

WICKLOW & KILLISKEY PARISH

Monthly Newsletter



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www.nuncrosschurch.ie / <https://www.facebook.com/KilliskeyParish>

Thoughts for December



3 December. Isaiah 64:1-9; St Mark 13:24-37

On Advent Sunday we enter the great season of expectation, as we put ourselves in the place of those ancient peoples who yearned and longed for the promised Messiah. Living as we do in a post-resurrection world, it is hard for us to comprehend what that must have felt like. However, Advent is also a season of watching and waiting, as we too await Jesus' promised return.

10 December. Isaiah 40:1-11; St Mark 1:1-8

As we celebrate the joy of a family in Holy Baptism, we are introduced to John the Baptist! John preached a message of the need for reform: of individual lives, but also of society. He also promised that he was only there to pave the way for the New Thing that God was about to do.

17 December. Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; St Matthew 1:18-25

There are lots of people for whom Christmas is a bleak and lonely time of year, made more so by the glitzy nature of modern festivities. The morning service today is a Blue Christmas service - a quieter and more reflective service, yet still focused on the hope that is brought by the Christ child.

24 December. Isaiah 52:7-9; St Luke 2:1-14

In the darkness & stillness of night, we gather to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known - God's gift of Jesus, the Christ. We ponder the paradox of this event - at once both so simple, and yet so deeply mysterious.

25 December. Luke 2:1-14

As Christmas Day dawns, the world awakes into a different reality, whether or not we realise it! All are invited to gather around God's table, to celebrate.



Christmas Services

The services over Christmas will be as follows:

10 December

8.30am Holy Communion (Wicklow)

9.30am Holy Baptism (Wicklow)

11.15am NO SERVICE

7pm. Candlelit Carol Service (Killiskey)

17 December

8.30am Holy Communion (Wicklow)

9.30am NO SERVICE

11.15am Blue Christmas service of reflection (Killiskey)

7pm. Candlelit Carol Service (Wicklow)

24 December

9pm Holy Communion (Killiskey)

11.15pm Holy Communion (Wicklow)

25 December

8.30am Holy Communion (Wicklow)

9.30am Family Communion (Wicklow)

11.15am Family Communion (Killiskey)

31 December

9.30am Joint Parishes service (Wicklow)

WICKLOW BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP

TUESDAYS

9.30AM - 11.30AM

THE METHODIST HALL,
A67 WK11



Toys for babies
and toddlers

Coffee, tea,
juice & biscuits

3 euro per family
to cover costs

Enquiries to Rachael
(0872418174)



THIS INFORMAL PLAY GROUP RUNS DURING SCHOOL TERM.
FACILITATED BY WICKLOW CHURCH OF IRELAND.



Pastoral visits

If you are not able to attend services but would like to receive Holy Communion before Christmas, please contact Jack: 0861727654.

Bequest

The late Charlotte Bestall left a generous bequest to the parish when she died at the end of 2021. We have been deeply touched that she cared so greatly for the parish to think to do this, and the money will help greatly with some of the capital projects planned for the next year or so.

Baby & Toddler group

The toddler group will take place on Tuesdays, in the Methodist Church Hall, 9.30am-11.30am.

December News - Wicklow



Carol service hospitality

We need a couple of volunteers to help serve mulled wine etc after the Carol service in Wicklow on 17 December! Please let us know if you can help!

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group Christmas lunch will take place on Monday 11 Dec. €10 per head & guests welcome! Please contact Jack if you would like to come along, as we need to know numbers in advance.

Sunday Club

Bible Stories,
Games, Colouring
& lots more fun

**Every 1st
& 3rd
Sunday**

9.30am

Meeting in church & over
to school hall for Sunday
Club. All children of
primary school age
welcome

Volunteers needed urgently

Sunday Club

Sunday Club will meet during the 0930 service in Wicklow. All primary school age children are invited to come along. We start in church and move to the Glebe School after the first hymn / song.

