

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

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 raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us.... **Amen.**

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns.....



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.
Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 125

R. What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **[R]**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **[R]**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **[R]**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **[R]**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee,

his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.



focus on sunday



The message of repentance during this season of Advent is a call to each one of us to look deeply into our lives, to renew and deepen our relationship with God and our fellow sisters and brothers.

Lene Nanthabwe's community in Machinga, Malawi have been provided with ten treadle pumps which are irrigating five hectares of land for forty four households. Photo: Alan Whelan/Trócaire.



Trócaire



We continue our Advent preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Today's gospel tells us of John the Baptist preparing for the coming of Christ as he is beginning his public life of preaching and teaching. It describes John as a voice crying in the wilderness asking his listeners to prepare the way

for the Lord.

Are there any voices today asking you and I to listen and prepare the way for the Lord? I suggest that there are millions of such voices crying in the wilderness of poverty asking us to listen to their voices.

Trocaire was set up in the early 1970's by the Irish Church to listen to those voices crying in the wilderness of poverty. It continues to respond to those voices by offering immediate relief, by education and human development. What better way could we prepare for this Christmas than to listen to those voices crying in the wilderness of poverty than to gift to Trocaire or other such charities.

John the Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness preparing for the coming of Christ.

The same Christ is present today in and through those voices crying in the wilderness of poverty. As Christians we are challenged to listen to their cries.

Willie Walsh
Bishop Emeritus Killaloe

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey



Today we light two of the four candles on the Advent wreath as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. In our first reading Baruch, the prophet, tells us to be joyful, 'put on the beauty of the glory of God'. We do this by being a good friend at school, washing the dishes after dinner and by remembering to say a prayer of thanks to Jesus as we go to bed.



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/>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Shannon.Parish.Killaloe/
Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/ShannonParish67>
YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/ShannonParish67

Parish App



5 D e c e m b e r 2 0 2 1

Second Sunday of Advent

Our Prayers & Sympathy to: To Ursula Barkley, Moy Park on the death of her brother Desmond Flynn and sister in law Geraldine Flynn, both of Belfast who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may the light of heaven shine on their souls.

Months Mind Mass: Next Wednesday 8th December at 12.15pm for Lily Mead, sister of Marie Short.

First Anniversaries: This Friday 3rd December for Agatha (Aggie) Lenihan at 7pm in in SS John & Paul Church.

Anniversaries: Baby Michael Patrick Burke, Dan Fox, Pdraig Sweeney, Tony Sweeney & Nellie Sweeney, Bill Jones, Bruce Savage, Tom & Ann Moore, Gus & Kitty Barrett, Mary Ryan, Bridie McGrath and deceased members of the Considine family, Teresa McAllen, Danny Dunne, Gerard & Nellie Brooks, and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Parish Collection: last Sunday €2,198. 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: Adoration will resume on Monday to Friday 2-6pm daily.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Sunday 2-6pm in SS John and Paul Church. With the current safety protocols in place adoration is for private prayer only.

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.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8). Parish Masses will be celebrated at 10am in Mary Immaculate Church, 12.15pm and 7pm in SS John and Paul Church.

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

Trócaire
Second collection taken up at all Masses last weekend in support of mission work, including Trócaire, €3,806 Thank you for your wonderful support of our shared mission.

Sunday Missals for 2022 available in the Parish Office



Synodal Pathway Plan – Killaloe Diocese 26 November 2021

The following link provides details to the plans and resources for the synodal pathway.

<https://www.killaloe-diocese.ie/synodal-pathway-plan-killaloe-diocese/>

It contains our;

- plans or outline for what the DPC have set out for the next few months
- An introductory video from Bishop Fintan;
- A flip book from Dublin Diocese explaining the synod;
- A video from Kieran O'Mahony on the synod;
- The vademecum on the synodal pathway.

