



SEASONS GREETINGS FOR 2025

Christmas is a time to be thankful for our many gifts and blessings. With joyful heart we take time to delight in it all to God and to one another. As we celebrate this Christmas in 2025, the weight of our world's challenges: with conflict of war, the cost-of-living, housing and high rate of renting, climate change, issues of refugee and uncertainty rests heavily upon us. Yet, amidst the turmoil and hopelessness, the season reminds us of the enduring strength of hope, compassion, courage and togetherness. During the season of Advent and Christmas, where the glow of candles in the window welcomes the weary traveller, we are reminded of the enduring power of céad míle fáilte - a hundred thousand welcomes - even in the face of the storms that surround us.

In this season of Christmas, we are invited to pause and reflect on the profound simplicity of Mary and Joseph as they welcomed Jesus into the world in a humble manger. With no comfort, security, or certainty, they trusted God completely. Their quiet faith reminds us that God's greatest gift came not through power or wealth, but through obedience, humility, simplicity and love. The birth of Jesus reveals a deep mystery in a very humane way that we can identify with our human conditions. God chose to enter human history in vulnerability. Born as a helpless and dependent baby, Jesus embraced our human state fully. He knew hunger, cold, fear, and the need for care. In the fragility of the infant in the manger, we see a God who draws close to the broken, the poor, and the forgotten. In the current situation of our world today - marked by war, displacement, injustice, fear, and uncertainty - this message of the manger speaks more loudly than ever. It challenges a world that values strength, control, and self-sufficiency, and instead calls us to compassion, mercy, and trust in God. The manger becomes a sign of hope, reminding us that light can shine even in the darkest places.

As we celebrate Christmas, may we learn from the simplicity of Mary and Joseph, and from the vulnerability of the Christ Child. May we open our hearts to those who are suffering, become bearers of peace, and choose love over indifference. May the humble birth of Jesus renew our faith and inspire us to build a world rooted in justice, humility, and hope. It is with great joy we acknowledge the goodness and the hard work of so many in different ways bringing life and growth to our Parish.

We sincerely thank our Sacristans, Secretaries, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors and Counters, Stewards, Altar Servers, Altar ladies' group, Organists, Choirs, Cantors and those who are involved in sacramental preparation, all those who help out the day-to-day maintenance of the churches, grounds and hall, Lotto committee, all those who support and contribute our parish financially and those who support us through on line, helpers and promoters and our Parish shop team, Parish finance and Pastoral Committees, Principals, Teachers and Boards of Management going an extra mile. With immense joy and gratitude, we acknowledge all the members who willingly came forward to support our new project of Parish Centre. We also remember, those whom we lost during this year, especially Liz Byrne.

We look forward to ministering with you in the coming year. May this Holy Season bring abundant blessings your way. May the blessings of the season find you, and may the spirit of hope, love, and renewal carry us all into a brighter 2026. Wishing you a Christmas filled with purpose, connection and enduring grace.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh!

Fr. George & Fr. Kolwani

MASSES FOR FORTNIGHT

St. Coca's, Kilcock

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|---------------------------|---------|--|----------------------------------|
| Wed, 24 th Dec | 5pm | Christmas Children's Mass | |
| | 9pm | Christmas Vigil Mass | |
| Thu, 25 th Dec | 9am | Christmas Day | |
| | 12 noon | Christmas Day | |
| Fri, 26 th Dec | 12 noon | Pat & Annie McLoughlin (Anniv) & remembering all deceased family members John & Lil Bermingham (Anniv) & remembering all deceased family members Ciara O'Brien, Branganstown (Remembrance) Dolores Grier, Pitchfordstown (Remembrance) Members of the Legion of Mary | |
| Sat, 27 th Dec | 6pm | Patrick Richardson, Old Bog Road (Anniv) & remembering Gerry Richardson & his son Eamonn Maurice & Breege Wren (Anniv) & all deceased family members Martin Byrne & deceased members of the Byrne family, Kilduff | |
| Sun, 28 th Dec | 9am | John & Kathleen Kenny & remembering their son Eamon (Remembrance) | |
| | 12 noon | Eleanor "Nuala" Mahon (1 st Anniv) Rosie Cummins, Gragadder (Anniv) & remembering her sons Dick & Michael | |
| Mon, 29 th Dec | 12 noon | Shared Mass for the Living | NO <i>Adoration</i> |
| Tue, 30 th Dec | 12 noon | Shared Mass for the Deceased | |
| Wed, 31 st Dec | 12 noon | Deceased members of the Cuddy & Tighe families | |
| | 7pm | New Year's Day Vigil Christy Noonan, Highfield Park (25 th Anniv) | |
| Thu, 1 st Jan | 12 noon | Edward Bryne (1 st Anniv) | NO <i>Adoration</i> |
| Fri, 2 nd Jan | 12 noon | | |
| Sat, 3 rd Jan | 6pm | Una & Patrick Melia (Anniv) & remembering their daughter, Mary Ferris & daughter-in-law Kathleen | |
| Sun, 4 th Jan | 9am | | |
| | 12 noon | Joe Cassidy, Highfield Park (2 nd Anniv) Anne Lynam, Highfield Park (Anniv) & remembering Gary (late of Highfield) Fr. Jack McWey, former P.P. (Anniv) Gwen Leavy (Anniv) | |
| Mon, 5 th Jan | 10am | Shared Mass for the Living | <i>Adoration 10.30am-11.30am</i> |
| Tue, 6 th Jan | 10am | Shared Mass for the Deceased | |
| Wed, 7 th Jan | 10am | | |
| Thu, 8 th Jan | 10am | | |
| Fri, 9 th Jan | 10am | | |

Church of the Nativity, Newtown

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| Wed, 24 th Dec | 7pm | Christmas Vigil Mass | |
| Thu, 25 th Dec | 10.30am | Christmas Day | |
| Sun, 28 th Dec | 10.30am | Peter & Tom Halligan, Bob & Ciss Needham, Alice & Bill Garry, Tom Fahy & Debbie Cox (Remembrance) | |
| Sun, 4 th Jan | 10.30am | Deceased members of the Kelly & Gorman families, Kilbrook Bob Needham (Birthday Remembrance) & remembering his wife Ciss, Peter & Tom Halligan, Alice & Bill Garry, Tom Fahy & Debbie Cox | |