



Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey
18th Dec 2022 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Bible Reading for Today – Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Collect for Today

God our redeemer, who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: Grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Rector's Thoughts

Christmas is fast approaching and this week's reading invites us to consider Joseph's unique part in the events of Christ's birth (last week the focus was more on Mary). Faithful, wise and obedient, our Lord's adoptive earthly father was a bit of a quiet hero.

DH

In-Church Services

9.30 Killymard (1st, 3rd, 5th Sun)
Lough Eske (2nd & 4th Sun)
10.45 Laghey (every Sunday)
12.00 Donegal (every Sunday) +online

Online Services

Fri 1pm, Sun 12noon

Phone Service

074 9710199

🙏 Prayer Points 🙏

Thanks: Joseph & Mary. Home & family.

Prayer: Obedience, faithfulness, wisdom. Opportunities & challenges of the season.

Announcements

Thank you: We had a very memorable day last Sunday with our Joint Family Service and Community Carol Service returning after a few years' absence due to Covid. It felt good! Many thanks to everyone who helped out in any way.

Sunday Services: 18th Dec MP (K,L,D). 24th & 25th Dec see below. 1st Jan MP (K,L,D). 8th Jan HC MP (LE,L,D).

Christmas HC Services: Christmas Eve Donegal 11pm. Christmas Day L Eske 9am, Killymard 10.15am, Laghey 11.30am.

The Mustard Seed: Open Wed, Thu & Fri 10.30am–2pm. Closing Fri 23rd at 2pm for Christmas break but will be open Thurs 29th Dec 11am–2pm. Re opening Wed 11th Jan. **Prayer on Fridays** 12.30pm (@ M Seed) – come and join us!

Groceries appeal: Basic groceries & personal care items for struggling families can be left during M Seed opening times.

Confirmation: On Sunday 18th June 2023 in Donegal Church at 1200. For those in 6th class and above. Details in January.

Grants: Please remember that there are some charitable grants available for households that may be having difficulty in the present financial climate. Speak confidentially to the Rector for more information.

Carol Services: Our own evening carol service was last Sunday, but why not go along on Sunday 18th to Mountcharles Church (6pm) or Rathneeny Presbyterian (7.30pm) if you would like to sing some more?

Wellness Café: At the Abbey Hotel every other Thursday 10:30-12:30 starting 5th Jan. Connect and socialise together.

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