Many thanks and well done to the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) who have agreed to facilitate and coordinate the process. The following is an outline of the current planned stages for the international phase of the Synodal Pathway:



First Phase: October - December 2021

- Diocesan Opening Liturgy 17th October Ennis Cathedral
- Appointment of Diocesan Contact Person(s)
- Initial Communications to All Parish Newsletters
- Regional Meeting
- Determine Initial Meeting Groups (Parish/Pastoral Area)
- Identify local facilitators
- Develop a Communication Strategy/Plan
- Determine Questions to be presented

Second Phase: January 2022

- Communication to Local Parish/Pastoral Area Groups
- Training sessions for Local Facilitators
- Webinars/Zoom Meeting (breakout rooms) for Pastoral Councils

Third Phase: February - March 2022

- Facilitated Local (Parish/Pastoral Area) Gatherings
- Facilitator debriefing sessions
- Web Form Submissions (individuals)

Fourth Phase: April - May 2022

- Diocesan Assemblies – East & West
- Assembly Debrief back to Initial Meeting Groups
- Final Form Submissions (individuals and meeting groups)

Fifth Phase: June - July 2022

- Prepare Digital Submission
- Deliver Output of Killaloe to Bishops Conference

COVID-19 Protocols: We ask all parishioners attending Mass, and Church ceremonies that the wearing of masks and sanitising of hands is mandatory. We thank everyone for your co-operation and to the teams of stewards who assist you.

HSE now has the PCR test centre at Shannon Airport and is a convenient and easy location for anyone in our Parish who feels they need testing.

Sunday Missals for 2022 available in the Parish Office

The Bethlehem Candle

As we begin the second week of Advent, now is a good time to take stock of how our preparations for Christmas are going. Have you bought all or any presents yet? Have you put up any decorations? What about the spiritual side of getting ready for Christmas? Often we start strong, but then we fade after a few days or a week or two. If that describes you, don't be discouraged; today is a great day to restart! Today is the second Sunday of Advent. It's the day we light the second candle on the Advent wreath—the Bethlehem Candle. The second candle, coloured purple, represents faith. The Bethlehem Candle recalls the preparations Mary and Joseph faithfully made for Jesus' birth from the time of the massive message of the Angel Gabriel. The angel Gabriel said, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God." Their preparations were probably not unlike parents today looking forward to the birth of a child. But, while they were getting ready for Jesus' birth, they were interrupted by a Roman census.

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." Luke 2: 1-7 (RSVCE)

Joseph had to go to Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and he brought Mary with him. From their point of view, the 90-mile journey was probably an annoyance they could have done without. Mary was nearing the end of her pregnancy, and they had better things to do than spend the better part of a week traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. But, that's not how God saw it. About 700 years earlier, God had spoken to His people through the prophet Micah. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2 (RSCVE) Though the census intruded on Mary and Joseph's preparations, it was part of God's plan. They lived in Nazareth, but God wanted Jesus to be born in Bethlehem. Enter the census. God used a Roman emperor to accomplish His purposes, and Jesus was born where God had promised.

For many of us the days leading up to Christmas are among the busiest of the year filled with many interruptions not least the COVID 19 pandemic. We don't relish interruptions to our plans at any time, and especially not now. But, often God interrupts our plans in order to accomplish His purposes. As we're getting ready for Christmas, let's make our plans and carry them out. But, let's not get so wrapped up in our own preparations that we're too busy to appreciate what God is doing in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Rather than seeing these interruptions as annoyances, we can see them as opportunities in faith to partner with God in accomplishing His purposes, His mission, His promises, and His reminders of the message of Christmas. (Var Advent Series)

Advent 2021

VOCATION MATTERS



NATIONAL VOCATIONS OFFICE
IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Vocation Directors Autumn Conference with Fr Stephen Langridge

November 29, 2021



19 vocations directors from around the country joined by zoom the Annual National Conference for Diocesan Vocations Directors on Wednesday Oct 20th, 2021.

