



St. Patrick's Parish, Doon- 23rd Dec. 2018

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Dear Parishioner, Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it is the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women. We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin.

Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. 'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.'

With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas. Thanks to all who reach out and give of their time and talents to help make Doon a better place to live. Thanks to all who contribute to the running of our parish: servers, readers, eucharistic ministers, collectors, singers and choir, cleaners, flower arrangers, newsletter, adoration group, St Vincent de Paul, envelope distributors, and our Sacristan.

Offertory Collection: last Sunday €1,020, thank you for your contributions.

Masses for the coming week: NO Mass Mon. morning 24th. Christmas Eve Vigil Mass @ 6:30pm. Christmas Day @ 9:30am & 11am. NO Mass Wed., Thur. or Fri.

Wedding Bells: Congratulations to Tony Maher & Natalie Flint who were married in St Mary's Cathedral Killarney on Fri. We wish the couple happiness and blessings in their married life.

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: 24th/25th Dec.:

Readers:	Eucharistic Ministers:
6:30pm Brian McMahan	Paud Sweeney
Servers: Dylan Byrne, Cian Hanrahan, Eimear Clifford, Caoimhe Ryan	
9:30am Pakie O'Brien	Donal Anderson/Peg McLoughlin
11am Emma Kennedy	Patricia Murphy/Pauline Reale
Servers: Caimin Lynch, Ella Buckley, Isabella Maher, Aoibheann Flint	

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers: 29th/30th Dec.:

Readers:	Eucharistic Ministers:
6:30pm Patricia Collins	Bridie Stapleton/Mary Ryan
Servers: Sean Ryan, Sarah Ryan, Denise Buckley, Clodagh Purcell	
9:30am Orla Treacy	Neil Maher/Ann Hayes
11am Kay Ryan	Donal Anderson/Anita Sweeney

Servers: Izzy O'Connor, Sarah O'Dea, Colin Dunne, Denis Blackmore

Anniversaries: 22nd/23rd Dec.:	29th/30th Dec.:
6:30pm: Fr. Tom Ryan, former PP. Helen Crowe, The Forts, 1 st Anniv.	John & Maura Hayes, Bank Place.
9:30am For the People of the Parish	Patrick & Elizabeth Reale, Assumption Tce.
11am John Ryan, Gurtavalla.	Maureen Crowe, Carrigmore-2 nd Anniv. Tom Ryan & wife Brid Gurtavalla-Months Mind.

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

Doon GAA: Lotto No's drawn 2-7-14-22, no winner. Next week's draw will be held in Kelly's Bar on Sunday 23rd Dec. @ 9pm. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Doon Eucharistic Adoration: would like to wish all adorers & parishioners a very Happy Christmas & a Blessed New Year. There will be no Adoration on St. Stephen's Day. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament resumes on Wed. 2nd Jan. from 10am until 9 pm. You are always welcome to join us in prayer before Jesus & ask His blessing on the ministry of our priests & the needs of our parish.

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 and Diocesan Targets. If you don't have a box or didn't get one and you would like a box to contribute to the parish please let Fr Jimmy know and we can arrange to get one to you.

Doon CBS Primary School: the staff & pupils of the CBS would like to thank all those who supported our Carol Singing last weekend. A total of 800 was collected by the pupils. This money was presented to Dr. O'Brien for the Doon Lourdes Invalid Fund.

Wren Walk for Chernobyl: on St Stephen's Day the 26th December @ 1pm from the Pastoral Centre. Refreshments on return & 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: would like to thank all who supported & helped us during the year. The usual classes will resume in the new year. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas & every success in 2019.

Doon St. Vincent DePaul: would like to acknowledge €250 received from Scoil Na Trionoide Naofa following proceeds of First Year Cake Sale. A huge 'thank you' also for wonderful hampers organized by TY Class & their inspiring teachers. Final amount raised this year was €1,270, a blessed & happy Christmas to all from SVP.

Dún Bleisce Historical Society: Annual Table Quiz in Moore's Bar on Fri. 28th Dec @ 9:30pm - €20 per Table. Raffle & a good evening's entertainment guaranteed. The proceeds from the night are to continue to sponsor a student for Tony Woods (Kenyan Education Fund)

"Bleisce"-Doon Parish Journal 2018: is now on sale. Thanks to all who helped with this publication & placed ads in it.

Listening Process: Listening Gatherings have now taken place in all 46 parishes of our diocese. You are welcome to have your say online & to help plan the future of our parishes in Cashel and Emly by visiting www.cashel-emly.ie - just follow the links to our Listening Questionnaire. This stage of our Listening Process will conclude on Dec. 31st & feedback will commence in Spring 2019. With thanks to all who have participated in our Listening Process as we seek to plan a way forward.