO Match 3.

Winner

Promoter

Next week's Jackpot €20,000.

Tickets for the Lotto

We will continue to enter the pre-paid tickets for the Lotto each week.

Askea Parish Community Centre re-opens

on Tuesday 1st December with a limited service from 10.30am to 2.30pm – Monday to Friday.

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.

Pope's Intention for December

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

What can I do to help my neighbour?

We talked about what you can do for your neighbour or the general public last week.

A case in point are two neighbours in Tinryland who decided to lift the spirits especially of children and their parents by setting up a Christmas light show using thousands of low power Led bulbs.

Each year they do a light show, but this year they have doubled the size and because of Covid they lit up early.

What a wonderful way of helping your neighbour.

Needless to say, it attracts huge crowds of adults and children. If you go to see the light show, and it is well worth a visit, be very careful on the roads.

Liam Furlong, Tinryland Parish

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. While many of us will miss our traditional carol services, this promises to be a very special moment of shared hope, joy and song as we approach Christmas. This service of carols, readings and prayers 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>

Looking out for one another this Advent

In the coming days may we continue to be patient and to care for one another, as we navigate these strange days. May we especially look after the most vulnerable and needy among us. Please remember and support, as you can, the work of so many incredible charities here in Ireland, including St Vincent de Paul, Trócaire, the Samaritans, the Peter McVerry Trust, Focus Ireland, Pieta House and our local food share charities in Newbridge, Graiguecullen and Portlaoise parishes, to name but a few.

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.

ACTIONS TO HELP TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD



Sustainable Development Goal 5

Gender Equality

13. Practice and demonstrate equal decision making processes at home to children.
14. Support equal gender representation in the workplace, including in leadership.
15. Encourage gender equality at home and in our schools.

Thanks to Pádraig Webb for this input.