

## From the Parish & Cluster

**FAMILY CIRCLE** Cards are in circulation.

**ADVENT JESSE TREE** The Jesse Tree is a way of reflecting on the key people who prefigure the coming ('adventus') of Jesus. Symbols for **WEEK FOUR** of the **ADVENT JESSE TREE** are: The Hammer and Saw symbols represent JOSEPH; The Crown symbol represents MARY; The Manger, Chi-Rho and Palm Tree symbols represent JESUS.

**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.

**IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS** Mass will be celebrated at 7pm in St Bernadette's Chapel, Rockwood Parade from 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**CHRISTMAS ON OCEAN FM** We are pleased to announce that our Carol Service this evening (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>) starting at 8.15pm will be transmitted LIVE on Ocean FM. **Our 10.30am Mass on Christmas Day will also be broadcast Live on Ocean FM.** We thank Ocean FM for this wonderful opportunity to unite with all who tune in to these services.

**BINGO** Please join in the fun tonight (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>) from 9pm in the Gillooly Hall. This is our last Bingo in 2019. (Bingo resumes on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020.)

**HOLY HILL HERMITAGE**, Skreen, Co. Sligo. Mass will be held on Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December) at 8.00pm followed by gathering in the library. [www.holyhill.ie](http://www.holyhill.ie)

**CHRISTMAS DAY OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY** This collection is one of four each year for this purpose. The other three are Easter, Pentecost and Autumn. The hope is that these collections raise sufficient funds to pay the agreed monthly salary to priests. Unfortunately the three collections have fallen well short of the required figure. We thank you for your generous support.

**KEEP FIT CLASSES** Body & Soul - A workout for the whole you. Classes in the Gillooly Hall will resume on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8pm. €5 per session. All funds to Sligo Cathedral Restoration Fund.

**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 to book the dates that suit you. Telephone 01 4434510 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com)

## From the Diocese

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK ON VOCATION** The Lord's call – let it be said at the outset – is not as clear-cut as any of those things we can hear, see or touch in our daily experience. God comes silently and discreetly, without imposing on our freedom. Thus it can happen that his voice is drowned out by the many worries and concerns that fill our minds and hearts. (Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2018)

**FAMILY RETREAT DAY** with Living Family on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in Summerhill College, Sligo. Registration at 10am - Closing 6pm. Suggested Donation per family is €80. Refreshments and Lunch Included. To book your family call Therese on 086 8228174 or email [info@livingfamily.ie](mailto:info@livingfamily.ie)

**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](http://www.elphindiocese.ie/medjugorje2020) or contact Frank McGuinness, Director of Young Adult Ministry, on 087 9880690 or [frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie](mailto:frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie). €50 discount for those who book before 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ARISE – Young Adult (18+) National Event** takes place in Knock Shrine on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020. There will be inspirational speakers, music, celebration, fun, a chance to meet with other young adults and much more. Registration is from 10am and the day will finish at 4.30pm. Cost €10. For more information, booking, etc. **Please contact Frank McGuinness**, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Elphin by Text, Whatsapp, phonecall, etc. to 087 9880690 or email: [frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie](mailto:frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie) For up to date information please see Diocesan Website at <https://www.elphindiocese.ie/arise/>

**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/>. Application & Registration will remain open until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. For more information please get in touch with Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry by phone: 087 9880690 or email: [frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie](mailto:frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie)



# CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SLIGO NEWSLETTER

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Elphin  
Diocesan  
Year of  
Prayer for  
Vocations

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It was through Our Lady's faith and perfect obedience to God's will that Christ was born, the promised Emmanuel, God-with-us. God continues to be with us if we receive His Son in faith.

