

LETTER FROM JESUS OF NAZARETH

As you know, we're approaching my birthday again. Every year there's a big party in my honour and I think this year the same thing will happen. These days people do a lot of shopping, there are ads on the radio, on tv. Everywhere there is nothing else to talk about, but about how little is left for that day to come. Actually, it's nice to know that at least one day of the year some people think of me a little bit. As you know, many years ago they started celebrating my birthday. At first, they did not seem to understand and appreciate how much I did for them, but today very few are aware of what they celebrate it for. People get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know what it's about. I remember last year, when my birthday came, they threw a big party in my honour. There were very delicious things on the table, everything was decorated and I also remember there were many gifts; but you know what, I wasn't even invited. I was the guest of honour and they didn't even remember to invite me. They didn't even bother to bless the table. The party was for me and when the big day came, I was left out, they closed the door... and I wanted to share that moment with them. Actually, I wasn't surprised. Because in the last few years everyone's shut the door on me. And since I wasn't invited, I thought I'd go in quietly. I went in and stayed in the corner. They were all drinking, there were some drunks telling jokes, taking care of each other. They were having a great time. To top it all off, came an old fat man dressed in red, white-bearded and shouting Ho-Ho-Ho-Ho! It looked like he'd had too much to drink. He dropped heavily on an armchair and all the children ran towards him saying, "Santa Claus, Santa Claus!" "Dad Noel, Santa, Santa!" "as if the party were in his honour! Twelve o'clock at night and they all began to embrace each other. I stretched out my arms waiting for someone to hug me and you know? No one hugged me... Suddenly they all started to hand out the presents, one by one they were opening them, until they all opened up. I approached to see if there were any for me by any chance. How would you feel if on your birthday you gave gifts to each other and you didn't get anything? I realized then that I was left over at that party, went out quietly, closed the door and retreated. Every year that passes is worse, people only remember dinner, gifts and parties, and nobody remembers me. I wish this Christmas would allow me to enter your life, even to recognize that I have been in this world for almost two thousand years to give my life for you on the cross and thus be able to save you. Today I just want you to believe this with all your heart. I'm going to tell you something, I thought that since many people didn't invite me to their party, I'm going to make my own, a great party like no one ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the last arrangements, so this year I'm sending several invitations and it's this day, there's an invitation for you. I'll book you a place, and write your name in gold letters in my big guest book. At this party there will only be guests with prior reservation, and those who do not answer my invitation will have to be left outside. Get ready because when everything's ready, I'm throwing the big party. see you soon. I'll wait for you... Christmas, in the Eucharist, in the manger, in prayer and in the good you do for others.

JESUS OF NAZARETH

PARISH NEWSLETTER



4th. Sunday of Advent

22nd. December 2019

PARISH CENTRE

Opening hours from 9.30 am to 1.30

Tuesday and Friday.

Phone 059 9156890; _email: clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com

Fr. John O'Brien: 086-2403787; email: frjohn51@gmail.com

Website: www.clonmoreparish.ie Dioc. Website: www.kandle.ie

Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday 7th. January 2020

Joseph the dreamer

Pope Francis has spoken on several occasions about his devotion to St Joseph. St Joseph is his favourite saint, he says, because he shows us how God reveals his plan to us in our times of silence and rest. He keeps a statue of a sleeping St Joseph on his desk, placing prayer requests under it. Speaking on a trip to the Philippines in 2015, he said: 'I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength ... Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him. In this moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us. But like St Joseph, once we have heard God's voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act.' Today's Gospel recalls the central role played by St Joseph in the story of the birth of Jesus. A man of honour from the outset, the goodness of his character is further highlighted by his response to God's voice. When he wakes up after hearing God's instructions in a dream, he immediately acts on it and takes Mary into his home. His openness to God's will is a crucial element in the story that follows: his partnership with and support of Mary, the birth of Jesus, his care for the child 'who is to save his people'. Christmas is very near now, and we are busy and preoccupied with our preparations. A good time, perhaps, to pause in silence, to rest with God, and to listen to what he might have to say to us.

Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday 24th. Christmas Eve:

Ballyconnell at 7.30 pm. Kilquiggan at 8 pm
Clonmore at 9 pm.

