

WICKLOW PARISH

Monthly Newsletter

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Thoughts For December

BY REV JACK KINKEAD



2 Dec - Advent Sunday marks the first Sunday in the church's year. It also marks a very important time of preparation, for the coming of the Messiah. For countless generations, the people of God longed for the coming of a saviour, while they tried their best to serve God in their own

generation and context. We will journey through the Advent season with those people, and try to get a sense for ourselves how different life was before the arrival of Jesus Christ.

9 Dec - To long for something in the future, may mean breaking with something from the past. Each of us has a story, of how we got where we are now. Each of us has an invitation to be part of God's story. Prophecy is often considered 'an Old Testament thing'. But it still has real power today, and God still inspires leadership, to bring our world towards his kingdom.

Services

SUNDAY 2ND DEC

9am Holy Communion
10am Advent Sunday services

WEDNESDAY 5TH DEC *

10.30am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 6TH DEC *

7.30pm Advent Service

SUNDAY 9TH DEC

9am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion

WEDNESDAY 12TH DEC *

10.30am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 13TH DEC *

7.30pm Advent Service

SUNDAY 16TH DEC

9am Holy Communion
10am Service of the Word

TUESDAY 18TH DEC *

7.30pm East Glendalough School carol service

WEDNESDAY 19TH DEC *

10.30am Holy Communion

* prayers for the sick



Thoughts For December

16 Dec - In the work of John the Baptist, he prepared people for the coming of Jesus. We hear how 'the people were filled with expectation'. We are constantly reassured that 'the Lord is near', and that in our own lives and experiences, we are guarded by the peace of Christ.

23 Dec - We know from the writer in Ecclesiastes that 'there is a time for everything', including a time to mourn. Christmas and its preparation is an emotionally charged season, and a time of great busyness, hustle and bustle. It can be hard to escape the relentless pressure to be joyful during 'the most wonderful time of the year'. However, for many of us, this season is a difficult one, in which a sense of loss can be more acute. This morning, we reflect on the Advent hope and longing, in a Blue Christmas service.

This evening is the traditional service of lessons and carols, in which the drama of the Christmas story unfolds before us.

24 Dec - The beautiful First Eucharist of Christmas is celebrated at midnight, as the time of expectation ends, and the incarnation becomes real.

25 Dec - Always a fun filled service, as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and the impact that still has today.

30 Dec - A joint service in Nuns Cross Church, as we gather as a united community to celebrate the ongoing glory of the Christmas season.

Services

THURSDAY 20TH DEC

7.30pm Advent Service

SUNDAY 23RD DEC

9am Holy Communion

10am Blue Christmas
reflective service

7pm Service of 9 lessons
and carols

MONDAY 24TH DEC

11.15pm First Eucharist of
Christmas

TUESDAY 25TH DEC

9am Holy Communion

10am Family Communion

SUNDAY 30TH DEC

9am Holy Communion

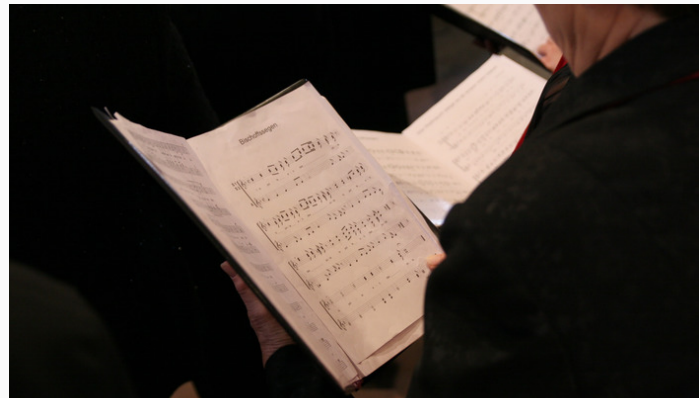
10am Joint Parishes service
(Killiskey)

December Events



Advent Services


In Advent there will be 3 reflective services, on Thursday 6th, 13th and 20th December, as we take some time out in preparation for the coming glory of the incarnation. These will be simple services, using slightly different forms of worship. They will begin at 7.30pm in Wicklow Parish church and will last approximately 25 minutes. Please come along to one or more of these services, for a time of quiet reflection as we prepare for the joyous celebration of Christmas



Choir

The choir will sing at the Carol Service, on 23 December, and at the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve. Previous singing experience is not necessary, and the ability to read music is not necessary! We will rehearse from 1130 - 1230 each Sunday. Please contact Jack if you are interested in joining in! 0861727654.

December Events



**WICKLOW PARISH
UNITED YOUTH**

Join us for games, sports, crafts, outings and most importantly fun!

STARTING BACK 06.10.18
6-7.30PM | EGS
FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
4TH - 6TH CLASS - 5 EURO PER CHILD

United Youth

United Youth will meet on 8 December, and we will have our Christmas outing – more details from Jack. We usually meet the first Saturday of the month. Games, sports, crafts, outings and most importantly fun is included for 5 euro per child.



