

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
You came to call sinners: **Christ, have mercy.**
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us **Amen.**

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Micah 5:1 - 4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:
You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps.79:2-3.15-16.18-19

R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **[R]**
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **[R]**
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **[R]**

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'
Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 1:39 - 44

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?'

For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.



focus on sunday

Mary's first journey after the annunciation was to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who needed her help. Christmas brings the question to each of us, "who needs my help?"



After 5 years in homelessness and rough sleeping, Michael and Sarah are now looking forward to spending time with their children in their own home this Christmas.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.
Go in peace.
Thanks be to God.



When Mary discovered that her cousin Elizabeth, in her old age, was six months pregnant, she went "as quickly as she could" and stayed with her three months until her child was born. Mary's first thought was not for herself, even though she herself was now pregnant, but for an elderly lady who might need some support and help.

During Advent, we wait for Jesus to come to us. But every day, Jesus waits for us to come to him. When we, like Mary, reach out to help someone in need, we encounter Jesus.

"Whatever you do to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it to me." In every act of kindness, in sharing or supporting those in need, in visiting the lonely, or those in hospital, Jesus is present to us at that time.

At Christmas, we remember Jesus coming to us, to share our human condition with all its suffering. His love and compassion for us is the model for our love and compassion for each other. We are called to grow more and more like him. Every day offers us many opportunities to do that.

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ, Peter McVerry Trust.

Jesus' Story *Fr. Liam Hickey*

Mary is very good at helping out. She goes to her cousin Elizabeth who is expecting a baby. She notices when people want more wine at a wedding. The angel asked Mary to listen. Mary always listens to our prayers and helps us to listen to each other.



Sunday Masses:

SS John & Paul (Webcam): Friday 7pm;
Saturday 6:30 pm; Sunday 10 am and 12:15 pm
Mary Immaculate Church - Saturday 12 noon;
Sunday 9 am and 11 am

Weekday Masses:

10 am Mon-Fri Mary Immaculate
7 pm Thursday SS John & Paul Church (Webcam)

SHANNON PARISH NEWSLETTER

Parish Office: 4, Dún na Ri, Shannon
Tel 061 363243

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm
(lunch 12.30pm-1.30pm) 1.30pm - 5.30pm
Thursdays: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Email: office@shannonparish.ie www.shannonparish.ie

Tune in and Follow us on:

Radio 105.6 FM for Mass from SS John and Paul
Webcam: <https://www.shannonparish.ie/web-cam/>
f www.facebook.com/Shannon.Parish.Killaloe/
t <https://www.twitter.com/ShannonParish67>
y www.youtube.com/c/ShannonParish67

Parish App



1 9 D e c e m b e r 2 0 2 1
F o u r t h S u n d a y o f A d v e n t

Our Prayers & Sympathy to the families of: Seamus Leonard, Ballycasey more whose cremation took place on Tuesday. Carolyn Horkan, Dernish Lawn whose cremation took place on Wednesday. Anne O'Brien, De Lacey Park who was buried on Thursday. Mike Hickey, Cronan Gardens whose cremation took place on Saturday. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may the light of heaven shine on their souls.

Months Mind Mass: This Saturday 18th December in Mary Immaculate Church at 12 noon for Paul Halpin. This Saturday 18th December in Mary Immaculate Church at 12 noon for Hugh O'Donnell. Next Sunday 19th December in SS John & Paul Church at 12.15pm for Michael Wren.

First Anniversaries: This Saturday 18th December at 12 noon in Mary Immaculate Church for Mary Power. This Saturday 18th December at 6.30pm in SS John & Paul Church for Nuala McCoy. Next Sunday 19th December at 12.15pm in SS John & Paul Church for James O'Brien and remembering Clare O'Brien. Next Tuesday 21st December at 10am in Mary Immaculate Church for Noel Dunne.

Anniversaries: Peter O'Neill, Dr. Tom & Nellie O'Dea, George O'Shaughnessey, Patsy O'Shaughnessey, Tom O'Shaughnessey, Charles Connolly, Seamus Ryan, Tom Mannix, Susan O'Flaherty, Audrey Carrig, Martin Abbott, Mike Webb, Paddy McAllen, Eddie McDonnell, Mary Justice, Nora & Denis Cahill, Dermot McCabe, Pat O'Callaghan, and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Parish Collection: last Sunday €2,303. Míle Buíochas.

Thank you for your wonderful support to the parish.

As well as the usual way to donate to your parish you can also use our new method of using the QR code (here) which is also placed at the doors and shrines of our Church's, Adoration Chapel Notice Board, and Parish Office. It's another easy way for you to support your parish using your smart phone.



Parish Tax Rebate Scheme: If you are part of the Tax Rebate Scheme where the parish benefits, you're new box of envelopes are available in the sacristy. If you're interested in being part of the scheme please contact the Parish Office for details.