Wednesday 25th. Christmas Day

Ballyconnell at 9 am Kilquiggan at 9.30 am
Clonmore at 11 am

Christmas Penance Service: Monday 23rd. after 7.30 Mass

Collections: Envelopes €424; Baskets €346

Envelopes returned: 84. Envelope winner: John & Eileen Byrne

Bingo: €465; Lotto: €720. Bingo Jackpot: € 675

The Annual and half year subscriptions to the Parish Lotto are now due, please see your local seller to renew or join, or contact Willie Whelan on 059-9156108 or Mary Doyle: 086-8528754. The cost is: Yearly €100 or 6 months €50. A great way to support your Parish and also to be in with a chance of winning the weekly Jackpot. To everyone who support the Parish Lotto our heartfelt thanks.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS: We have two accounts in our Parish:

1. The Parish account: The money from the envelopes and offertory collections, together with the proceeds from the Parish Bingo and Parish Lotto are lodged into this account. This account is used for the ordinary running of the Parish - heating, electricity, insurance, repairs and maintenance, wages, telephone and broadband, stationery, etc. Thanks to your generous support, our Parish is doing very well and our churches, halls and houses are in good shape.

2. The Clergy Account. The money that is collected at Easter & Christmas; the Advent and Lenten Stations, November list of the dead and the annual collection for the priest of the Parish are lodged into this account. From this account the Priest of the Parish is paid. This is the first year we did not have to supplement this account with a loan from the Parish Account This is thanks to your generosity. Thank you once again.

As we come to the Christmas collection, I once again would appeal to your generosity, to continue to build together on what we have achieved. May the love of Christ fill your homes and hearts this Christmas and may all your dreams come through for 2020. **Thank you**

Anniversaries

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

<u>Ballyconnell 21st. December</u> Michael Lyons; Ballykilduff; Mikey Doyle Knockballystine	<u>Ballyconnell</u> <u>28th. Dec</u>
<u>Clonmore 22nd. December</u> Denis, Daniel & Helena Kelly Haroldstown; Mary Kelly Haroldstown (died on 12 th . Nov.) Peter & Margaret Keegan & their sons Peter & James, Clonmore; Donal & Lily Troy Killabeg; Michael Strahan, Clonmore 1 st . Aniv. And his son Kevin Strahan 9 th . Aniv	<u>Kilquiggan</u> <u>29th. Dec</u>

The Clonmore senior Citizens Christmas Party is:
Fri 10th January 2020 in Ballyconnell Hall at 5pm sharp. All over 65 are very welcome; for any information phone Catherine: 087 7580101;
Helen: 086 3701091; Ann: 087 6472417

'Wicklow GAA 2019 Yearbook' now available from Coolkenno GAA. The perfect present for the GAA lover in your life. Contact PRO Shane Byrne on 087-2291548 re purchases. Price is €10. Limited supply.

A sincere thanks to all who supported the recent St. Vincent De Paul collection in Ballyconnell. We raised a total of €235

ALTAR SOCIETY

<u>Ballyconnell</u> Betty O'Brien	<u>Kilquiggan</u> Margaret Byrne
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COLLECTORS FOR DECEMBER

<u>Ballyconnell</u> Paul Osborne Domnick Nolan	<u>Kilquiggan</u> Michael Kelly Ned Bowes	<u>Clonmore</u> Paddy Lawlor Liam Hickey
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Clonmore Parish Lotto: Last week's numbers: 7, 22, 5, 24. No winner
Next Week's Jackpot: €1900; Jackpot plus Bonus number: €2,900.

€40 prize winners: Maura Keogh, Bunclody; Hugh Byrne Ballyshane; Helen Fitzpatrick c/o Bingo; Chrissie O'Brien, Knockeen; Dan Fitzpatrick, Knockballystine

Coolkenno GAA Lotto: Last week's numbers: 1, 14, 22, 31 - No Winner
This week's jackpot €7,300. Next Draw: 23rd. December - Crab Lane
Liz Rouine; Niall McCarthy; Deborah Cushe; Michael O'Reilly (Snr.)