



St. Patrick's Parish, Doon- 16th Dec. 2018

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Dear Parishioner, In his encyclical Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis issues a warning that might resonate with us as we continue our Advent journey. Caught up in consumerism, he says, it is easy for us to forget what is truly important: 'The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.' In the lead-up to Christmas we often get caught up in a flurry of 'interests and concerns'. True, much of the joy of Christmas comes from giving to others, but there is so much focus on material goods and spending money that it can be difficult to remember the good news at the heart of the season. It is so easy to become distracted by the bright lights and advertising.

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday – Gaudete means 'Rejoice'. It's the perfect time to recapture some of the 'quiet joy' that Pope Francis talks about. 'The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus,' he reminds us. It is this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today's Gospel. This is the reason for our joy – the reason for the season!

Offertory Collection: last Sunday €1,280, thank you for your contributions.

New Rota for Readers & Eucharistic Ministers: will be drawn up over the next few weeks. If you have any changes please contact Patricia Murphy (086) 8338898 ASAP.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers: 22nd/23rd Dec.:

Readers:	Eucharistic Ministers:
6:30pm Mairead Maher	Joan Hogan/Mary Hayes
9:30am Marie Duggan	Eilín Uí Chuimín/Judith Ryan
11am Catherine Tierney	Marian Murphy/Noreen O'Dwyer

Anniversaries: 15th/16th Dec.:	22nd/23rd Dec.:
6:30pm: Mary & Jimmy Ryan, Cooga & their daughter Agnes Bermingham, Kilonan. Patrick & Ellen Kennedy, St. Fintan's Tce. & deceased members of the Ryan (A) family.	Fr. Tom Ryan, former PP. Helen Crowe, The Forts, 1 st Anniv.
9:30am For the People of the Parish	For the People of the Parish.
11am -	John Ryan, Gurtavalla.

Wedding Bells. Congratulations to Sinead Ryan and Shane O' Gorman who were married here on Friday. We wish the couple happiness and blessings in their married life.

Dún Bleisce Tidy Towns: will hold their AGM in the Community Centre on Sat. Dec. 22nd @ 8pm. Tidy Towns have made great strides in the village but more support in carrying out future projects is urgently needed and would be much appreciated.

Men's Shed: continue to meet every Mon. night @ 8pm in the Convent. All welcome

Doon GAA: Lotto No's drawn 6-7-10-18, no winner. Next week's draw will be held in The Local Bar.

Radio Maria Ireland: Catholic Radio Station now available via TV – Saorview (Freeview) Channel 210.

Doon Text Alert: if anyone wishes to sign up to the Text Alert system please give your name & number to the Post Office or members of the group, Denis Duggan, Con Hourigan, Francis Cummins & Josephine Morrissey. There is an annual subscription of €10. The Texts from local Gardai will seek the public's help & provide warnings of any suspicious activity in the area.

Doon Defibrillator Group: have a new telephone number. For help & access to each defibrillator enclosures please dial (061) 574300.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual: A sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to the Church Gate Collection last weekend which amounted to €979.43. Your generosity will help those in need especially at Christmas time.

What are you giving Jesus for His Birthday? The best present you can give to Jesus is your presence before Him. Why not come & spend some time with Him. Even if you could commit to spending a half hour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament then please come. You can contact any member of the Doon Parish Adoration Team Committee: Mary Macleod 380987 or (087) 1767465, Marcia Mooney 380382 or (086) 4038420, John O' Brien 380614 or (086) 8586304. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will finish next Wed. 19th @ 6pm to facilitate Church Carol service & there will be no adoration on St. Stephen's Day.

Scoil Na Tríonoide Naofa: will hold their Annual Christmas Fair today Sun 16th Dec. From 2-5pm.

Advent Sundays at Glenstal Abbey: Dec. 16th @ 4:30pm. Why not come & join us in exploring the great themes of Advent & our lives therein - 'Tuning into Real Time'. All welcome

Dates for the Diary: Sun. 16th - Scoil na Tríonoide Naofa Christmas Fair on school grounds from 2pm to 5pm. Tue. 18th - Convent Primary School Carol Service in the Church @ 12 noon. Penitential Service Tue. 18th @ 7:30pm visiting priests will attend. Wed. 19th - Doon CBS Primary School Christmas Carol Service in the Church @ 7:30pm. **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass @ 6:30pm, Christmas Day Masses @ 9:30am & 11am.**

Mass Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are available in the Sacristy.

Envelopes and Calendar's: for the coming year are available for collection by the distributors this weekend. A big thank you to all those who distribute the envelopes & also I wish to thank all who contribute financially to help the parish meet its running costs & Diocesan Targets.

Wren Walk for Chernobyl: on St Stephen's Day the 26th December @ 1pm from the Pastoral Centre. Refreshments on return and your support as always is greatly appreciated. All funds raised go directly to the upkeep of our Home of Hope in Belarus.

Doon Community Council: Thanks to all who attended the Senior Citizens Christmas Party. Thanks to caterers, choir, musicians, Fr. Donnelly & all who helped on the day. The following classes continue each week: Kettlebells **Mon.** @ 9:30am & **Wed.** @ 7:30pm; Star Stage School Drama **Wed.** @ 4pm; Youth Club **Wed.** @ 7pm; Pilates **Thur.** 9:30am; Yoga **Thur.** @ 7:30pm. New participants always welcome.