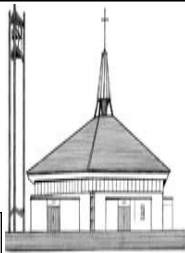




Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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24th Dec. 2023



4th Sunday of Advent

Masses:

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.**
Cloone: Mon. 25th Dec. 10.00 am. **Christmas Day.**
Aughavas: Mon. 25th Dec. 11.30 am. **Christmas Day.**
Rossan: Tues. 26th Dec. 7.00 pm.
Cloone: Thurs. 28th Dec. 11.00 am. Charlie Mitchell, Streamstown.
Cloone: Fri. 29th Dec. 8.00 pm. Nell & Jimmy Joe McGarty & D.F.M., Kiltyfea.
Cloone: Sat. 30th Dec. 8.00 pm.
Cloone: Sun. 31st Dec. 10.00 am. Joseph & Mary Kate Tiernan, Drumgowla.
Michael & Catherine Murray and Thomas Murray, Adoon.
Aughavas: Sun. 31st. Dec. 11.30 am. Tommy & Kathleen O'Brien, Cornamuckla.
John & Kathleen McGovern and their son Thomas, Augharan.

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

Cloone Offertory Collection Boxes: The boxes for the following areas are still to be collected. Areas 3, 4, 5 and 7. The envelopes will be delivered between 25th and 30th December. Thanks to all who deliver the 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.

Fatima N.S.—Family Mass: We invite you all to join us for our first Family Mass in Cloone at 10am on Sunday 14th January. Children from Fatima N.S will be involved in the mass and music and we encourage you all to join in song with our children's choir. We look forward to seeing many local families gathered and hope to continue the family mass going forward on a more regular basis.

Irish Conversation Classes. Want to Improve or practice your Gaeilge? The very successful Ciorcal Comhrá, or Irish Conversation Circle will resume in Ballinamore Library on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 8.00pm. Different levels of classes apply. Admission free. Ring or text 087 682 1566 to book a place.

Senior Set dancing classes commence in Killbracken Arms Hotel, Carrigallen on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 8pm. No experience needed and beginners very welcome. It's for a bit of fun and fitness and socialising, as well as learning some of the most popular set dances danced around the country. From Kerry, Mayo, Galway, plenty to choose from.

Aughavas GAA are holding a charity match on St. Stephen's day in Aid of Yana's Four Leaf Clover, Yana Harten, Gowna. Throw In is 2 o'clock with lotto in Dugout afterwards for €10,100.00, plus numerous other spot prizes as well. Music by Basskillers. Everyone welcome.

St. Pauls: Brand new website designed with your needs in mind and with added features. St. Pauls online store—books, religious icons, Mass leaflets, bibles, children's gifts and much more [Www.stpauls.ie](http://www.stpauls.ie) Email:: sales@stpauls.ie

125th Anniversary of the Pioneer Association: Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next Wednesday 27 December and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on that day at 10am (Irish time) around the world via www.pioneerassociation.org.

Christmas Message—2023.

We speak a great deal in Advent about the coming of the light. - as Isaiah puts it - *for your light has come, the glory of the Lord has come upon you.* What light? The light that has made itself visible in the flesh, in this tiny infant in the crib. We are attracted by the same light that enveloped the shepherds and was the guide for the Magi on their journey. This is the light that was in the world from the beginning and by which the world was made. The message of Christmas as St John puts it - *the true light which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.* And elsewhere in St John - *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.* The feast of Christmas is full of Christian hope, the light will overcome the darkness in our lives.

And as we ponder on this message at this Christmas time we are all too conscious of how at times we feel surrounded by darkness. There is so much war and destruction in our world, in Ukraine, in Yemen, in Sudan, in Burma and especially in Gaza, the very heart of the Holy Land. Truly we are witnessing yet again the slaughter of the innocents. So much evil. And then there is the darkness in our own lives, the darkness of addiction of various kinds, the threat to human life at its beginning and now mooted for the end of life, the misery of loneliness and the hatred that comes from racism, misunderstanding and ignorance. So much darkness that we can feel overwhelmed. But the message of Christmas is a beacon of hope, the light will always overcome the darkness. Evil will not prevail. The Lord is near, have no fear. This Christmas we are invited yet again to welcome Jesus, the light of truth, hope and love into our lives. Let us make him this Christmas the Lord of our life and let us commit ourselves once again to walking the journey of life with Him.

Bishop Paul.

Offertory Collection: (8th/10th Dec.) **Aughavas € 930.00.**
(17th Dec.) **Aughavas € 580.00;** (17th Dec.) **Cloone € 780.00.**
Shrine: **Aughavas € 245.00.**