

# KILCOCK AND NEWTOWN PARISH BULLETIN

## CHRISTMAS DAY 2021/NEW YEAR 2022

*A present that cannot be priced  
Given two thousand years ago.  
Yet if God had not given so  
He still would be a distant stranger and not the Baby in the manger.*

### A WORD OF GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

We sing in one of the famous Christmas hymns “While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around”. In this hymn we are reminded that in the midst of insecurity and fear, like the shepherds, we too are given great tidings. We live with Omicron Variant and we don’t know where we are heading. Perhaps the whole message of Christmas is an answer to all our apprehensions. Because Christmas bring us Joy, Peace, Love and Hope. All our hopes and dreams can come true if we can see the glory of the Lord like the shepherds. Our good Lord stoops down to us where we are. Therefore, let us have a dream and live in hope and peace amidst of all the uncertainties as we are on the threshold of 2022.

When I was asked to take up the responsibility of the Parish Priest, I was endorsed and consoled by the goodness and strength, willingness and openness of my people here in Kilcock, Newtown and beyond. Therefore, it is with great joy I acknowledge the goodness and the hard work of so many in different ways making our Parish active and alive. I sincerely thank our Sacristans, Secretaries, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors and Counters, Stewards, Altar Servers, the ladies who take care of the Altar, our Adoration & Rosary groups, Organists, 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, helpers and promoters and our Parish shop team, Principals, Teachers and Boards of Management going the extra mile.

With immense joy and gratitude, I recognise all the members who willingly came forward to support our new project of Parish Centre. We are currently reaching out to the Diaspora and local community to take part in this endeavour to ensure this facility is available to all for many generations.

I also thank you, our Parishioners, for your great generosity and constant support during this Covid 19, particularly we remember those whom we lost during this time. This year, 2021, has brought great joy to our parish and community - winning championships by both GAA, having grand new School buildings and many other blessings. I look forward to ministering with you in the coming year. May this Holy Season bring abundant blessings on your way. I wish and pray that this coming new year, 2022, will surely bring new direction, every blessing, peace, good health, happiness and prosperity to you all. THANK YOU.

### PARISH DIARY

**Kilcock & Newtown Parish Lotto** – there will be **NO** Lotto on Tues, 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. or Tues, 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2022. Lotto will resume on Tues, 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2022.

**Readers for this weekend** – Fri, 9pm Vigil: Patsaí Uí Chathain; Sat 9am – David Gildea & 12 noon – Derek McSweeney; Sun, 9am – Dermot Sheehan & 12 noon – Willie Hughes.

**Eucharistic Ministers for this weekend** – Fri, 9pm Vigil: Breda Hopkins, Michael Minogue, Patrick Richardson & Tom O’Doherty; Sat 9am – Assumpta O’Brien, Philomena Obasi & Margaret Macken; 12 noon – Helen Noonan, Patrick Richardson & Christine Eloji, Sun 9am – Theresa Jacob & 12 noon – Jean Rickard & Mary Forde.

### THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Open our eyes, Lord, to see your loving presence in the world, open our hearts to sense your love  
for everyone in the world,

Open our minds to understand that whatever our creed, colour or culture, You came to bring peace to the world.

Lord, help us to keep the Christmas Spirit all year round,

For you still dwell with us today in the hearts of those who love you. AMEN

## MASSES FOR FORTNIGHT

### St. Coca's, Kilcock

Fri, 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9pm	Christmas Vigil
Sat, 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9am	Christmas Day
	12 noon	
Sun, 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9am	Susan Grehan (Anniv) & remembering her husband Oliver Bernard O'Shea (Anniv) & remembering all deceased members of the O'Shea family
	12 noon	Frank O'Sullivan, Connaught St. (M.M.) Pat Brilly, Highfield Park (12 <sup>th</sup> Anniv) Thomas Finnegan (Anniv) Peter & Tom Halligan, Ciss & Bob Needham, Baby Tom Fahey & Alice Garry (Remembrance) Brigid & Peter Prior & all deceased family members Doran Family & Dixon Family, Mill Commons (Remembrance)
Mon, 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12 noon	Shared Mass for the Living
Tue, 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12 noon	Shared Mass for the Deceased
Wed, 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12 noon	Rose Cummins, Gragadder (Anniv) Tommie Buckley (Anniv) Mary & Jim McBrien (Anniv) & remembering all deceased family members
Thu, 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12 noon	William & Catherine Travers (Anniv) Eileen Prior & remembering all deceased family members The Fitzsimons family & The O'Brien family Teresa, Kit & Eugene Fitzsimons & family Liz & Mick Murphy & family The Shanley family & The Rafterty family
Fri, 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	12 noon	Christy Noonan, Highfield Park (21 <sup>st</sup> Anniv) Hugh & Maura Smyth (Anniv)
Sat, 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan, 2022	6pm	Kathleen Gannon, Courtown Road (Anniv) & remembering her husband William, daughters Maura & Eileen and great-grandson Adam
Sun, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	9am	
	12 noon	Fr. Jack McWey (23 <sup>rd</sup> Anniv)
Mon, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	10am	Shared Mass for the Living
Tue, 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10am	Shared Mass for the Deceased
Wed, 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10am	
Thu, 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10am	Deceased Members of the Kelly & Gorman families, Kilbrook
Fri, 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10am	Darren Hedley, Ryebriage (Anniv)
Sat, 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6pm	Carmel Mooney, The Maws (M.M.) Eamonn Richardson (5 <sup>th</sup> Anniv) & remembering his dad Gerry & Patrick Richardson (Anniv) Thomas "Tony" Harte (70 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance)
Sun, 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9am	
	12 noon	Cathal & Mary Daly (Anniv)

### Church of the Nativity, Newtown

Sun, 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30am	
Sun, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	10.30am	
Sun, 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30am	Jim Mallon & Anna Behan, Hortland (Anniv) & remembering all deceased members of the Behan, Mallon & Hopkins families

## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Joseph & Mary set out for Bethlehem.

When they arrived there, the time came for Mary to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son.

All of us are journeying to Bethlehem, where we hope to be born.

I know we were born once.

Nevertheless, we are still unborn in the sense that our true and full self hasn't yet seen the light of day.

When our second birth occurs, then all the gifts of grace and nature,

which God gave us as seeds,

will blossom and bear fruit.

Our ultimate goal is the heavenly Bethlehem

where we shall see God face to face.