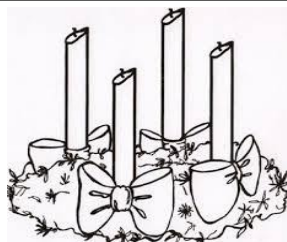


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Drumlish & Ballinamuck Parish Newsletter



*Always try to drive so
your license will expire
before you do*

4th Sunday of Advent - (B)ô 21st December 2014

Mass Intentions—St. Mary's Drumlish

Sat 8.00: Pat/Annie Monaghan & Gillooley dfm
Sun 11.00: Philomena Gray, Hill St.
Mon 9.30: Misa Pro Populo
Wed 9.00: James Patrick/Mary Dunleavy
Thur 11.00: John Davis
Fri 8.00: Corrigan/McKenna Deceased
Sat 8.00: James Creegan
Sun 11.00: Peter Wallace, Church View

Mass Intentions—St. Patrick's Ballinamuck

Sun 10.00: Brian/Marlyn McDermott & dfm
Wed 9.30 p.m.: Christmas Vigil Mass
Thur 10.00: Patrick Ginty & Dfm
Sun 10.00: Philip/Mamie Martin & Dfm
Seamus Quinn & dfm, Lettergunnell

Note: Confessions & Adoration after Friday Mass

Ministries—St. Mary's Drumlish

Readers	Xmas Eve:	Kathleen Dunleavy
	Xmas Day:	Elizabeth Devlin
	Sat:	Siobhan Egan
	Sun:	Orla Devlin
Communion	Xmas Eve	Irene McNally
	Xmas Day	Mary Gillooley
	Sat:	Kathleen Gill
	Sun:	Pat Corrigan

Ministries—St. Patrick's Ballinamuck

Readers	Sun:	Chantel Connell
Communion	Sun:	Bridie Reilly

Money Matters

Drumlish p1,187; Ballinamuck p578

***Choir Practice at 8.30 on Tuesday night next
in Church - All choir members please attend.***

Mass Arrangements for Christmas

Drumlish	Christmas Eve 9.00 p.m. Christmas Day 9.30 & 11.00 a.m.
Ballinamuck	Christmas Eve 9.00 p.m. Christmas Day 10.00 a.m.

Christmas Confessions

Penance Service/Confessions for the Christmas will be as follows:

- Sunday 21st Drumlish at 7.30 p.m.
- Monday 22nd Newtownforbes at 7.00 p.m.

There will be a number of priests hearing confessions on those dates.

Ballinamuck Bingo

Extra Christmas prizes on every page at bingo next Tuesday night 23rd @ 8.30pm. Also raffle for a 22inch Colour TV/DVD and a Christmas hamper. A special guest will visit from the North Pole! Please come along your support would be greatly appreciated

Safeguarding Message from Bishop Francis

- During this season of Advent many children will be involved in preparations for Christmas liturgies. It is a special time for them and for their families. I wish to thank our Safeguarding Representatives in the forty-one parishes for their work in ensuring the safety of children in all church related activities.
- I encourage anyone with concerns regarding the safety of children or anyone who suffered in the past to contact our Designated Persons: Sean Leydon (087-7431649) or Róisín O'Doherty (087-3327587) or An Garda Síochána or Tusla.

Pop Up Christmas Craft Shop

St. Christopher's Services - Pop Up Christmas Craft Shop open in Longford Shopping Centre 16-20 Dec.

'The Meaning of Marriage'

'The Meaning of Marriage' is a pastoral statement from the Irish Catholic Bishops and is available at the back of the Church. It is the Church's response to the debate taking place re: the re-defining of marriage as understood over the centuries. You can download it at: <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2014/12/03/meaning-marriage/>

2015 Offertory/Dues Envelopes

The envelopes for the various collections for 2015 are now available. To cut back on expenses, envelopes will only be issued to those who used them last year. Those who don't use the envelope system but who wish to support the priests of parish are asked to use the special envelopes available at the back of the church prior to Dues Collections. Please note that:

- your number may change from year to year;
- if you don't receive a packet of envelopes but would like to, contact any of the priests or a member of the pastoral council;
- by using the envelope system, it is possible for the parish, under the charities act, to reclaim the taxes that you may have paid for the benefit of the parish.

Longford County Choir

Longford County Choir present their Christmas Celebration Concert at St. Mel's Cathedral Centre on Sunday evening 21st December at 7pm sharp. Tickets available at door or from any choir member.

Celebrating New Life

In conjunction with the beginning of the new year and the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (11th Jan 2015) we invite all those baptised over the past year with their parents to celebrate the gift of new life at our Sunday Mass in Drumlish & Ballinamuck on 11th January. Please note this date in your diary.

County Longford Social Services

The annual church gate collection for County Longford Social Services will be held this Sat/Sun 20th/21st December. Please support.

The St Vincent's AGM

The AGM will be held on the 3rd January 2015 in Monaduff Clubhouse at 8.30pm. We hope to see a good attendance and especially as many parents as possible. We look forward to your support in 2015.

Christmas Message 2014 from Bishop Francis

This Christmas St Mel's Cathedral will be reopened after five years. We have been looking forward to this joyful occasion since the scenes of devastation at Christmas 2009. Since then many have been involved in the restoration project and many have given their support and their encouragement to the mammoth project. When the newly restored St Mel's opens its doors at Christmas it will be like returning to a much loved sacred space.

Another sacred space for all of us at Christmas is our home with family and friends. For some families Christmas will not be the same because of the absence of family members who are abroad. For some death will have left an empty place at the table. Christmas is about 'God with us'. May Jesus be particularly close to those who miss and who mourn family members and friends at this time.

The story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem reminds us of God's very close relationship with each person. In our Cathedral and in our parish churches we will listen to the moving story of God sharing his life with humanity, God becoming one of us and remaining with us. My prayer is that the Bethlehem story of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and God's continuing presence with you, will bring you and your family hope, joy and peace this Christmas.

The priests of the parish wish you, your families and visitors a happy and peaceful Christmas