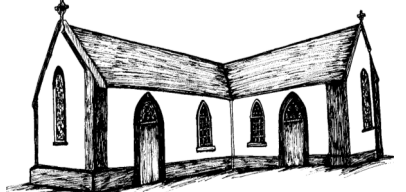
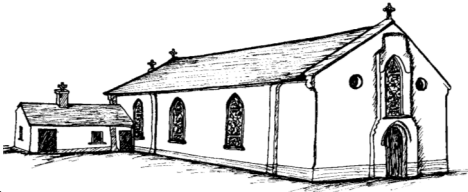


Kingscourt Parish Bulletin



info@kingscourtparish.ie visit www.kingscourtparish.ie 042/9667314
Priest on Duty: Fr. Gerry.

PONTIFF REFLECTS THAT AFRICA HAS A FRESHNESS OF HOPE

Benedict XVI dedicated his audience to a review of his trip to Benin, reporting that he found in Africa a "freshness of hope."

As is customary after an apostolic journey, the Pope used his audience address to highlight some of the main elements of the Nov. 18-20 trip to Benin.

The main point of his visit was to entrust the post synodal apostolic exhortation "Africae Munus" to the Church.

The Holy Father spoke of Africa as being a protagonist in "a new season of hope," with its "commitment to the service of the Gospel and with the courageous witness of effective solidarity."

"In Africa, I saw a freshness in the 'yes' to life, a freshness in religious sensibilities and a freshness of hope, as well as a sense of reality in its totality, with God -- and not reduced to a positivism that, in the end, extinguishes hope," he said.

The Pontiff reflected that this "tells us that the continent contains reserves of life and vitality for the future upon which we can rely, upon which the Church can rely."

Every effort

"My journey was a great appeal to Africa to direct every effort to announcing the Gospel to those who as yet do not know it," the Holy Father explained. "This involves a renewed commitment to evangelization -- to which each of the baptized is called -- by promoting reconciliation, justice and peace."

Citing "Africae Munus," the Bishop of Rome said he commends Africa to Our Lady.

He said, "May the maternal intercession of Mary 'whose heart is always inclined to God's will, sustain every effort at conversion; may she consolidate every initiative of reconciliation and strengthen every endeavour for peace in a world which hungers and thirsts for justice' (Africae munus, 175)."

A special **Tridium of Masses** will be celebrated in the Parish at Christmas on December 28th, 29th and 30th for the intentions of Parishioners, their families, those living and deceased, and all the names will appear in the bulletin on Christmas Day. Please call to the Parish Office or contact Nuala after weekend Mass if you wish to have your family or intentions included in this special Christmas Tridium.

Advent in our Parish:

Lectio Devina continues in the Parish for Advent at 7 p.m. on Monday nights at the Parish Centre.

A Magical Evening of Christmas Music with Brioni Galagher, Dr. Mary Louise Gargan, Kingscourt Children's Choir and St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band with SANTA on 18th Dec. at 7 p.m.

Penance Service on Wednesday, 21st Dec. at 7.30 p.m. All welcome. Visiting Priests will be in attendance.

The Annual St. Vincent de Paul National Appeal takes place this weekend and request your support.

On next weekend we ask every family to bring a small gift of non perishable food to the Giving Sunday appeal in aid of the Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas hampers.

Please note that the **Parish Bereavement Support Team** can be contacted at 9667314. The number on the new parish calendar should be adjusted accordingly.

We are delighted to announce that Mass will be celebrated in the Parish Church from next weekend following the recent works. The Vigil Mass at 6p.m. will be the first weekend Mass to be celebrated and will be recorded for broadcast on **LMFM Radio, 95.8FM** on Sunday, 18th December, at 9.00a.m. We thank the Community Centre staff, committee and volunteers for their very kind co-operation in providing a suitable and comfortable venue for the celebration of Sunday Mass during the past six months. We regret the obvious inconvenience to them and to those who avail of this great facility in our community. Thanks to one and all.

On Saturday 24th December, Christmas Eve, we will be the very first parish in County Cavan to offer **web cam facilities** from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kingscourt. There will be a live streaming of all our Church services which can be easily accessed by simply clicking on the web cam link found on the home page of the parish site. We expect that this new facility will be of huge interest to the many people from Kingscourt and the surrounding areas who are now living abroad. View www.kingscourtparish.ie and tell your FAMILY ABROAD!

This Week's Collections: Plate: €1,332. Envelopes: €4,979. Many thanks to all.

POINTS FOR THE PARISH



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Detach and deposit in the designated box in the church or in **Super Valu Kingscourt.**

Name: Address:
 Contact No.:

LITURGICAL NOTES

10th/11th December.

Vigil 6 p.m.: Stephen Malone, Drumgill.
Vigil Muff 7.30 p.m.: Jim Carroll, Carrickleck.
9 a.m. Corlea: Patrick & Mary Boylan, Taghart.
10.30: John & Catherine Finnegan.
12.00: Phil & Bridie Carolan, Kells Road.

17th/18th December.

Vigil 6 p.m.: James & Mary Ann Proudfoot, Mullaghboy.
Vigil Muff 7.30 p.m.: Kathleen Carolan, Laragh, & her son, Tom.
9 a.m. Corlea: Peter & Eileen Duffy, Tullybrick.
10.30: Kevin McArdle.
12.00: Eileen O'Connell. First Anniversary.

Tuesday 10: Rose, Andrew & Mary Clinch, Bracklin.
Wednesday 10: John & Brigid Monaghan.
Thursday 10: Patrick & Mary Ann Brady & their son, P.F.

