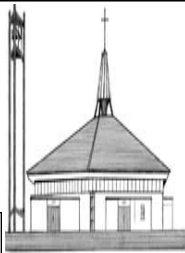




Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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17th Dec. 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Pray for the happy repose of the soul of Mike Fitzpatrick, Shannonbridge, brother of Fr. P.J. Fitzpatrick whose funeral took place on Thursday.

Masses:

Cloone: Sat. 16th Dec.	8.00 pm.	Padraig Kelly & D.F.M., Annamaconway. John McCabe & D.F.M., Drumbore. Seán & Maureen Tiernan, Cloone Village and George Crawford, Annamaconway.
Cloone: Sun. 17th Dec.	10.00 am.	Pro. Populo.
Aughavas: Sun. 17th Dec.	11.30 am.	Packie & Annie Quinn & D.M. of the Quinn & Connell families.
Cloone: Mon. 18th Dec.	10.00 am.	Aughavas: Tues. 19th Dec. 10.00 am.
Cloone: Wed. 20th Dec.	10.00 am.	Cloone: Thurs. 21st Dec. 10.00 am.
Cloone: Fri. 22nd Dec.	10.00 am.	
Cloone: Sat. 23rd Dec.	8.00 pm.	
Cloone: Sun. 24th Dec.	10.00 am.	
Aughavas: Sun. 24th Dec.	11.30 am.	Gerry and Aidan Keegan & D.F.M., Coroneary.
Aughavas: Sun. 24th Dec.	8.00 pm	Christmas Eve.
Cloone: Sun. 24th Dec.	10.00 pm.	Christmas Eve.

Eucharistic Adoration: **Aughavas** - Monday's from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm.
Cloone - Tuesday's from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

Christmas Confessions

Monday 18th December—Confessions in Cloone at 7.30 pm.
Tuesday 19th December—Confessions in Aughavas at 8.00 pm.
Wednesday 20th December—Confessions in Fenagh at 7.00 pm and in Mohill at 8.00 pm.
Thursday 21st December—Confessions in Gortletteragh at 7.00 pm.

Penance Service and Confession: During 'Covid' we got out of the practice of Confessions at Christmas and Holy Week. It would be good to recover this practice and it is a good means of preparing ourselves spiritually for Christmas. At the end of the penance service we will have a blessing on the forehead with the oil of gladness and reconciliation. I would like to appeal for a good attendance at the Penance Service this year.

Christmas Choir Practice will be held in St. Mary's Church, Cloone at 7pm on Wednesday 20th December. Please join with us, if at all possible, marking this special time of year in the time honoured tradition of singing the Christmas carols which we all know and love.

Offerings Envelopes for Cloone Parish: Those who are delivering the offerings envelopes

may call to the Parochial House as the envelopes are ready. The envelopes will be delivered between 25th and 30th December. Thanks to all who are delivering the offerings envelopes. **Parish Calendar for 2024**— copies available in the Church porches. You are welcome to take extra for people who cannot attend Church and for family members who are living abroad.

Advent

One of the outstanding images of Advent is that of the Advent wreath. How eloquently this wreath 'pokes holes in the darkness' as its light builds over the course of the weeks while we make our Advent pilgrimage. As winter leans deeper into darkness, Christians lean deeper into the light. Just think about that wreath. Its circular shape, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God. In the midst of winter's bleakness, its evergreen reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pine cones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent while purple is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer as we turn back to God once more. The rose pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.

Each week as we come to church we get to see the light of the wreath increase against the backdrop of a darkening winter. It brings us to a gradually dawning realisation that we finally get to proclaim at Christmas - Jesus is the Light of the World. Jesus is the one who pokes holes in the darkness, who is our Light if we only but let Him into our lives.

In the light of the Advent wreath and in the scripture characters and stories that accompany us through the season, we begin to catch glimpses of what the Light, who is Christ, can bring to our lives. The Advent scriptures are full of stories of transformation, of overcoming adversity, of the seemingly impossible being possible - the barren give birth, dead stumps blossom, the lion lies down with the lamb. Over these weeks, as we light another candle we proclaim in faith what God intends for our world, for our families, for ourselves: in Christ, hope overcomes despair, peace overcomes division, joy overcomes desolation, love overcomes hatred. A life and a world of hope, peace, joy, love - this is what God wants for us, this is what awaits us when we let Christ come into our lives. And as you light your wreath throughout the weeks of Advent may it remind you, to not be afraid to face the darkness and to see, at the same time, how Christ is poking holes through it, letting in His light - a light that darkness will never overcome.

Part Time - Spreadsheet Methods - Starting Monday, 8th January 2024: Mohill Computer Training at the Mohill Enterprise Centre is now accepting registrations for its part-time 4-week QQI Level 4 Spreadsheet course. Register now as places are limited by calling (071) 9632024 or by emailing feargalodonaile@msletb.ie

Thanks: On behalf of the McCabe Family, I, Michael, wish to thank all who made the DBS Fundraiser a success. Those who donated in person and everyone at home and abroad who donated via the GoFundMe page. To the people who took part in the Christmas Tractor Run which was held on Sunday 10th December and the Community Centre Committee for the use of the hall on the day. Also, to Peter who organised the centre on that day. And, finally to Dial a Chef who served up an excellent meal for everyone. We raised € 5,750.00 which has been donated to Beaumont Hospital DBS Service.

Aughavas Men's Shed are holding a coffee morning at Aughavas GAA park today Sunday December 17th from 12 noon to 2pm. We will be selling kindlers with all proceeds going to North West Hospice. Please drop in and enjoy a coffee and support a worthy cause.

Offertory Collection: (10th Dec.) **Cloone** € 980.00.