

WICKLOW PARISH

Monthly Newsletter

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Thoughts For December

BY REV JACK KINKEAD



1 December - Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the church year, and the preparation for the miracle of Christ's birth. The readings point to an innate human longing for things to be better, and also point to God's desire for alignment between God and humanity. We are called to adopt the mindset of those who longed for so many generations for the coming of the Saviour.

8 December - The key message of God, through the Bible, and through the church, is one of love. God loves us as we are, gives us freedom to make decision for ourselves, but is there to give guidance if we seek it. God also promises to forgive when we acknowledge our wrongdoing, and a key aspect of Christian fellowship is to repent. John the Baptist called people to repentance, and his message was incredibly popular. In our generation, maybe this is an attitude the world needs to adopt once more.

15 December - Today, we are reminded that the road to recovery or improvement is not always an easy one. Think of anyone undergoing physio after surgery, someone rebuilding fitness after a sporting injury, or the work that will go into practice for a musician. The opportunity for transformation is offered to us by God, through Christ, but is not necessarily always easy to execute.

22 December - This evening will be the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols, as the mystery of the incarnation is unfolded to us once again, through Scripture and carol singing. In the morning however, we take a more reflective approach, with a 'Blue' Christmas service. This is an opportunity for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time of year, to still engage with the birth of Christ. Christmas can bring its sadness as much as joy, so we take the opportunity to gather in a quiet, reflective service.

Advent & Christmas Services 2019

**Thursday 28th November**

7.30pm Advent service: 'What is a house?
What is a home?'

Sunday 1st December

9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Advent Sunday Service

Wednesday 4th December

10.30am Holy Communion with prayers
for the sick. Tea / coffee served afterwards in
the church.

Thursday 5th December

7.30pm Advent Service: 'The scale of the
[housing] issue.'

Sunday 8th December

9.00am Holy Communion
10.00 Family Communion
Christmas Craft Fair afterwards in the Glebe

Wednesday 11th December

10.30am Holy Communion with prayers
for the sick. Tea / coffee served afterwards in
the church.

Thursday 12th December

7.30pm Advent Service: 'Addressing the stigma.'

Sunday 15th December

9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Service of the Word

Tuesday 17th December

7.30pm East Glendalough School
Carol service

Wednesday 18th December

10.30am Holy Communion with prayers
for the sick. Tea / coffee served afterwards in
the church.

Thursday 19th December

7.30pm Advent Service: 'Hope - our political
agency is real!'

Sunday 22nd December

9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Blue Christmas reflective service
7.00pm Service of lessons and carols

Tuesday 24th December

11.15pm First Eucharist of Christmas

Wednesday 25th December

9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Communion

Sunday 29th December

9.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Joint service with Killiskey Parish,
Nuns Cross Church. Holy baptism.

Wednesday 1st January

NO SERVICE

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas

December Events



Advent

There will be a series of midweek services through Advent, on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, in the church. This year, we will work through a new resource from the Irish Council of Churches, focusing on the housing crisis in Ireland, and the consequent rise in homelessness. 'A lot can change in 6 months', reminds us that any of us could find ourselves in difficult circumstances, as well as reminding us that we have a duty to respond to the needs of society. The services will be on Thursday 28 November, 5 December, 12 December, and 19 December. Please do make a special effort to attend.



Friendship Group

There will be Christmas lunch for the Friendship Group members on Monday December 9th 12.45 in the Methodist Hall. There will be a voluntary contribution of not more than 5 euro towards the lunch. Further information is available from **Linda Walsh: 086 8228378**

Hymns

Got any favourite hymns? Or want to request a particular hymn around the time of an anniversary? Please let Jack know your suggestions! We can't promise anything but will try to accommodate your choices if possible!



December Events



Christmas Choir

Once again, we are forming a Choir for Christmas! The choir will sing at the Carol Service, and at the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve. Previous singing experience is not necessary, and the ability to read music is not necessary! Rehearsals will be taking place during December. We will rehearse from 11.15. Please contact Jack if you are interested in joining in!