December News - Wicklow



Blue Christmas

The annual Blue Christmas service takes place in Nun's Cross Church on 17 December, at 11.15am. This is a quieter and more reflective service, and is helpful for those who find Christmas a difficult time of year for whatever reason - depression, grief, sadness or any other reason. So this is a gentler exploration of the hope brought by the incarnation from within a place of sadness or trouble. As ever, all welcome, and please pass on an invitation to any you know who are bereaved or who might be struggling this winter.



Confirmation

We will begin preparation for confirmation early in the new year, so please let Jack know if you would like to register. Anyone aged second year in secondary school and older is welcome to join confirmation preparation.

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union met in Allyson Minion's house in mid November and all present were very creative with their Christmas centre-pieces. Huge thanks go to Allyson for hosting the event and for the incredible selection of Christmas lights and decorations that made our centre-pieces so special. Our next meeting will be in January, but there may be an informal coffee and chat in December, if the lead up to Christmas doesn't get too hectic.

December News - Wicklow



Fundraising

Any and all ideas are welcome, so please let us know if you have an idea for a fundraising or social event.

Wicklow coffee rota

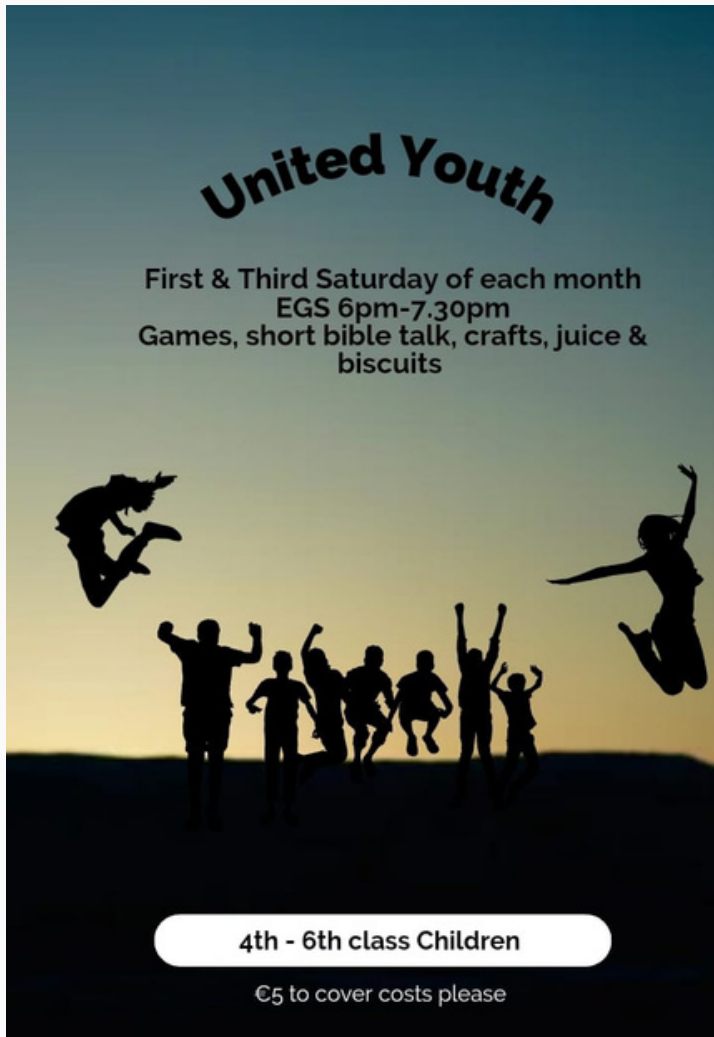
Thanks to those who have signed up so far, to help provide tea / coffee after the 9.30am services. Please let Jack know if you are able to help with this occasionally.

Help needed!

We need volunteers to help with three areas of church life:

1. **Coffee rota** for after church on Sundays.
2. **Church cleaning rota.**
3. **Flower rota** for fresh flowers in church. Perhaps sign up for a Sunday near the anniversary of a loved one, or of a special occasion
4. **Youth leaders** - We urgently need volunteers to help run the teen youth group, which meets twice per month on a Sunday evening, in EGS. Please let Jack know if you are able to help.
5. **Readers in church** - Please contact Jack or Frances Shearer if you are available to join the readers' rota for bible readings in church.

December News - Wicklow



Youth

United Youth will meet on Saturday 2 December in EGS, 6-7.30pm.

