

Pope's Intention for December

That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Finding our feet

It can be very hard to live with uncertainty. Back at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a counsellor was interviewed on radio about how people were coping with the 'lockdown'. People were anxious and fearful, she said. Many were experiencing loneliness, as their normal routines and social life came to an abrupt halt.

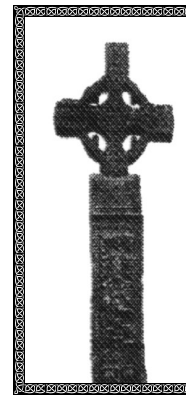
Another thing that people really struggled with was the inability to make decisions. They felt trapped and stuck, unable to plan ahead. They couldn't make plans to visit family or go on holidays. They didn't know if their jobs were secure, or if their children would return to school. When things are up in the air, it is hard to find your feet and feel grounded. Many of us are still struggling with these feelings.

Today we enter a new church year, and our first Advent season since the pandemic hit. Many of us are feeling more subdued than normal as we begin our preparations for Christmas. It will be very different from the usual family and social occasion, and we are saddened and worried by this.

In today's gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to 'stay awake'. We might feel we have no choice at the moment – the feeling of not knowing what is coming is very familiar. We are on our guard, on edge, waiting for the latest news. Yet already, there are initiatives springing up to support those who are vulnerable or in need this Christmas. In our own families, we are plotting ways to ensure no one is alone or isolated. We are 'awake' to the strange circumstances, and we are finding ways to cope. We pray today for the strength to guide us through the coming weeks, and for the peace and joy of Christ to lift our hearts and carry us onwards.

'In this time of tribulation and mourning, I hope that you will be able to experience Jesus, who comes to meet you, greets you and says: 'Rejoice.'

Pope Francis



Parish of Clones

Sacred Heart, Clones
St Alphonsus, Connon
St Macartan's, Aghadrumsee

**29th November
2020**

**First Sunday of
Advent**

Parish Office
10.00am—4.30pm (Monday—Friday)
Telephone: 047 51048
Email: clonesparish@gmail.com
Website: www.clonesparish.com

Masses and Intentions for the Week
First Sunday of Advent

Vigil	7.30pm	Sheila McCabe, Analore Street Seamus McBreen, Castlemahon (Month's Memory)
Sun 29th	11.30am	John Thomas, Margaret & Jim Quinn, Lisnamallard Liam & Sean Mohan, Corranry

Mon 30th	10.00am	St Andrew, Apostle Dympna Moore, NTB Road
Tue 1st	10.00am	People of the Parish
Wed 2nd	10.00am	John Matthews, The Diamond
Thurs 3rd	10.00am	St Francis Xavier
Fri 4th	10.00am	John & Ellen Maguire, Mullymesker & Charlie & Bridie Maguire, Stanmore London & John, Nellie & Charlotte Sherry, Oakfeild
Sat 5th	10.00am	Nuala & Francis Farrell, Clonfad

Vigil	7.30pm	Second Sunday of Advent Patrick Wilson & John & Patrick O'Neill, Belfast; Peter Murphy, Aghabog; Gabi Bonner, NTB Road
Sun 6th	11.30	Bernard Smyth (1st Anniversary) & Marcella Smyth, Church Hill; Bridget McCabe, Jubilee Road (1st Anniversary)

Parish Mobile (in case of emergency): 085 817 6203.

Masses for the week

Saturday 7.30pm Sacred Heart, Clones
Sunday 10.00am St. Macartan's, Aghadrumsee (Refer to note below)
11.30am Sacred Heart, Clones

Weekdays: Mon-Sat in Sacred Heart Church at 10.00am
(When there is a funeral in Clones, the Mass will be at **11.00am**)

Baptisms are celebrated in Sacred Heart Church on the second Saturday of each month at 4.00pm and in St. Macartan's Church on the third Sunday at 1.00pm.

Adoration: Postponed until further notice.

Confessions: Postponed until further notice.

Death: We pray for Jane Craig-Elliott, Cavan & NTB Road
Michael McPhillips, Newtownbutler
Colm Donnelly, Aghatany Monaghan

Sacred Heart Church, 5th & 6th Dec:

Readers Vigil Mary O'Neill
11.30am Tom Treanor

Prayer to St Davnet (or Dympna) of Sliabh Beagh

Saint Davnet, intercessor of those who suffer mental ill-health,

I humbly implore your powerful intercession with Jesus through Mary, the Health of the Sick, in my present need.

(Mention it.)

Saint Davnet, martyr of purity, patroness of those who suffer mental afflictions,
beloved child of Jesus and Mary,
pray to them for me

Government Restriction in N Ireland: Due to new government restrictions, Mass will not be celebrated in St Macartan's Church from Sunday 29th November 2020 until further notice.

Schools in Clones Parish

St Comhgall's 55329 **St Tiarnach's** 51398 **St Macartan's** 677 51100
Gael Scoil Eois 52162 **Largy College** 51132

Advent Prayer Resources are available on the Diocese of Clogher website www.clogherdiocese.ie and via the Diocese of Clogher Facebook page and other social media platforms from this weekend. They include prayers for family and school, links to the Advent Calendar with prayers, reflections and music for each day.

Mini Advent Retreat on Zoom: For 3 sessions during Advent you are invited to take part in a min-retreat that will explore the themes of Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be led by Fr Billy Swan, Enniscorthy (Ferns Diocese), from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd December at 8pm each day. To take part, simply email thehookoffaith@gmail.com and you will receive the Zoom link.

Lough Derg Shop Online: Lough Derg is now offering Festive Season Cards and Gifts.. This is the first time we have launched gifts from Lough Derg for the festive season.

Limited edition Lough Derg Christmas Candle

Christmas Card pack – 3 winter images from Station Island – 2 of each design.

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards – Fr La will offer a triduum of Masses beginning on Christmas Day for everyone who is enrolled.

A unique Christmas decoration featuring the Basilica – complete with ribbon.

The usual range of Lough Derg candles and other gifts are also available from www.loughderg.live/shop

There are probably very many people who say "I am really looking forward to Christmas." They mean it and have good reasons for looking forward to this season. They meet loved ones, they receive gifts etc. but how many say I'm looking forward to Christ coming?

I'm remembering and celebrating what God has done for us in the Christ event. We should remember that it was done "for us and for our Salvation". We remember that years ago Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Now we welcome him to be born in our hearts. Awaiting Christmas is a time to remember gift-giving because at Christmas God gave us the greatest gift. So maybe we need to ask ourselves what gift have we for our Father at Christmas? Gift-giving calls for reciprocation.

About 100 years ago, words in vogue were evolution and communism. Economists, social scientists and anthropologists discovered that there was no such thing as a gift. Our custom of gift-giving is a hangover or an evolution from the time of barter, a time when people had no money, no market or no deep freeze. So they shared. We give gifts to those who give us gifts; we send Christmas cards to those who send us Christmas cards. All our gift-giving is investment but as we reflect in joyful hope we see that there is a gift and only one: "The perfect gift comes from above". It is love. If a man gives a precious object to his wife, is it a gift? Yes, if it is a genuine expression of his love so at this time our gift to God is love and the only way that we can love God is by loving one another.

All Liturgies in Sacred Heart Church are broadcast on the Parish website