Ovoca Camp 2020

The ever popular Ovoca weekend camp will run from 24-26 January, in Ovoca Manor! The camp is open to 5th & 6th class children. More information will be available nearer the time, but please make a note to keep that weekend free!



Pastoral Visiting

Is there someone you know who might appreciate a visit from the Rector? Or would you like to talk to Jack, in confidence? Please feel free to call or email, to arrange a time. kinkeadj@gmail.com / 0861727654.

Dominican Convent - Advent Prayer

There is a small and friendly group, open to anyone interested in exploring the Scripture. The advent prayer meetings will be held at Dominican on Wednesday evenings Dec 4th, 11th and 18th. The meetings start at 7.30pm, lasting an hour and are followed by a refreshments.

December Events



Christmas Gift and Cake Sale

Wicklow Parish will be holding a Christmas Gift and Cake Sale on Saturday 7th December 10am to 4pm in Shines Pharmacy on the Main Street, Wicklow Town. This will be a great opportunity to shop for that special Christmas treat for your loved ones!



December Events



Glebe Christmas Gift & Craft Fair

The Annual Glebe Christmas Gift & Craft Fair takes place on Sunday 8th December in the Glebe National School, Church Hill Wicklow Town from 10am – 5pm.

Come along enjoy a hot chocolate, buy your Christmas tree and of course shop till you drop with our wonderful crafters /artisans along with our very popular cake stand. With choir singing and of course a visit during the day from the man himself – it's the place to be on the 8th December – The Annual Glebe Christmas Gift & Craft Fair at the Glebe National School Wicklow Town (limited parking at the school)
Entry is FREE!!!



December Events



Parish Fete 2020

The Parish Fete committee are giving Parishioners the opportunity to sponsor the Parish Fete raffle. Your business details will be printed on each raffle ticket, giving you great advertisement exposure around the town and beyond! If you are interested please reply to this email or contact Jack.

We are also appealing for raffle prizes now for the 2020 Parish Fete, can your business provide a prize or voucher? If so please contact us.

The next Fete 2020 executive members meeting will take place on December 9th.



Youth

United Youth will take place on Saturday 7th December for their Christmas trip! We meet in EGS from 6-7.30pm, for games, stories, crafts, & juice & biscuits! Anyone aged 4th-6th class is welcome to come along. €5 per visit, which covers expenses, the balance being used to fund a trip at the end of term!

The Teen Youth Group will take place on Sunday 8th. We meet in EGS from 6.30-8pm. All parents are invited to please join us at 7.30pm to enjoy a festive feast. Anyone of secondary school age is welcome to attend. This group aims to support our teens & emerging adults in a Christian context - allowing them to question & analyse the things that are important to them.

December Events



Confirmation

Preparation sessions for confirmation will begin in January. If anyone wasn't at the confirmation information evening, but is interested to find out more, please contact Jack. In conjunction with the confirmation sessions, we are going to run the Alpha Teen Parenting Course, aimed to support parents of 11-18 year olds. If anyone else is interested in this course, regardless of having a candidate for confirmation, please contact Jack.



Blue Christmas

For some, the excitement and manic nature of the festive season may be tinged by sadness, regret, or loss. An emotional time of year, we often find that we miss loved ones all the more acutely at Christmas times. On Sunday 22nd December, the morning service will take the form of a 'Blue Christmas'. This is a reflective service, still focused on the hope and joy of the incarnation, but in the context of a life which is changing and changeable, not always in the direction that we would choose.

December Events



Advanced Notice - The Vine International Concert Series - February 7th

On 7th February we are taken on a journey through the beguiling and atmospheric music for guitar, lute and voice of the 16th and 17th centuries. One of Europe's leading exponents of the Baroque and early Classical guitar, Ashford resident, Eamonn Sweeney will partner one of Ireland's rising stars, the soprano Lorna Breen. Eamonn has toured globally performing as a soloist and with various early music ensembles, he will be joined by the prize-winning young vocal artist in performances of songs and arias by Vivaldi, Caccini, Handel, Purcell and many more composers from the Baroque and Classical eras. As Shakespeare said 'If music be the food of love; play on...'

