

From the Parish & Cluster

FAMILY CIRCLE Cards are in circulation.

IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS Mass will be celebrated at 7pm in St Bernadette's Chapel, Rockwood Parade from 15th to 23rd December. This is a Filipino tradition known as the Nine Days of Christmas. All are most welcome to come along and join this joyful preparation for the coming of Christ.

SLIGO ORPHEUS CHOIR presents "Carols by Candlelight" in Holy Cross Friary, Sligo on Sunday 15th December at 8.00pm. Concert is free with a retiring collection in aid of North West Hospice.

BINGO in the Gillooly Hall on Sundays from 9pm with refreshments available. All welcome.

THE WAY OF GENTLENESS A personal enrichment journey for Advent in Saint Patrick's Church, Strandhill starting at 8.00pm on Monday 16th December.

GROW MEETING for people with depression in St. Michael's Family Life Centre, Church Hill on Tuesdays at 10.30am and Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Info-line 1890 474474.

KEEP FIT CLASSES Body & Soul - A workout for the whole you. Classes in the Gillooly Hall every Tuesday at 8pm. €5 per session. All funds to Sligo Cathedral Restoration Fund.

HOLY HILL HERMITAGE, Skreen, Co. Sligo. Mass will be held on Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24th December) at 8.00pm followed by gathering in the library. www.holyhill.ie

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES April-October 2020 7 Night Stay and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further information and book the dates that suit you. Telephone 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

From the Diocese

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK ON VOCATION The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch. (Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2019)

MEDJUGORJE YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE LED BY BISHOP KEVIN DORAN from 15/16 – 22/23 July 2020.

The Pilgrimage is open to young adults age between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of travel. The cost per person sharing is €650. For more information, detail of costs, registration form etc. please see the diocesan website on www.elphindiocese.ie/medjugorje2020 or contact Frank McGuinness, Director of Young Adult Ministry, on 087 9880690 or frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie. €50 discount for those who book before 30th January 2020. The Diocese would be very grateful to anyone who would be in a position to contribute towards the cost of sending a young adult on this very worthwhile pilgrimage. Our young people need encouragement and a reduced fare is always more appealing. Please contact Frank if you are able to help in any way with this mission.

NEW PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME 2020 Elphin Youth & Young Adult Ministry is planning to run a New and Reformatted Parish Youth Ministry Leadership Training Course in order to offer parishes the opportunity to have trained parish volunteers who will be in a position to support their priest and parish with youth and young adult ministry. The course will run between January 2020 and December 2021 over 9 weekends. The venue for the course will be Knock Shrine. All details and Application Form are available on the Diocesan Website at <https://www.elphindiocese.ie/youthministryleadershiptraining2020/>. Deadline for applications is 20th December 2019.

For more information please get in touch with Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry on 087 9880690 or frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie

ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP RESOURCES available to download at www.elphindiocese.ie/advent Can also be used for private prayer. All welcome to use.

SHORT ADVENT REFLECTIONS by Fr. Niall Ahern available to listen and to podcast at

www.elphindiocese.ie/advent-reflections Oriented toward people who experience this as a busy time of year.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS AT DONAMON CASTLE On Sundays 15th & 22nd December at 5.00pm an Advent candle-lit service will be held at the Divine Word Missionaries, Donamon to help us prepare for Christmas. This is an ideal opportunity to spend time in stillness, prayer, reflection, song and adoration. Advent Devotion offers us the sacred space we need to prepare internally for the renewal of the Birth of Christ in our lives. Advent is the Season of Hope, "a light has broken into our darkness". What better way to prepare for Christmas than to withdraw for a moment from the hustle and bustle of what the commercial world is offering and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Christmas.

ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR The online Advent Calendar offers resources for the parish, school and the home which are available behind a virtual door each day during the season of Advent. Behind each door there is content aimed at assisting people to pray and to reflect on how best we can keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas preparations during this special liturgical season. The calendar has family prayers and suggestions for #LivingAdvent – acts of kindness or charity that all of us are encouraged to undertake during the month of December. The Advent Calendar will also share tips on how families can care for our common home by having a more sustainable Christmas. www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar/

SUPPORT FOR BEREAVED PARENTS Anam Cara Mayo, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday 17th December at 7.20pm in the T. F. Royal Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 085 2888888 with any queries.



CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SLIGO NEWSLETTER

Sunday 15th December 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Elphin
Diocesan
Year of
Prayer for
Vocations

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The coming of Christ brought joy to the world as He healed every sickness and overcame human deprivation. For those who suffer, the joy of Christ's first coming must be tempered by patience as they await their restoration at his Second Coming.

