

Parishes of Ardcaith/Clonalvy & Curraha

The Nativity of the Lord
25th December 2020

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Curraha – St Andrew’s Church -
currahaparish.ie

Ardcaith– St Mary’s Church & Clonalvy St John
the Baptist Church - Ardcaith-Clonalvyparish.ie



December 27th

Ardcaith 9.00am

Clonalvy 10.00am

Curraha 11.30am

Ministers of the Eucharistic

Lara McCormack

Leta Harford

Gerard O’Connor

Ministers of the Word

Liz Gough & Tricia Fox

Ann White

Joan Phelan

Christmas Day 25th

Mass Bouquets (All Masses)

Christmas Eve

5.00pm

A.V. Cissie Whyte

6.00pm

People who are working over Christmas

7.00pm

A.V. Dfm Moor’s Rolestown

8.30pm

A.V. Mark Ward, A.V. Tommy & Kathleen Stanners

DMG Furlong & Stanners Families, Margaret Galway

10.00pm

Special Intention

27TH December of Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

11.30am

A.V. Sean Whyte

A.V. Do-Do Kennedy

A.V. Tom & Mary Murphy

A.V. Martin & Tom Murphy

A.V. Maureen Blount DFM Wall Family Kilbrew

Monday 28th Dec

7.30pm

A.V. Margaret Nugent A.V. Pat Hanley, Francis Holland

Tuesday 29th Dec

9.30am

People of the Parish

Thursday 31st Dec

9.30am

Joe Fowler

Friday 1st Jan

9.30am

For the New Year

3rd January Second Sunday of Christmas

11.30am

A.V. Dan Collins

Deceased Members of the Guiney Family

A.V. Colm McManus

Masses will be offered for intentions as requested and will take place in accordance with Government restrictions online.

To find us online please go to currahaparish.ie or Ardcaith/Clonalvyparish.ie and click on the Mass icon just at the Mass time.

CHRISTMAS 2020

We are not alone

This is the loveliest feast of the year, despite any virus. It strikes a chord and evokes a response in every Christian heart. Today we are not *alone*. All over the world, in Rome, Tokyo, New York, Kiev Christians gather to celebrate this feast. Today we are not *alone*. We are united in spirit with Christians who have gathered down through the centuries in catacombs, cathedrals and Irish hillsides to celebrate this feast. Today we are not *alone*. We are united in spirit to our people who have gone before us – the parents and grandparents with whom we spent our childhood – those dear ones whom we miss greatly and to whom we are forever bound in flesh, faith and love. No Christmas stands alone. It is fuelled and charged with the memory of other years, other Christmases. All our Christmases *do* come together. *This is* all our Christmases.

The most human of feasts

This is the most human of feasts. This feast of Christmas we celebrate in the most earthly and concrete of ways: Christmas trees in the corner; toys for the children; turkey in the oven; stuffing in the turkey; giblets in the soup; presents for our friends; holly over the pictures; candles in the windows; kind words and handclasps for our neighbours. In every conceivable way we give earthly and concrete expression to Christmas and make it real.

Our family feast

This more than any other is our family feast. All over the world these past days cars, trains, ships and aero planes have been carrying only one kind of cargo: family cargo. Telephone lines buzz, mobiles beep, cold rooms are aired, spare rooms are full, small beds are crowded. Wherever possible separation is in search of union; fragmented families are being pieced together.

God is on the broad of his back

Why? Why are we not alone? Why the insistence on the human? Why the emphasis on family? Because on this holy day of holy days, as we look into the crib, we come face to face with the central truth of our faith:

- That God came down.
- That God became one like us.
- That Jesus Christ is both God and Man.
- That light shines where there was only darkness.
- That the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

God is on the broad of his back; stretched out on straw in our midst. Telling us in the nakedness of a baby how much he cares. A child is born to us. A son is given to us. Wonderful counsellor! Mighty God! Prince of peace! And so we choose the human because God did. We put the emphasis on family, because God did by being born into a particular family and into the wider family of humankind. And we are not alone on this holy feast, because Christ our Saviour is with us.

And so at this holy time, on this holy feast

- We think of people who have come home, and we welcome them
- We think of our friends who are away, and we pray for them
- We think of those who died of Covid and their families, we honour all by abiding to guidelines.
- We think of our dear ones who have died, and we rejoice with them
- We think of the poor among whom Christ came, and our obligations to them
- We think of our failings and shortcomings, and our sorrow for them
- We think of those who make our parish so special, and we pray, prince of peace, bless them always.
- We think especially of the God who took on our flesh, and our thanks to Him.

Happy Christmas everyone!

Fr. Brendan