Thursday 1 p.m.: Wedding Mass.
Friday 10: Eugene & Moira Melady & dec. family.
Saturday 1 p.m.: Wedding Mass.

A word of thanks to a parishioner who very kindly sponsored the restoration of the candle shrine in St. Joseph's Church, Corlea.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
David Fitzmaurice, Ballyhaunis, Kay Heary, Navan.

The **children's choir** will lead **carol singing in the town** on Friday next 4 p.m. at Clarke's Corner. Please support!

Next **Baptism preparation meeting** will take place in the **Parish Centre** on **Thurs., 5th Jan.,** at **8.00p.m.**

A Magical evening of Christmas Music starring Brioni Gallagher, Dr. Mary Louise Gargan, the Kingscourt Children's Choir, the award winning St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band with Santa Claus and friends will take place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kingscourt, on 18th Dec., at 7 p.m. Adm. €10 for adults with all proceeds for Church Restoration Fund. **ALL CHILDREN FREE!!** TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM PARISH OFFICE, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND LOCAL RETAIL OUTLETS.

One in the Sacrament of Marriage:
 We congratulate **Jamie Begley and Myra Kelly,** Enniskerry, on their recent marriage.

A word of **congratulations** to all involved in giving a great festive feel to our town. Well done!

Parish Finance Committee Meeting

The Parish Finance Committee held it's last meeting of the year on Dec. 3rd. Niall Smith of Niall Smith Architects, detailed the works that are nearing completion. Given the current seasonality, some of the external works will not be completed before Christmas and a part of the area around the Church will continue to be cordoned off until completion in the new year. Any inconvenience is regretted.

We welcome our award winning St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band to some of the Masses this weekend.

The committee is happy to welcome Bishop Michael Smith on Sunday, 5th Feb., at 3 p.m. to officially re-open and bless our unique and historic Church. All parishioners are cordially invited to attend. To date in addition to the weekly envelope collection the Finance Committee is delighted to announce that contributions totalling €84,000 have been received from parishioners, from once off donations, interest free loans and the Slate Sunday Collection and wish to express gratitude and appreciation for such great generosity in these challenging times. The Finance Committee looks forward to the continuing support of parishioners. They also thank all those who made fundraising suggestions and again appeal for any further ideas or suggestions that may assist with these endeavours.

LMFM will record Mass next weekend for broadcast at 9 a.m. on Sunday, 18th December

The Finance Committee thank the Community Centre Committee and staff for giving the parish the fine facilities of the Centre for Masses and at no charge to the parish throughout the time of the Church restoration project but at considerable inconvenience to the Centre, its staff and users.

Fr. Gerry continues visiting the homes of the Baileboro Road, these weeks.

The next fundraising event is our Magical Evening of Christmas Music on Sunday next, December 18th.

Meath Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Bishop Michael Smith, DCL, with Sr. Consilio Rock and Fr. Gerry MacCormack, Pilgrimage Directors. Monday, 15th—Wednesday, 24th October, 2012. Proposed accommodation—4 star—Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem (5 nights), Royal Plaza Hotel, Tiberias (4 nights). Cost €1,389 per person sharing, + extras incl. taxes and insurance. This price includes: Return flights Dublin—Tel Aviv via Frankfurt. 9 nights accommodation in 4 star hotel (twin sharing) (5 nights Jerusalem/4 nights Tiberias). Dinner, bed and breakfast throughout. Services of an English speaking guide throughout the tour. All entrance fees. Porterage at airport and hotels. For further details contact **Fr. Gerry, 042/9667314.**

Splendours of Venice & Northern Italy: The 2012 Parish Pilgrimage will take place from August 28th—September 4th, based at the comfortable 4 star Hotel Bristol in Chioggia, the old and picturesque port town on the Venetian Lagoon. The cost is €895 per person sharing on a half board basis with direct flights (early booking advisable as later bookings may incur a surcharge), with insurance and taxes as extra. Day trips included to Venice by boat, Padua and Ravenna with a full religious programme. Booking with Fr. Gerry including €250 deposit.

PARISH EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2012 PLANS
Tue. 17th Jan. IEC meeting at 9 p.m.
Fri. 10th Feb. Closing date for Art Competition—Theme—"Together we Grow in Love".
27th Feb. Display of all Art in Church.
Sun. 4th Mar. Launch of Prayer Book & judging of Art Competition. With Padraig McIntyre.
Sun. 12th Mar. Mass at 12 with Fr. Kevin Doran (Director IEC) & Presentation of IEC Pins and Certificates.

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

The wife and family of the late **Ben Parker** are extremely grateful for all the help and support they received during their sad bereavement. **Kingscourt Cancer Fund** Annual St. Stephen's Day 5km walk will be held on Mon., 26th Dec., at 11.30 a.m. Sponsorship cards are available in the charity shop for anyone wishing to take part. **St. Mary's Band** playing today in Murtagh's from 4—6p.m. in aid of 'Kingscourt Cancer Fund'. Admission is free. **St. Mary's Band** thank **Corlea, Carrickleck, Muff & Kingscourt Schools** for the wonderful art work provided by the school children for the '3 Little Pigs' novelty piece. **Thanks** to all for €1,010 raised at the recent collection for **Autism. Active Retirement Christmas Party** Fri., 16th Dec. in "The Wishing Well". Names please to Eilish 087/6668735. **Social Services Christmas Bingo** Matt Talbot Hall today at 3 p.m. **Christmas Whist** Tue., 13th Dec. at 8.30 p.m. Support appreciated. **Professional Counselling & Psychotherapy** available in the Kingscourt area. Call 086/2629261, 087/0514394. **Stars Lotto Result: 4, 6, 7, 18.** Next jackpot €11,000.