Adoration Chapel: will close at 6pm on Thursday and re-open on Thursday January 6th.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Adoration on Sunday in SS John and Paul will pause at 6pm on Sunday and resume on January 9th 2022.

Mass and Baptismal Bookings: Baptisms celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Saturday every month. If you are intending to book a Mass or a baptism we would ask you book through the Parish Office. Email office@shannonparish.ie or phone 363243.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2022
Seven Nights B&B and return Airport transfer from Dubrovnik or Split from €315 per person sharing. Guaranteed Airport transfer price for any flight. Contact us for details and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

Gorodische Gift Cards €10 available in the sacristy and Parish Office.

Priests Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Envelopes will be distributed to your home over the coming week, with additional ones in the Church's and parish office. You are also welcome to donate on www.shannonparish.ie using the donate button or you can use the QR Scan code which will take you directly to the donate button.

Support St Vincent de Paul ... You're welcome to leave any financial donations to the Parish Office and mark your donation for SVP in their efforts to assist needy families this Christmas. Unfortunately we are not in a position to accept food or toys. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Schedule of Masses are listed below, on the website, Facebook, and in the Church's. We invite you to take one Mass of your choosing for Christmas Day and one Mass on Sunday December 26th - please note the extra Mass times listed to facilitate Covid protocols.

Confessions after all Masses up to Thursday December 23rd

Flowers for Christmas If you would like to give a donation for flowers to decorate our Christmas Altar's your welcome to do so by calling into the sacristy.

Parish Office is open this week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday until lunchtime for parish business. Office re-opens after Christmas on Tuesday January 4th 2022.

Special Church Collections Dates 2022
will be taken up on the dates below:

- 24/25th December 2021 Priests' Christmas Collection
- 29th /30th January 2022 Diocesan Administration Appeal
- 19th/20th February 2022 Parish Faith Formation Appeal
- 16/17th March 2022 Diocesan Education Fund
- 16th/17th April 2022 Priests' Easter Collection
- 14th /15th May 2022 Lourdes Invalid Appeal
- 18th /19th June 2022 Priests' Summer Collection
- 23rd/24th July 2022 Diocesan Needs Appeal
- 27th/28th August 2022 Diocesan Sick & Retired Priests' Appeal
- 24th/25th September 2022 Priests' Autumn Collection
- 22nd/23rd October 2022 Mission Sunday Appeal
- 26th/27th November 2022 Youth Ministry Appeal
- 24/25th December 2022 Priests' Christmas Collection

Most of the above collections fall on a Sunday or Holy Day and include the Vigil Masses. We ask that no other collection would take place on the weekend of a second collection or the day of the Priests' collection.

We thank you for your continued generosity to all our Collections as they play a primary part in the pastoral care of the Parish.

Fr. Arnie

Sunday Missals for 2022 available in the sacristy for €7.00.
2022 Parish Calendars are available at the Church Doors.

A Gentle Reminder the wearing of masks or face visors, and sanitising of hands is mandatory in the Church.

Do continue to stay safe.



Christmas Mass Schedule 2021



CONFESSIONS:

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday (Dec 20-22nd)
after 10am & 7pm Masses

- CHRISTMAS EVE:**
- 2pm (Mary Immaculate Church)
 - 4pm (SS John and Paul Church)
 - 6pm (Mary Immaculate Church)
 - 7pm (SS John and Paul Church)
 - 9pm (Mary Immaculate Church)
 - Midnight (SS John & Paul Church)
- CHRISTMAS DAY:**
- 8am (SS John & Paul Church)
 - 9am (Mary Immaculate Church)
 - 10am (SS John & Paul Church)
 - 11am (Mary Immaculate Church)
 - 11.30am (SS John & Paul Church)

Sunday 26th December:

SS John & Paul: Sunday 10am, 11.30am, and 12.15pm
Mary Immaculate: Sunday 9am, 11am.
(Please note there is an extra Mass at 11.30am in SS John and Paul Church on Sunday December 26th)

*****Note: Extra Masses are scheduled for Christmas and Sunday December 26th. There are NO evening Masses on Christmas Day or Sunday December 26th. Daily Masses (Monday to Friday) from December 27th to January 7th will be at 10am in Mary Immaculate Church and 7pm in SS John and Paul Church.**

We welcome you to Mass for Christmas and we encourage you to attend. We ask parishioners and friends (especially families with children, and elderly) to attend an early Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Masks/Face coverings and sanitising on entry and exit are mandatory in the Church. We ask everyone to attend ONE Mass for Christmas Eve/Day and ONE Mass on Sunday Dec 26th.

A Blessed and Happy Christmas to Parishioners and Friends!