Wicklow Parish Church Teen Youth Group

nuad

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON FAITH

Have you ever wondered what life is all about, how we got here or what happens next? Have you ever thought, how can God be good when we see so much trouble and uncertainty around us? NUAF might be perfect for you! All of these questions and more, discussed in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

18 year olds welcome. Split into two discussions, 1st—3rd year and 4th—6th year. Pizza for supper afterwards! All Welcome.

Venue: East Glendalough School
Time: 6.30-8pm
1st & 3rd Sunday per month
Start date: 16th September

WWW.NUAFILMSERIES.IE

SCRIPTURE UNION IRELAND

Teen Youth Group

We will meet on 2 Dec from 6.30-8pm in EGS. Anyone of secondary school age is welcome to attend. A huge thanks to those who contributed to the Shoebox Appeal in Nov. We filled almost 20 shoeboxes, and gave them to the Mothers' Union appeal, to go to a crèche in Darndale.

December Events



Church Decorating

Help wanted! We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 15 December, meeting at 10am. No experience necessary, and anyone able to help for any amount of time will be very welcome. Enquiries to Allyson on 086 8597423.

Christmas Gift Sale

Wicklow Parish will have a stand in the Christmas Market in the Abbey grounds, on December 8th, from 12 to 6pm. If anyone can contribute a cake, or any Christmas gifts in good condition, please speak to a member of the social and fundraising group, or contact Jack



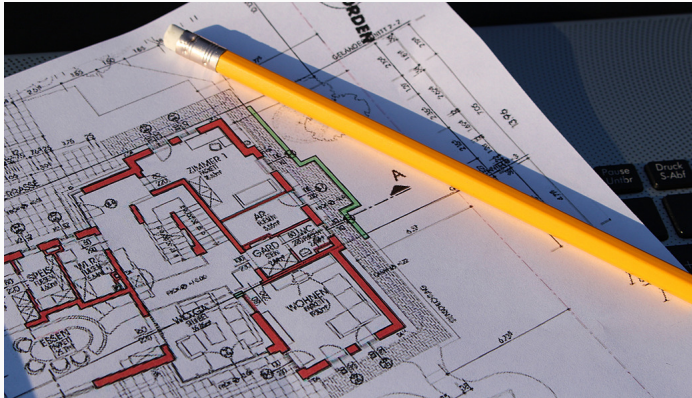
Ovoca Camp

The ever popular Ovoca weekend camp will run from 18-20 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!

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



Rectory update

A huge thanks to those who have contributed so far to the upgrade and refurbishment of the Rectory. The builder is continuing to make good progress. We are almost three quarters of the way to being able to fully finance the project without a loan from a financial institution, with interest. If you are in a position to offer financial support by way of a loan to the parish to help with this work, please contact:

John Clarke (parish treasurer):
0874127386 / john_l_clarke@msn.com;
Dirk van der Flier: 0872356304 /
dirkvdf@gmail.com; Shane Fingleton:
0862485045 /
shanefingleton@gmail.com.



Glebe Craft Fair

The ever popular Glebe Craft Fair will take place on Sunday 9 December, in the Glebe School, from 10am-5pm. Please support the fair – an opportunity to pick up some Christmas gifts, and browse around with a cup of tea / coffee after church!

Wake up Jamsie Lad – New Book of War Poetry

A new book of poems to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War has just been published. The publication was partly sponsored by Rev Jack Kinkead. The author is Belfast based Paul Gilmore. A limited number of copies are available from Jack for €6 / £5 and all proceeds will go to a charity which helps ex-service personnel. An ideal Christmas gift!



Direct Provision at the Grand Hotel

It was recently announced that the Grand Hotel will become a centre for Direct Provision, accommodating up to 100 people in emergency accommodation. Very little is known about the people who will come to Wicklow through Direct Provision, but we have an opportunity and an obligation to welcome newcomers: “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35.

On 26 November, some of Wicklow’s clergy, along with the founders of a new group, ‘Wicklow Welcomes’, met with the owner, and the general manager of the Grand Hotel, to talk about how our community can help those who will come to Wicklow through Direct Provision.

Wicklow Welcomes is a large and diverse group, with people from many different backgrounds, but we share a belief that kindness and compassion cost us nothing, while benefitting everyone.

The aim of the meeting was to talk to the hotel management to get a better idea about how we might be able to help. We want our support to come via a ‘ground up’ approach – i.e., to listen to

the stories of the people themselves, and identify areas of need. So, we are not in a position to call to the community for anything specific just yet, but we are so delighted that so many have offered us their support, which we know we can call on when it is needed.

