Parish Update

Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey 22nd December 2024 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Bible Reading for Today – Isaiah 9: 2,6

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned...
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In-Church Services

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

Everyone is welcome!

Online Services Fri 1pm, Sun 12.00 **Phone Service** 074 9710199

Prayer Points 🙏

- Give thanks for the gift of God's Son, Jesus.
- Give thanks for God's blessings in 2024.
- Pray for all who have had a challenging year and may have a sad or difficult Christmas.

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 for ever. Amen.

Rector's Thoughts

Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah summed up the significance of his arrival: it means light in the darkness and hope for the hopeless. Praise the Lord, and have a very **Happy Christmas!**

> With love from all the Huss family to all of you.

Announcements

Sunday services: 22nd Dec Carol Services (LE,L,D); 24th & 25th Dec HC services [see below]; 29th Dec Carols (K), MP (L,D). **Community Carol Service:** Sunday 22nd Dec 7.30pm Donegal Church, with local choirs. Collection to Donegal Hospital.

Christmas Holy Communion Services:

Christmas Eve Tue 24th Dec: <u>11.00pm</u> Donegal.

Christmas Day Wed 25th Dec: <u>9.00am</u> Lough Eske; <u>10.15am</u> Killymard; <u>11.30am</u> Laghey.

The Mustard Seed: Tea Room open Wed-Fri 10.30am–2pm. *Closing Fri 20th, re-opening Wed 8th January*

Late night café: Fridays @ Mustard Seed 7pm till late.

Confirmation: Will be held Sunday 25th May 2025 in Killymard at 12.00noon. Classes (for those in 6th class or above) on Sunday evenings starting mid-Jan. **Information Evening** for parents & candidates Sunday 12th January 6pm Laghey Hall. **WWI Flanders and Somme trip**: 25th – 28th Sept 2025 to include visiting the graves of those who died from the Donegal Group of Parishes. Run by Killymard Historic and Cultural Society; further info contact Mandy Ellis on 087 763 2891.

Thank you: Great appreciation is due to everyone who has helped with our Advent and Christmas events, including cleaning, decorating, singing, reading, etc. Thanks also to everyone who has supported their parish throughout 2024.

Note from Treasurers: It would be greatly appreciated if all 2024 envelopes, sustentation etc. could be given in before the end of December as this is a great help to the Treasurers. Thank you for your cooperation.

Christmas break: There will be no Parish Update next week, we will return for Sunday 5th Jan 2025. Happy New Year!!

Contact: Archdeacon David Huss: 074 9721075 or 087 2882484 ~ Parish Office & The Mustard Seed: 074 9702329 Email: <u>donegalparish4@gmail.com</u> ~ <u>Facebook</u> / <u>Instagram</u> / <u>YouTube</u> / <u>Twitter</u> **@DonegalGroupofParishes** Web: <u>donegal.raphoe.anglican.org</u> ~ <u>Safeguarding info: donegal.raphoe.anglican.org/safeguarding</u>

difficult Christmas.