The conference was facilitated by Fr. Stephen Langridge, Fr. Stephen is a priest of the Diocese of Southwark and for many years was the national vocations coordinator for the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. He was director of the Vocations Discernment in Kent and produced a DVD *'The Calling'* on vocations awareness for schools and youth groups.

He also produced a booklet called 'stories of priestly vocations' which was a series of vocations stories from priests. He developed the 'Quo Vadis' programme for young adults discerning their vocation in life.

In his talk Fr. Stephen said: *'The Covid 19 crisis has not as such made fundamental changes in our Church. What has happened is that the Covid 19 crisis has accelerated the changes which were already going on under the surface. What we must be asking ourselves now is- What does the Church today have to offer to people who are looking for meaning and belonging.'*

Fr. Stephen pointed out the challenges of which we are all aware – the challenges of seeking a quick-fix solution, of clericalism, of activism and of being, as Pope Francis often points out, self-referential and of maintaining church structures just for those who already attend the sacraments.

To anyone hoping to encourage a candidate for priesthood three essentials must be worked on:

1. the building of a real relationship with Christ;
2. a real growth in virtue and;
3. to be mission-minded and with a heart which seeks to reach out to others.

The creation of parishes which are mission-minded is essential to any promotion of vocations to the priesthood. In Fr. Stephen's own experience, he found that in a former parish of his he saw that while there were very large numbers attending, he felt that they were more consumers than disciples. He entered a short reflection of the definition of a consumer versus a disciple. A consumer has wants and is essentially self-centred. A disciple is Christ-centred. A disciple has stories and seeks to be transformed and to make a difference.

Our focus then should be on transformation and not just information. While we spend a lot of time and resources and energy on imparting knowledge and information in schools and colleges (all of which is needed) the transformation of lives may not be happening at all. Again, the emphasis must be on evangelization.

Some commentators have expressed how in years gone by, speaking in general terms, many people believed, they had the faith. They behaved accordingly and expected their parish to be a place where everyone would naturally belong. The dynamic so to speak was believe, behave, belong.

In our times the trend is quite the reverse. The needs now have changed. In today's culture the need to belong is paramount. If people feel they belong then they may be inspired to seek what faith-filled people possess, namely belief. They will then shape their lives accordingly. So, the dynamic has changed today to belong, believe, and behave.

Therefore, parishes need to offer fellowship. We need to have a welcoming environment where people feel that faith can make a positive difference to life. The new movements in the Church often offer such fellowship. They can be of help in parish life to fill this need.



Fr. Willie Purcell. National Vocations Coordinator for Diocesan Priesthood.

*"It's not happiness that makes us grateful;
It's gratefulness that makes us happy"*

Brother Daid Steindl-Rast

As we start a new church year, let us be grateful for the blessings we have received. Our Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent reminded us to *"pray at all times"* and to *"watch for the signs"* that we might discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to help those whom the Lord calls.

Second Sunday of Advent Gospel Message

Our Gospel tells us that John the Baptist heard God's call - "The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness." Do you think God might be inviting you to hear and share his word, perhaps as a priest, a deacon (single or married) or in consecrated life? Contact Fr Arnie, your PP, the Diocesan Vocations Director, or contact the National Vocations Office – email: info@vocations.ie

ORDINATION TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



15TH AUGUST - CLOYNE

Bishop William Crean ordained Leonard Cleary to the Permanent Diaconate in the Church of the Holy Cross, Charleville.

ORDINATION TO THE TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE



8TH SEPTEMBER - KILLALOE

Bishop Fintan Monahan ordained Antun Pasalic to the Diaconate in the Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul, Ennis.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD



AUG - GALWAY, KILMACDUAGH & KILFENORA

Bishop Brendan Kelly ordained John Gerard Acton to the priesthood in the Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed in Heaven & St Nicholas, Glaway.

General Intercession For Vocations Second Sunday of Advent

Second Sunday of Advent That the Lord, who is beginning the good work of choosing from among us men and women to follow Him as priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, will bring it to completion through our prayers and sacrifices, we pray to the Lord.