

# CHARLESTOWN PARISH

## NEWSLETTER

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12TH. DECEMBER 2021

**SUNDAY MASSES: 9.30 am & 12 noon**, Charlestown. **10.30 am.**, Bushfield  
**VIGIL MASS** 8 pm., Charlestown.

**WEEKDAY MASS** 10 am. Evening Mass, First Friday only 8 pm., Charlestown.

**CONFESSION** Saturday after the 10 am Mass & 7.30 to 7.50 pm.

**ADORATION** Monday 10 am to Friday 11 pm.

Fr. Johnston 094 9254315; 085 7789936. E-mail [tjohnston@achonrydiocese.org](mailto:tjohnston@achonrydiocese.org). Fr. Doherty 094 9255973 [L. S. *MCN Media.tv*]

### CHARLESTOWN MORNING MASSES

Sunday	12th.	09.30	Jim Gallagher and his wife, Kathleen, Lurga.
Sunday	12th.	12.00	Michael James and Mary Finn, Cloonaweema.
Monday	13th.	10.00	People of the Parish.
Tuesday	14th.	10.00	Susan Dockery, her son Andrew & deceased of the Holmes & Dockerys.
Wednesday	15th.	10.00	Special Intention.
Thursday	16th.	10.00	Personal Intention.
Friday	17th.	10.00	Joe Stenson, Lavey Heights, Month's Mind Mass.
Saturday	18th.	10.00	Bernie Phillips, Church Street.
Sunday	19th.	09.30	Personal Intention.
Sunday	19th.	12.00	Mary and Patrick McDonnell and deceased family members.

### CHARLESTOWN EVENING MASSES

Saturday	11th.	20.00	Billy Durkin, Sonnagh [11th. Ann.] & deceased of the Durkin family.
Saturday	18th.	20.00	Tommy Maye, Hagfield.

### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BUSHFIELD

Sunday	12th.	10.30	Mary and Tom Gallagher and son John, Bushfield.
Sunday	19th.	10.30	Martin Lundy [3rd. Ann.] his wife Mary and parents, James & Mary.

### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

**(1)** Micah 5:1-4      **Psalms** 79      **Fourth Sunday of Advent [C]**      **Gospel** Luke 1:39-44  
**(2)** Hebrews 10:5-10

### SVP Contact Number 086 8892098

**VINCENT DE PAUL:** This year the Vincent de Paul Society are unable to hold a church Door collection so donation envelopes are available in both churches. Donors may post their donations, using the envelopes provided, directly to Ozanam House, Galway or they may wish to drop their envelopes into the Offertory Collection Box. The local branch will send them off to Galway.

**Confession available today, Sunday 12th. after the 12 noon Mass.**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Mayo Roscommon Hospice and Shine a Light Christmas Cards are available in local Chemists and Supermarkets in Charlestown. Price €6 per pack. Please support.

**LOUGH DERG:** Lough Derg online shop offers unique Christmas Cards, featuring scenes of the island from across the centuries and gifts including a limited edition of the Lough Derg Christmas Candle. Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are also available - Fr. La, Prior, will offer a triduum of masses beginning on Christmas eve for all those who are enrolled. Visit [lougherg.live/shop](http://lougherg.live/shop)

**THE LIGHT IS ON:** Sunday next, 19th. December, 5-6 pm the 'Light is on' in the Church in Charlestown offering an opportunity for confession with a visiting priest. I do hope that as many as possible will come to confession on that evening. We are privileged to have Knock Shrine so close and confession is offered, Monday to Saturday daily, 11 am to 3 pm.

**CAROL SERVICE:** On Wednesday 15 December, starting at 7.30 pm, the Annual Christmas Carol Service will be livestreamed from the College Chapel of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. The online link can be found on the college website [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie). The Service will also be broadcast by Kairos on [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie) and on [www.shalom.tv](http://www.shalom.tv).

### **FEASTDAYS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday 13th. December.** **St. Lucy.** Martyred in the fourth century in Sicily. She is listed among the martyrs mentioned in the first Eucharistic prayer.

**Tuesday 14th. December.** **St. John of the Cross.** 1542-1591. John spent his early years in religious life as a Carmelite friar. In 1568, St Teresa of Avila persuaded him to work for the reform of the Carmelite order and in this he met much opposition, severe punishments and imprisonment. In spite of all John continued with the reforms. He was a man of deep prayer, an accomplished poet and a spiritual writer with a mystical touch. He was canonised in 1726 and declared a doctor of the church in 1926.

**CHRISTMAS MASS CARDS:** A sincere thank you to the many people who have taken the Christmas Mass Cards opting to have family or a family member, a friend, a neighbour enrolled in the Triduum of Masses on the 27th, 28th and the 29th December in St. James's Church. The gift of Mass is a timeless, priceless gift so thank you for offering this wonderful gift to family and friends this Christmas. Cards are available again after Mass this week-end and during the week. Suggested donation, €5 for one card or €10 for a packet of three. All proceeds from the sale of these cards will go towards meeting the heating and lighting costs incurred in supporting adoration in our church, Monday through Friday.

**A GIFT FOR BABY JESUS:** On the occasion of a person's birthday, family and friends give gifts to the one celebrating and we acknowledge that as a normal acceptable, good practice, but what if, instead of giving the gifts to the person celebrating, we gave the gifts to one another and didn't give anything to the birthday person. Would that not seem a little odd!

Christmas day is the birthday of Baby Jesus and for the most part what we do is give presents to one another and forget about the birthday child, Jesus. But, you might say, it is not that we are ignoring Jesus, but what present could I give and how would I get it to him. The shepherds and the wise men came to the stable and the living Jesus, the new born child, was there but it is not the same for us but we can still give, and what can we give! A little time, a promise, a word of thanks.

This year, a Christmas stocking for Baby Jesus will be placed at the crib in each church and children and adults may place little notes of thanks to Jesus, for gifts and blessings received, maybe a word of promise that you will come and visit Jesus at the crib and say a prayer there, maybe a prayer for others who may be sad this Christmas or a word that you will make every effort to be the best you can be. Think of what you could give and, please God, this little exercise may help us to appreciate the true focus of Christmas, God among us as a little child.

**COVID 19:** In the context of the most recent Covid guidelines, religious services in places of worship are unchanged regarding capacity. All the other protective measures, social distancing, face coverings, hand washing, sanitising remain in place. Please continue to pray for God's protective blessing from this corona Virus.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** To comply with the social distance requirement of the Covid regulations, the capacity of both our churches is considerably reduced so during the coming week we will be asking people to reserve a place for the Mass of their choice at Christmas.

Masses on Christmas Eve:	Charlestown, <b>6 and 9 pm.</b>	Bushfield <b>8 pm</b>
Masses on Christmas Day:	Charlestown, <b>9.30 and 12 noon.</b>	Bushfield <b>10.30 am</b>