## BISHOP KEVIN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"During this Christmas season, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the focus is not only on the child, but on the family into which He is born. My thoughts turn to families in our own Diocese who have welcomed the birth of a child during this past year and to those who are expecting a baby in the near future. I ask God's blessing on you in a particular way this Christmas. My prayer for all our parishioners and for your family members and friends overseas, is that you may experience that peace in your own hearts and homes this Christmas and in the year ahead". Bishop Kevin's message for Christmas is available to read and listen to in full at

[www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie)

## CHRISTMAS 2019 TIMETABLE

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE:** This evening, SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER at 8.15pm

MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER: Mass at 8.00am & 10.30am

**CHRISTMAS EVE – TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

Mass at 8.00am & 10.30am

2.00pm to 5.00pm **CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS**

9.30pm CAROLS

10.00pm VIGIL Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:** MASSES at 8.30am, 10.30am & 12.00noon

**ST. STEPHEN'S DAY THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:** Mass at 10.30 a.m.

FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> December: Mass at 10.30am

SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> December: Masses at 10.30am & Vigil 7.30pm. (No Confessions)

SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER: Masses at 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.00noon & 7.00pm

MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER: Mass at 10.30am

**NEW YEAR'S EVE TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**

10.30am Mass

10.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

11.30pm Special New Year's Eve Mass

**NEW YEAR'S DAY WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2020:** 11.00am **MASS FOR PEACE**

THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY: MASS at 10.30am

FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY: Masses at 10.30am & 7.00pm First Friday Mass

SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY: Masses at 10.30am & Vigil 7.30pm & Confessions: 2.00pm–4.00pm

SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY: Masses at 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.00noon & 7.00pm

**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY:** Masses at 8.00am, 10.30am & 7.00pm

FROM TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY: Weekday Masses at 8.00am & 10.30am

## CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Parish office is currently closed and will reopen on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 9.30am.

**TODAY - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**8.30am Mass**

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

**12noon Mass**

**7pm Mass**

**8.15pm: Christmas Carol Service**

**BINGO in the GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT, SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 9.00pm  
with a JACKPOT of €1,750**

**This is our last Bingo in 2019. (Bingo resumes on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020.)**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

**Today's Feast Day: St. John of Kanty**

**8.00am Mass: Kathleen Buckley (Anniversary)**

**10.30am Mass: Denis & Aileen Foley & Des  
Sherry (Anniversary)**

**7.30pm: Choir Practice**

**Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

will close after 10.30am Mass  
today, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
and reopen after 10.30am Mass  
on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**Christmas Eve Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**8.00am Mass: Special Intention**

**10.30am Mass: Maureen Mullen (Anniversary)**

**2.00pm-5.00pm: Christmas Confessions in the Cathedral**

**9.30pm Carols**

**10.00pm Vigil Mass**

**Christmas Day Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Today's Feast Day: The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**8.30am Mass**

**10.30am Mass**

**12noon Mass**

**St. Stephen's Day Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**Today's Feast Day: St. Stephen**

**10.30am Mass: Phil Boyle & Sean Boyle & Deceased Boyle & Durkin families (Anniversary)**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**Today's Feast Day: St. John**

**10.30am Mass: Brigid & Ned Kilfeather (Anniversary)**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

**Today's Feast Day: The Holy Innocents**

**10.30am Mass**

**7.30pm Vigil Mass**

This week's newsletter  
is sponsored in memory of  
deceased members of  
Higgins & Kilbride families.

**Sunday Readings for 29<sup>th</sup> December**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Eccles. (Sir.) 3:2-6. 12-14;**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Col. 3:12-17;**

**Gospel: Matt. 2:13-15. 19-23.**

**Parish Office:** will reopen on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 9.30am.

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](mailto:info@sligocathedral.ie)

Restoration Fund website: [www.saveaslate.com](http://www.saveaslate.com)

Join us online with live WEB STREAMING on our website: [www.sligocathedral.ie](http://www.sligocathedral.ie)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**PARISH ENVELOPES: €1,739.00**

**PLATE / STANDING ORDERS: €1,347.00**

**RESTORATION FUND COIN BOXES: €356.00**

**THANK YOU** for your support of our Parish and Cathedral.