



**St. Nicholas' Parish News**  
 December 9 2018  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
[www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie)  
 E-mail: [stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)



**Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.**  
 061 340614

**Fr. John O'Byrne**  
 085 7491268

**Fr Sean Harmon**  
 087 9870284

**Salesian Sisters:**  
 348510

**Mass times:**

**Weekday Masses:**

**Mon, Tues, Wed.**  
 9.45am.College Chapel

**Thur, 7.00pm**  
 St Nicholas .Church

**Weekends:**

**Sat** 7.00pm . St Nicholas

**Sun.**10.30 am. St Nicholas

**12 noon:**  
 St Munchin's College Chapel

**Items for newsletter**

To be in to:  
 John... 085 7406822  
 Maura. 086 0429952  
 by Wednesday please.

E-mail:  
[Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Feastdays for Dec**

**Wed 12**  
 St Finian (Meath)

**Thurs 13**  
 St Lucy

**Fri 14**  
 St John of the Cross

*It takes twenty years  
 to  
 make an overnight  
 success.*

*Eddie Cantor*



**God Of All Time**

*Iona Community Advent Prayer*

*You keep us waiting,.*

You, the God of all time want us to wait for the right time in which to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do.

*So thank you.....for the waiting time.*

**You keep us looking.**

You the God of all space, what us to look in the right and wrong places for signs of hope, for people who are hopeless, for visions of a better world which will appear among the disappointments of the world we know.

*So thank you....for the looking time.*

**You keep us loving.**

You, the God whose name is love want us to be like you—to love the loveless and the unlovely and the unlovable; to love without jealousy or design or threat; and most difficult of all, to love ourselves.

*So thank you...for the loving time.*

**And in all you keep us.**

Through hard questions with no easy answers; through failing where we had hoped to succeed and making an impact when we felt we were useless; through the patience and the dreams and the love of others; and through Jesus Christ and his Spirit, you keep us.

*So thank you...for the keeping time, and for now, and for ever.*

**Amen.**



**Take Time to be Aware**

Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p. 196

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehem's of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present. "An old abbot was fond of saying,

'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.'

"The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos—the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all."

**Confessions for Christmas**

Our Parish Reconciliation service will take place on Thursday, December 20th at 7:30pm in St Nicholas church, Westbury. For those taking the risk of returning to the sacrament, we aim to make it as gentle and welcoming as possible. We will celebrate a simple form of confession where we invite parishioners to confess one or two sins and receive God's forgiveness.....All welcome.

### Parish Office Opening hours.

Opening times: Tues 2pm-4pm. Thurs 9.30am-12.30.  
for anyone who may need to book Masses get certificates or any other church related enquiries.

Tel: 341300

### Baptism:

Anyone wishing to have their baby baptised must give at least one months notice. Please contact the office to make arrangements.



### Bambino Sunday



Next Sunday, December 16th we will have the traditional blessing of Bambinos (baby Jesus) statues at the 10:30am Mass in St Nicholas church, Westbury. We invite children and adults to bring along the Baby Jesus statue from their crib for a special Advent blessing.

### Christmas Carol Service

Our Parish Carol Service by candlelight will take place on Thursday December 13th at 7:30pm pm. in St Nicholas Church, Westbury.



It will be a festive evening with Carols sung by our three Parish choirs and offering us a chance to reflect on the reason for the season.



Seasonal refreshments will follow.

All welcome.

**X** → There will not be mass that evening in St Nicholas.

### Church Clean up for Christmas



Please come along on Monday December 10th from 7.00pm to help Precious & Mike with sprucing up our church for Christmas.

The more who come the better (many hands make light work).

Precious

Lets get St Nicholas Church sparkling for the BIG (Birth)DAY Bring whatever you can to help with the cleaning e.g, polish, dusters, hoovers etc.....  
C U There.

### STUFF..... Me???.....Never !

Every November I start moving my stuff. There is closet stuff, drawer stuff, attic stuff and basement stuff. I separate the good stuff from the bad stuff, then I stuff the bad stuff anywhere the stuff is not too crowded until I decide if I will need the bad stuff. I know my children will want some of the good stuff, but the bad stuff will be stuffed in bags and taken to recycling where all the other people's stuff has been taken. Whenever we have company they always bring bags and bags of stuff. This year I had an extra closet built so I would have a place for all the stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my good stuff. What would life be like if we didn't have all this stuff?

Now there is all that stuff we use to make us look better than we do. There is the stuff to make our hair look good. Stuff to make us look younger. Stuff to make us look healthier. Stuff to hold us in, and stuff to fill us out. Stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us and stuff to eat. Our lives are filled with stuff—good stuff, bad stuff, little stuff, big stuff, useful stuff, , and every-one's stuff. Now when we leave all our stuff and go to heaven, whatever happens to our stuff won't matter. We will still have the good stuff prepared for us.

### Remembering those who are Sick



Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those preparing for and awaiting results of tests, those in hospital.

Continue to pray for Frank, Scarlett, Maurice, Ailish R, Pat, Annette, Aidan,

Gabriel, Jim, Kathleen, Garrett, Helen, Philip, Tony, John, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Ciara, Paddy, Michael, Vera Ailish, Frank, Ger and Mary. Lord Jesus, you are the true friend of all those who suffer anguish and pain in spirit, mind or body. Please share with them now the gift of your consoling love. If you know of anybody needing prayers etc, please let John/Maura know by E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com or Tel. John.085 7406822 Maura. 086 0429952

### ADORATION CHAPEL

*A Haven of Peace and Quiet*



Adoration is increasing and becoming more popular in the Limerick Diocese. Why not visit our little Chapel at the side of St Nicholas Church.

### MILFORD HOSPICE

**"LIGHT UP A MEMORY":**

You are warmly invited to the official opening ceremony to mark the illumination of the Light Up A Memory Tree at Milford Hospice. **Date:** December 9. **Time:** 6:00 p.m. Each Christmas the Light up a Memory Tree at Milford Hospice becomes an inspiring beacon of remembrance and reflection that lights up the grounds of Milford Care Centre. Light Up A Memory offers one a unique opportunity to sponsor a dedicated light on Milford's tree remembering and honouring someone special in your life, living or deceased.



### TROCAIRE: "Gifts of Love"

Support families affected by long term poverty and injustice overseas by buying a Trocaire gift this Christmas. How it works. When you buy a Trócaire Gift of Love, you're not just giving. You're joining the fight for justice. Buy a Trócaire Gift of Love and send some love around the world this Christmas. To buy a gift of Love please talk to Noel at the back of the church in St Nicholas and St Munchin's on the 8/9 December. You can also contact Trocaire on 01 6293333 or go to <https://www.tracaire.org/gifts>

**A big thank You to all who have taken part in our Parish Giving Tree.**

**This Sunday is the final day to return a gift.**

**Your generosity will make a big difference in the lives of less well off children this Christmas.**

### Kids Corner



Why did the M&M go to school?...

Because he really wanted to be a Smartie!



Why was the teacher wearing sunglasses? She had very bright pupils!

