

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

First Sunday of Advent

29th November 2020

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

Neighbouring Priests: Fr T Mannion 964 3014 - Fr P Casey 916 4143 -

Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

Masses

Sun 29th Nov Nora Gallagher, Derrinvoney (1st Anniversary)

Tues 1st Dec Sean & Pauline Keane

Sun 6th Dec James Doherty & Deceased Family

Public Mass: At the time of going to print, it looks like we could be back in the churches for the Second Weekend in Advent, please God.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

2020 Collections: When the churches re-open could you please bring in the Dues and Offertory collections for the weeks we have been in Lockdown. The collections will be less for this year, but the bills keep coming regardless! Thank you.

Confirmation of Details: Can all parishioners please, **urgently**, fill in a "Confirmation of Details" form if you are on our envelope scheme so we can keep our records relevant and up to date. To those who have already done so, thank you. If you wish to join the scheme, please get and fill in a form from one of the churches or from the Parish website and return your form to the Parochial House. Thank you.

New envelope boxes will be made available in the 3 churches once they re-open for you to collect.

Advent Website: This website is a help to avail of the opportunity that Advent provides to prepare to welcome the Birth of our Saviour at Christmas: www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar.

Mini Advent Retreat: To be held on Zoom, led by Fr. Billy Swan, St Aiden's Enniscorthy on Tues 1 Dec to Thurs 3 Dec beginning at 8pm with the themes of Faith, Hope and Love respectively. To take part all you need to do is send an email to - thehookoffaith@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. All are welcome.

The Deep End - Finding our Feet:

Jane Mellett

It can be very hard to live with uncertainty. Back at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a counsellor was interviewed on radio about how people were coping with the 'lockdown'. People were anxious and fearful, she said. Many were experiencing loneliness, as their normal routines and social life came to an abrupt halt.

Another thing that people really struggled with was the inability to make decisions. They felt trapped and stuck, unable to plan ahead. They couldn't make plans or visit family or go on holidays. They didn't know if their jobs were secure, or if their children would return to school. When things are up in the air, it is hard to find your feet and feel grounded. Many of us are still struggling with these feelings.

Today we enter a new Church year, and our first Advent since the pandemic hit. Many of us are feeling more subdued than normal as we begin our preparations for Christmas. It will be very different from the usual family and social occasion, and we are saddened and worried by this.

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges His disciples to 'stay awake'. We might feel we have no choice at the moment - the feeling of not knowing what is coming is very familiar. We are on our guard, on edge, waiting for the latest news. Yet already, there are initiatives springing up to support those who are vulnerable or in need this Christmas. In our own families, we are plotting ways to ensure no one is alone or isolated. We are 'awake' to the strange circumstances, and we are finding ways to cope. We pray today for the strength to guide us through the coming weeks, and for the peace and joy of Christ to lift our hearts and carry us onwards.

"In this time of tribulation and mourning, I hope that you will be able to experience Jesus, who comes to meet you, greets you and says: 'Rejoice'.

Pope Francis