The teen youth group will meet at the Wicklow Worship night in Redcross on Sunday 3 December, 7-8.30pm. Please contact Jack or Ste if you need a lift.

December News - Wicklow



Safeguarding Trust

Safeguarding Trust is the Church of Ireland's child protection policy. Any volunteers who work with groups for under 18s, or with vulnerable adults, must undertake Safeguarding Trust training. Each parish Select Vestry appoints a Panel, to ensure that Safeguarding Trust is being fully implemented, and to meet should any issue arise. In Wicklow and Killiskey, the Panel members are: Rev Jack Kinhead (0861727654), Allyson Minion, Tony Mulrain (0871171066), (0868597423), and Daphne Smith (0879152777). If you have any concern regarding child safety, please contact one of the panel without delay. <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/safeguarding>. Since the last Select Vestry meeting, there have been no incidents reported to the Safeguarding Trust Panel.

December News - Killiskey



Planned Giving

Please consider renewing or beginning your financial commitment to Killiskey Parish by way of Planned Giving. By doing this you can maximise the amount of money received by the Parish and greatly assist the Parish to meet its financial commitments. Planned Giving is making a pledge to donate an amount of money regularly over the course of the year whether weekly, monthly, quarterly or by a single donation. Under the tax regulations, the Parish, as a registered charity, can obtain a tax refund from the government for recorded donations from tax payers (PAYE and Self-Assessment) who contribute a minimum of €250 in the tax year. This is the equivalent of €4.81 per week. The parish can claim a further approx. 45% of the amount donated from the government. Cash donations on the plate, while very gratefully received, are not eligible for a tax refund.

If you are contributing more than €250 over the course of the year through this method, you might like to consider Planned Giving.

Ashford Gift & Book Shop - The Hub

The Hub has a wide range of very good second-hand clothes for men, ladies and children. It also sells books, bric-a-brac and new items. It is totally run by volunteers, and we are lucky to have got a Tús worker who joined us two months ago.

We have a wide range of greeting cards from the Mothers Union at very reasonable prices! Also, our Christmas Cards and decorations will be available from early November. The Hub is open Mondays and Saturdays 11-3pm and Tuesdays – Fridays 11-4pm

Church Cleaning

There will be a one hour cleaning blitz in Nun's Cross on Saturday 9 December, at 5pm. All welcome!

December News - Killiskey

Restoration

Nun's Cross Church is embarking upon some major restoration and preservation work over the next five years. A work plan (2023 – 2028) has been devised and some of the urgent measures outlined in it attended to already. A restoration sub-committee was formed in the autumn along with a fundraising sub-committee that reported to the last Select Vestry meeting on the 28th Nov. The two sub-committees are working together to determine the overall cost of the proposed works and plans are being devised to raise the necessary funds. Our first fundraising initiative has been to produce a QR Code that permits donations to be made electronically. See the inclusion here along with this article. Watch this space for further exciting updates as we "Provide for the Present and Plan for the Future". If you would like more information on how to become involved in this project or on making regular contributions to it, please get in touch with the Killiskey Parish Hon. Treasurer, Scott Golden, for further details. Scott can be contacted at: killiskeytreasurer@gmail.com

How to Scan the QR code to Make a Donation

1. On your smart phone open the camera.
2. Point the camera at the QR code.
3. Tap the banner that appears on your phone screen.
4. Follow the instructions on screen to land on our personalised page.
5. Tap the amount you wish to donate.
6. Complete the donation using your Credit Card, or,
7. The Xelda App also supports Apple and Google pay.
8. All payments are 100% secure and powered by stripe.

