

# Parish Newsletter

**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, Mourne Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12 December 2023**

**Tel:** 01 4556105; **Email:** [office@mourneparish.ie](mailto:office@mourneparish.ie) **Website:** [www.mourneroad.ie](http://www.mourneroad.ie)

**Parish Webcam—Main Church and Oratory—can be accessed via the parish website.**

**Pastoral Area:** Crumlin/Mourne Rd/Clogher Rd/Walkinstown

O Come, let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord



**WE WISH ALL OUR PARISHIONERS  
A VERY HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS  
CHUC MUNG GIANG SINH**



# CHRISTMAS LETTER

‘Unto us a Child is given’



Fr. Dan and I and the Parish Team would like to wish all our parishioners a holy healthy Happy Christmas.

We also warmly welcome those who have come home to be with their Drimnagh families this Christmas. We hope you make many unique special memories, and your joyful reunion with loved ones is beyond your wildest imaginings.

This Christmas Season, the festival of the family, we will be carrying all those in our Parish, who will have an empty chair or chairs at their table, due to the passing of a loved one in the past year, or because a son or daughter, brother or sister will be away. Our sense of loss or the feeling of absence and the loneliness and worry that can flow from that, reminds us how important and how precious our relationships are at the end of the day.

Christmas is the celebration of life and evergreen new hope. It is the promise that we can heal from past hurts, that we can learn to love again, to forgive again, and most importantly of all to reimagine what the world and creation can be at its best.

This Christmas I invite you to visit the Crib again and see with new eyes, understand with a new heart, and try to stop being somnambulants and passive in a world where so many have forgotten what it means to be kind, to be respectful and even what it means to be grateful.

As followers of Christ, in the 21st century, much has changed, but we should never forget above all, that, “Jesus is the reason for the season”.

Rightfully we are deeply saddened when we see the horrific images coming out of Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, among others, where so many innocent suffer and life seems so cheap. Where is their Christmas Hope?

But the birth of Christ is the ultimate testament that life is actually the greatest gift of all. Indeed every human person is so precious, regardless of class, creed or colour. Jesus tells us that in God’s eyes we are all equal, made in his image, his unfinished works of art, each unique, and part of God’s dream for humanity.

God and God alone is the author of life and death, the doorway to our salvation, and when we meddle with God’s plan, we diminish ourselves, and put ourselves on a very slippery slope indeed.

The Christ Child was deliberately born into a poor family, to remind each of us, that in the eyes of the Creator, every child is equally precious, a unique treasure, with a dignity proper to him or her.

Fr. Dan & I would like to thank everyone who does so much to make this a wonderful Parish and give so much of themselves and their gifts to ensure the same. We appreciate too all who make Our Lady of Good Counsel their place of worship, and we pray wherever you are from you feel welcome and at home here.

We wish you all a very special Christmas and every blessing for the New Year, and filled with gratitude to Our Lady of Good Counsel on our 80th Anniversary, having shed some tears, and shared lots of laughter, our Christian future is filled with Hope and Joy.



Merry Christmas,  
Fr. Dave, Fr. Dan and the Parish Team.







**CHRISTMAS PARISH REMEMBRANCE CARDS** are available from the Parish Office 70 cent each

*Four beautiful new designs again this year*

**Church Art Calendars 2024**  
On sale from the Parish Office €2.00 each

**PARISH CALENDARS 2024** can be collected from the tables at the back of the Church or from the Parish Office.



**Celebrating 80 years 1943 to 2023**

**Devotional Candles** in Thanksgiving to Our Lady for 80 years watching over & minding our parish, are available at all Masses & from the parish office, concluding at Easter 2024.

*Offering €1.00.*

*We thank all those who have looked after the candles throughout the year.*

Every Thursday after Mass the Holy Rosary in the Oratory is specifically for vocations to the priesthood. Rosary beads are free for anyone who wants to take them home to pray.

**Poinsettia Sunday 10th December.**

We invite you to bring a Poinsettia to the Church in memory of a loved one living or deceased. In this way we hope to fill the church with the festive colour of Christmas and at the same time remember in Christmas prayer all those we love.

**Christmas Board** Any **New Names** for inclusion on the Christmas Remembrance Board should be handed into the Parish Office no later than Friday **8th** December. Names previously submitted will automatically be included.



**Eucharistic Adoration**  
Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. in the Oratory.



**SVP** **ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL COLLECTION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2023.** It will replace the Share Collection. **SVP Donation envelopes are also available at the back of the church.**

**CROSSCARE CHRISTMAS FOOD POVERTY APPEAL**—Donations can be made online @ [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie), by phone @ 01 8360011, or by collecting a donation envelope from the back of the church. **Alternatively, non-perishable food items can be left under the Christmas tree in the church up to Sunday 17th December.**

**PARISH LOTTO Development Fund**

There will be no Lotto draw on Tuesday 26th December 2023 & Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

**Thank you to everyone who has supported the Lotto throughout the year.**

**WE THANK** everybody who brings such life to our parish, all our volunteers, leadership teams, and all who call Our Lady of Good Counsel their place of worship.

**The parish has been truly blessed by their commitment, their energy, their gifts, their selflessness & generosity in the way they live out their faith.** However, our parish continues to evolve & some of those great stalwarts due to life circumstances, ill health, etc., from time to time have to step down after giving so much of themselves.

So we would love people who haven't been involved before to come on board & to exercise your God given gift in the ministry most suitable to your strengths.

We would be delighted to hear from you and would urge you to leave your name & contact number in the parish office & we will get back to you.

**MASSSES: SUNDAY: Vigil, 6.30p.m., 9.00a.m. & 12 noon.**

**MONDAY – SATURDAY Morning Mass at 10.00a.m.**

**All Masses can be viewed on the Parish Webcam via the parish website [www.mourneroad.ie](http://www.mourneroad.ie)**

**Confessions after 10.00a.m. Mass Saturdays or on request.**

**Parish Office: Open Monday to Friday from 9.15am–1.00pm.**



# CHRISTMAS 2023

## Joy to the World

### Christmas Timetable 2023

#### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION:

**Each Saturday after 10am Mass. Saturday 16th December  
Penitential Service with individual Confession 10.30am.  
Christmas Eve 10.30—11.30am and 2-3pm.**

**Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd December Mass at 10am  
*Mass of the 3rd Week of Advent***

**Sunday 24th December, Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Vigil Mass at 6.30pm (23rd Dec), Mass at 9.00am &  
12.00noon.**

**Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 6.30pm, *Family Mass with  
Festive Music & Carols***

**9pm: Mass during the Night, ('Midnight Mass')**

**Christmas Day: 9.00am: *Mass at Dawn.***

**12noon: *Sung Mass During the Day with the Parish  
Choir.***

**Feast of Saint Stephen: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December:  
*Mass at 10.00am.***

**Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th, Friday 29th & Saturday 30th  
December Mass at 10.00am.**

**Feast of the Holy Family, Vigil Mass Saturday 30th  
at 6.30pm., Sunday 31st December, New Year's Eve,  
Mass at 9.00am & 12.00noon.**

**Monday 1st January, *New Year's Day* Mass at 10.00am.**

**Feast of the Epiphany Saturday 6th January,  
Mass at 10.00am.**