ADVENT JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree is a way of reflecting on the key people who prefigure the coming ('adventus') of Jesus.

ADVENT JESSE TREE WEEK THREE SYMBOLS:

The Staff symbol represents JESSE

The Lyre Key & Star symbols represent DAVID

The Temple & Jerusalem symbols represent SOLOMON

ADVENT PRAYER: Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan, you sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of your Son. Help me to hear his words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THANK YOU

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all who supported our Christmas Fair held in the Gillooly Hall last weekend. The total raised was €10,500. We wish to acknowledge the contribution of our entire Parish Community and our very generous Sponsors. Well done to all involved. Deep gratitude.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

in Holy Cross Friary on Tuesday, 17th December at 7.30pm.

Confessions will take place in the Cathedral on Saturday 21st December from 2pm to 4pm and Tuesday 24th December from 2pm to 5pm.

CLEANING OF THE INSIDE OF OUR CATHEDRAL

will take place on Friday, 20th December at 7.00pm. All welcome to help.

SUNDAY NEXT

SLIGO CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE

will take place on Sunday, 22nd December at 8.15pm.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Parish office will close on Friday 20th December at 2pm and reopen on Monday 6th January 2020 at 9.30am.

PRIEST ON DUTY: Fr. Victor Samugana

TODAY - Sunday 15th December

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY

8.30am Mass

10.30am Mass: (Children's Liturgy included.)

12noon Mass

7pm Mass: Tea after Mass in Upper Room

BINGO in the GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT, SUNDAY 15th December at 9.00pm with a JACKPOT of €1,700

Monday 16th December

8.00am Mass: Greta Dunleavy (First Anniversary)

10.30am Mass: Patrick Kennedy (Anniversary)

7.30pm: Choir Practice

Rosary every weekday morning at 10.00am.

Tuesday 17th December

8.00am Mass: Susan Murray (Anniversary)

10.30am Mass: Bridget, Bertie & Martin Wallace and the Burrows family (Anniversary)

7.30pm: Reconciliation service in Holy Cross Friary.

8.30pm-10.00pm: Prayer Group in St. Michael's Family Life Centre

Wednesday 18th December

Today's Feast Day: St. Flannan

8.00am Mass

10.30am Mass: Paddy Slevin (Anniversary)

Tea after 10.30am Mass

8.00pm: Prayer Meeting in Gillooly Hall.

Adoration in St. Bernadette's Chapel, Rockwood Parade, Monday to Saturday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Thursday 19th December

8.00am Mass: Mark Rooney Remembrance Mass

10.30am Mass: Imelda Gilmartin (Anniversary)

6.30pm-8.00pm: I Thirst Movement in St. Bernadette's Chapel, Rockwood Parade

8.00pm: Legion of Mary Meeting in Assumpta House, 72 John St.

Friday 20th December

Today's Feast Day: St. Fachanan

8.00am Mass: Patrick Fallon (Anniversary)

10.30am Mass: Frank & Mary Murphy (Anniversary)

3.00pm-4.00pm: Divine Mercy Holy Hour in Nazareth Nursing Home Oratory.

7.00pm: Cleaning of the inside of the Cathedral. All welcome to help.

Saturday 21st December

Today's Feast Day: St. Peter Canisius

8.00am Mass: Michael & Delia Mulholland (Anniversary)

10.30am Mass: Ernie Higgins (Month's Mind)

2.00pm to 4.00pm: Confessions

7.30pm Vigil Mass: Bernard (Bertie) Devins (Month's Mind)

This week's newsletter is sponsored in memory of our Cathedral builders.

Sunday Readings for 22nd December

1st Reading: Is. 7:10-14; 2nd Reading: Rom. 1:1-7; Gospel: Matt. 1:18-24.

rest in peace

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of:

TERRY MULLIGAN, late of Castlebaldwin & formerly Limerick.

May God grant him eternal rest and comfort and console his bereaved family and friends.

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30a.m. to 4.00p.m.

& Friday 9.30a.m. to 2.00p.m.

Phone: 071 9162670

Email: info@sligocathedral.ie

Restoration Fund website: www.saveaslate.com

Join us online with live WEB STREAMING on our website: www.sligocathedral.ie

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday 8th December

PARISH ENVELOPES: €943.00

PLATE / STANDING ORDERS: €1,370.00

RESTORATION FUND COIN BOXES: €319.00

NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP

Dear Parishioners, If you would like to sponsor our newsletter, personally or as a remembrance or thanksgiving, the fee is **€50**. Please call to the sacristan in the Cathedral or the parish office in St. Mary's Presbytery, Temple Street or telephone on 071 9162670.

THANK YOU for your support of our Parish and Cathedral.