All the performances in this series will begin at 8.00pm. Tickets will be available in advance from www.gr8events.ie or on the door. Costs are €20, €15 for students, young people (16 or under) accompanied by an adult enter free of charge.

Ticket holders for these concerts may avail of the pre-concert menu at La Locandina restaurant in Wicklow town between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on the evening of the performances. Please contact the restaurant directly to book a table as places are limited; La Locandina, 14 Main Street, Wicklow Town – 0404 53905, www.lalocandina.ie.



December Events



Surrounding Parish - Nun's Cross

Christmas Service Times

Sun 15th 07.00pm Service of Seven Lessons with Carols, followed by Mince Tarts and Mulled Wine

Sun 29th 11.00am Joint Parishes Service in Nun's Cross. Morning Prayer and Holy Baptism

Safeguarding Trust

Those who act as the Safeguarding Trust Panel for the joint parishes are: Revd Jack Kinkead, Allyson Minion, Daphne Smith, Stuart Daunt-Smith and the Revd Ken Rue. Recently an audit of our procedures and record-keeping was undertaken by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Olive Good. Generally matters are in good shape. Ideas for improvement were received.

General Announcements

FLOWER ROTA

Please sign the flower rota sheet in the porch of the church if you are available to help with church flowers. This isn't a big job & doesn't involve fancy arrangements (unless you want to!) but is about having some fresh flowers, in vases, in church week by week.

HELP WANTED!

We always need volunteers to help with parish organisations and events. Could you help with: Children's activities, youth clubs, fundraising events, the Fete, the BBQ, Messy Church, church flowers, crèche? Any time and help, however little, is so much appreciated. Contact Jack for more details

CRÈCHE

It is wonderful to see so many small children coming to church with their parents. We encourage all families to bring your children to church & establish a good routine from an early age. To make it easier for parents to engage in worship themselves, a crèche has started, for children of preschool age. It runs each Sunday during the main 10am service. Contact Jack for more details.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

We are about to undertake major renovations to the Parish Rectory, and are looking for financial support from parishioners, whether in the form of donation or loan. . If anyone is in a position to help with financing necessary capital works, please contact a member of the Finance Committee: John Clarke (0874127386), Jim Costello (0867701456) or Shane Fingleton (0862485045).





General Announcements

PRAYERS

We are really keen to involve more people in worship in Wicklow Parish. One way to do this is to involve people in leading the prayers of intercession at services. Would you be willing to help with this, on an occasional basis? If so, please speak to Jack. There is an information pack available, with pointers on how to lead a congregation in prayer.

PARISH FINANCES - URGENT UPDATE

The parish finances are currently severely depleted, due to capital works undertaken this year. As it stands, we urgently need an injection of income, in order to meet our financial obligations for this year. If you can make a one off contribution, or are interested in setting up a regular payment to meet ongoing expenses, or can offer a loan to the parish, please contact John Clarke (0874127386) or Shane Fingleton (0862485045).

The Select Vestry will run a stewardship campaign in the coming months, and ask for your patience and help.

If you are unsure about how the parish is funded, or how parish resources are used, please contact John or Shane, and they can explain the system to you.

If you wish to make a contribution or a set up a regular direct debit our details are below:

BIC: AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE23 AIBK 93361909248084

Wicklow Parish Church

AIB Wicklow branch.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

If you have items you want included in the Parish Newsletter, please send to Sinead before the 20th of each month at wicklowandkilliskeycoi@outlook.com

Dear Lord and Father,

we give thanks for the living hope of the gospel — for the incredible hope in your Infant Son. We give you glory for your irrevocable commitment to put all things right and make all things new; your irreversible promise to make everything sad untrue, everything broken as though it never was, everything lost perpetually found. Our hearts are filled with eager expectation for that Day. We bless you for your faithfulness to bring to completion the good work you've begun in us and in your world.

Amen