Nuns Cross Church
Killiskey Parish



Carols by Candle Light

It's that time of year again when thoughts turn to Christmas festivities and celebrations. Our ever popular Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, with a host of readers drawn from across the community and county, this year is planned for Sunday evening 10th December at 7.00pm. If you plan to attend we suggest you arrive early to ensure a good seat. here is no service that morning in Nun's Cross


December News - Killiskey

NUN'S CROSS CHURCH, KILLISKEY, ASHFORD

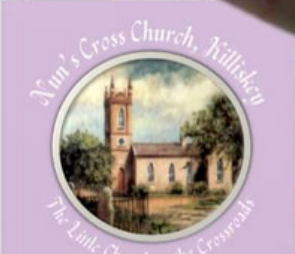
SUN 10th DEC. 7.00PM

Carols *by* *Candlelight*

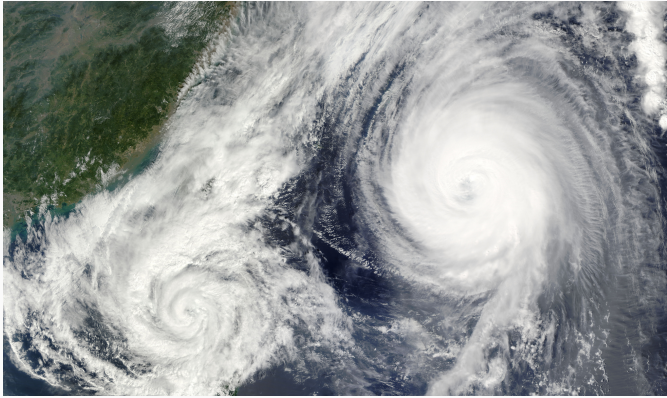
Traditional Service
of
Nine Lessons & Carols



Tea, Coffee, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies Served
EVERYBODY WELCOME!



December News - Killiskey



Eco Tips

December 2023

COP28

Yet again, another COP is in the news, this time COP28 (the 28th Conference of Parties, or UN Climate Change Conference) being held in Dubai. Thus far, a positive development has been the launching of a “loss and damage” fund for vulnerable countries, to which wealthier nations, including Ireland, will contribute. The Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, highlighted the many benefits of reducing emissions, while acknowledging that the concerns of certain sectors need to be addressed and finance provided to change to a carbon neutral future. In his address, UK’s King Charles made a heartfelt plea that this COP MUST be a “critical turning point”

in the fight against climate change, with “genuine transformational change”. He also made the sage observation that “The Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth” - it would behove us all to echo those sentiments. The UN Secretary General António Guterres seeks the phasing out of ALL fossil fuels and has prevailed on the fossil fuel companies to transition to renewable energy, rather than extract more coal and oil, which in the long run will jeopardise the economic sustainability of those same companies. It is to be hoped that the “phasedown/out” of fossil fuels, contained in the first COP28 draft, will be agreed by all, as these contribute overwhelmingly to greenhouse gas and CO2 emissions. COP can seem far removed from our everyday lives, BUT we can (MUST) play our part. As Christmas approaches, we could all think before we buy – for example, how far has the proposed gift travelled? Is it made of plastic? Is it sustainable? Is it durable? Can it be reused or recycled? Is all the food in the trolley really going to be consumed? Would it be better to purchase one good quality item rather than many of poorer quality? Buying local where possible reduces air miles and aids the local economy.



General Announcements

FLOWER ROTA

Please sign the flower rota sheet in the porch of the church if you are available to help with church flowers. This isn't a big job & doesn't involve fancy arrangements (unless you want to!) but is about having some fresh flowers, in vases, in church week by week.

HELP WANTED!

We always need volunteers to help with parish organisations and events. Could you help with: Children's activities, youth clubs, fundraising events, the Fete, the BBQ, Messy Church, church flowers, crèche? Any time and help, however little, is so much appreciated. Contact Jack for more details

PRAYERS

We are really keen to involve more people in worship in Wicklow Parish. One way to do this is to involve people in leading the prayers of intercession at services. Would you be willing to help with this, on an occasional basis? If so, please speak to Jack. There is an information pack available, with pointers on how to lead a congregation in prayer.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

If you have items you want included in the Parish Newsletter, please send to Sinead before the 20th of each month at wicklowandkilliskeycoi@outlook.com

Dear Lord

Help us to focus on You during this Christmas season, and be like the wise men and the humble shepherds and take time to celebrate Your birth and the promise and gift of eternal life that it brings to each one of us.

During this Christmas season, we give thanks that You are the Prince of Peace and we pray especially at this time where war dominates the news, that Your peace will reign in our hearts.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.