



# Monaleen Parish *Newsletter*

**Church of St Mary Magdalene, Monaleen Road, Castletroy, V94 E3C8**

*'We seek to create an inclusive community, where all are welcome'*

Parish Office: +353 61 338340 (Tue & Thu 8am -12.45pm)  
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## Fourth Sunday of Advent - A



**18 December 2022**

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

*'Emmanuel - God is with us'*  
(Mt 1:18-24)

It took time for Joseph to accept the fact that, in Mary, there truly was Emmanuel - God with us. Joseph was uncertain about what he should do. It took time, and help, for him to discern what his next steps should be. Mary bore Jesus within her, unseen to all, and unacknowledged by most. In Joseph she found one who believed in the treasure that she bore.

God is with us now, but at times we struggle to perceive God's presence. Where have you unexpectedly discovered the presence of 'God with you'? Give thanks for the angels who helped you along the way.

### Advent Prayer

*Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations  
for Christmas.*

*We who have so much to do,  
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice  
each day.*

*We who are anxious over many things  
look forward to your coming among us.*

*We who are blessed in so many ways  
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.*

*We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of  
your presence.*

*We are your people, walking in darkness,  
yet seeking the light.*

*To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"*

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Sat 17 - Sun 25 Dec**

### This Weekend

Sat	19.00	Patricia O' Toole and her Dad, Cornelius Maher D.M. of the Swan and Larkin Families Martin Corrigan
Sun	10.00	Special Intention Michael O' Neill (1st A)
	11.30	Iris Walters Bruce Basheer

### Weekdays

Tue	09.45	Evelyn Reidy
Wed	09.45	Pro Populo
Thu	09.45	Philomena Yelverton
Fri	09.45	Helen O' Gorman & Special Intention

### Next Weekend

Christmas Eve	17.00	Children's Mass	
	19.00	Special Intention Annette Collins (M.M.)	
	21.00	Pro Populo	
Christmas Day	10.00	Patrick & Catherine Condon Denis & Bridget Toomey	
	11.30	Pat & Tommy Sheahan & D.M. of Sheahan and McKnight Families D.M. of O' Brien and Hurley Families Tom Gavin	

### Christmas Week

No Mass on Mon 26 & Tue 27 Dec  
Intentions: Wed 28 Carol Lucas,  
Thu 29 Biddy Ryan, Fri 30 Special Int.

## Faith Community News

### Fáilte/Welcome

This weekend we celebrate the Baptisms of Benjamin (Ben) Murphy. We welcome Ben into the Christian family and congratulate his family on this happy occasion.

### Congratulations

Heartiest congratulations to Saoirse Casey, daughter of Mary and Liam, Old School House Road, and Michael Storan, son of Ena and Brendan, Elsinore, Castletroy, who celebrated their wedding in the Abbey Church, Adare, on Saturday 17th Dec. We wish Saoirse and Michael a long and happy life together.

### Fuel for the Poor

The annual church gate collection last weekend in aid of 'Fuel for the Poor' organised by the Knights of Saint Columbanus, raised €919.10. The organiser would like to thank everyone for their generosity. Proceeds will be distributed through parishes to assist in providing fuel for those in need during the winter.

### Our Sacristans say Thanks

James and Joan would like to thank everyone for their generosity towards their collection last week.

### Christmas Dues 2022

Envelopes for Christmas Dues are now available in the Church. The 'Dues' collection goes towards your priest's salary and will be collected at all Masses on Christmas Eve/Day. Your support is much appreciated.

### Planned Giving Envelopes '23

Boxes of Planned Giving Envelopes will be distributed at the back of the Church before/after all Masses this weekend. It would be helpful for a speedy collection if you have your old box number with you. (Your number remains the same). Registration cards are still available at the exits.

### Christmas Volunteers

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with the upcoming Christmas Masses. Help is still most welcome.

## Community News

### Monaleen GAA

Monaleen will play in the All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Semi-Final against Bray Emmetts this Sunday, 18th Dec, at 1am in Tullamore. Best of luck to all involved.

### Christmas Blood Donations

At Christmas, is it better to give than receive? In the run up to Christmas and over the holiday period we hope people will make time to give blood.

Venue: Castletroy Park Hotel

Sunday 18th Dec. 11:45 - 15:00  
Monday 19th Dec. 16:15 - 19:30  
& Tuesday 20th Dec. 16:15 - 19:30

Tel 1800 222 111 to book appointment



### Card to Jesus

This year all children are invited to send Jesus a Birthday Card.

Return cards to; Baby Jesus Post Box, Monaleen Church, Castletroy, Limerick.

## For your Diary

- ◆ **Tue 20 Dec. 7.30pm**  
Christmas Reconciliation Service  
Milford Church - All Welcome!
- ◆ **Sat 24 Dec Christmas Eve Mass Times**  
5pm Children's Music/Choir  
7pm Cantamus Choir  
9pm Parish Choir
- ◆ **Sun 25 Dec Christmas Day Mass Times**  
10am Folk/Trad Music  
Musicians welcome & music provided  
11.30am Parish Choir

### Christmas Cards & Calendars

You are welcome to take Christmas Cards, Parish Calendars and Dues Envelopes home for family, neighbours and friends. Thank you!