Our main interest is to assist those who might seek our help, who are disorientated & who are vulnerable, who find themselves in Ireland, in our town. We consider ourselves global citizens, with a responsibility to respond to the needs of humanity, regardless of nationality. We are not getting involved in the politics of Direct Provision, or the rights and wrongs of commercial decisions. Our appeal to the community of Wicklow is: let us contribute positively to public discourse, regarding the plight of refugees and asylum seekers. Unfortunately, this is an imperfect world, and there are so many situations of need. However, we as a community have an opportunity to bring some comfort and hope to one situation of need, and an opportunity to challenge negativity and suspicion, with love.

For users of Facebook, search for ‘Wicklow Welcomes’, and keep an eye out for updates. For those who do not use Facebook, please contact Jack.

December Events



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 23rd 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.



Birthday Celebrations!

Peter and Shelagh Norton both celebrate their 80th birthdays in December! Both scholars of Trinity College, Dublin, they had a varied ministry in different parts of the mainland UK, before retiring to Wicklow. We are delighted to have them in the parish, and appreciate the many ways they support us here. From everyone in Wicklow Parish, all together now: Happy birthday to you...

December Events



Surrounding Parish Events - Nun's Cross Church

Friday 14th - 6.30pm Nun's Cross School Carol Service

Sunday 16th - 7.00pm Service of Seven Lessons with Carols followed by Mince Tarts and Mulled Wine

Christmas Day - 9.00am Christmas Holy Communion and 11.00am Christmas Family Communion

Sunday 30th - 11.00am Joint Holy Communion Service (in Nun's Cross)

WinterSong Concert by Tonos

A concert of Christmas music of the 16-18th centuries for Voice, Lute, Renaissance and Baroque Guitars will be played in Nun's Cross Church 8pm 15 December. Tonos consists of Róisín O'Grady – Soprano and Eamon Sweeney – Renaissance and Baroque Guitars, Renaissance Lute

Alpha Course

Plans are afoot to organise an Alpha Course for early in the New Year in conjunction with Ashford parish. Alpha is an 11 week course, one day away mid-way on the Holy Spirit.

Each weekly session includes a 25 minute lecture/video, 30 minute time in table groups or small group discussion, a bit of food/tea - basically providing an atmosphere conducive to participation, discussion and learning more clearly key principles in the Christian faith.

Bruce Alwood is the instigator and he is looking for volunteers who might assist in the planning of the course. If you can assist, please let either Bruce (087 2547538) or Rev Ken know.

Table Tennis Club

The Table Tennis club meets in the Nun's Cross school assembly room (downstairs in the new classroom block) on Wednesdays at 8pm. If you are interested in playing, please contact Rev Ken (087 2766590) or Lesley Rue (087 2810478).

December Events



Surrounding Parish Events - St. Patrick's Church

Wicklow Christmas Together Community Dinner

Tickets are now on sale and selling fast for the annual Wicklow Christmas Together Community Dinner taking place on the Christmas Day from 1pm - 5pm (dinner at 2pm) in the Parochial Hall Wicklow Town. Christmas is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, but it can be hard if you are facing it alone or away from loved ones in another country. Tickets are €5 each or €10 for a family and include a full Christmas dinner, along with music, dancing, a sing-song and a bit of craic!

It is a non-religious event and will cater for young and old, singles, couples and small families. Transport to and from the venue also available. Tickets available from Earls newsagent, Track One or the Wings Angel shop Wicklow Town. You can also contact Lauren Keogh @ 0877665131 or lmckeogh@gmail.com If any local businesses wish to contribute to the event they can also contact Lauren.

Wicklow Male Voice Choir

The Wicklow Male Voice Choir "Christmas Magic Concert" will take place on December 16th at 8pm in St. Patricks Church. Tickets are 15 euro and are available from Earls Newsagents

RTE Concert Orchestra Christmas Special

The RTE Concert Orchestra Christmas Special will be held on 8pm Friday 21st December in St. Patricks Church. Tickets are 20 euro and are available for the Parish office.

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

As each parish in the Church of Ireland is financially self-sustaining, we can only function financially through the good will of our parishioners. Any parishioners, who have not yet entered a planned contribution scheme, please speak to Philip Hastie (parish recorder) or John Clarke (hon. treasurer - 0874127386). If you have parish envelopes, cash or cheques placed on the collection plate can be recorded. Alternatively, there are standing order forms available in church. If a taxpayer donates €250 or more per year (and we can trace the donations through the envelope scheme or standing order) we can claim a further 45% of the amount through the government's charity tax relief scheme. The details of any person's contributions are kept completely confidential. This income is used to maintain the ministry of a full time Rector, to maintain the beautiful church building, and to provide resources for parish activities, such as Sunday Club, Messy Church and youth clubs, as well as church services. Please consider the parish as part of your financial plan.

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 Father

We pray for this Christmastime, that it would be filled with light and not darkness, that it would be filled with peace and not tension, that it would be a time of healing and restoration, that it would be a time of excitement and hope as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, our Infant King,

Amen

