

# KINGSCOURT PARISH BULLETIN



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Office hours 10.30am to 12.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

A parish of the Kells Deanery, clustered with Drumconrath 041-6854146 & Nobber 046-9052197

12TH/13TH DECEMBER

Kingscourt  
Vigil 6p.m. Tom Leahy, 1st Ann & Michael Lyons  
M.M..  
Muff  
Vigil 7.30p.m. Thomas & Kathleen Carolan & sons  
Tom and Brendan Carolan  
Corlea  
9a.m. Bridie Kennedy  
Kingscourt  
10.30a.m. Ann Johnston, M.M.  
12noon Peadar Kieran, 1st Ann.

19TH/20TH DECEMBER

Kingscourt  
Vigil 6p.m. Jimmy McCabe 1st Ann.  
Muff  
Vigil 7.30p.m. Roisin O'Connell  
Corlea  
9a.m. Patrick, Mary & Robert Boylan  
Kingscourt  
10.30a.m. Liam Gaynor, M.M.  
12noon Paul Carroll & Glen Curtis

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Monday: 10a.m. Service  
Tuesday: 10a.m. Joseph Clarke Jr.  
Wednesday: 10a.m. Frances Hickey  
Thursday: 10a.m. Bridget & Thomas O'Reilly and daughter Noeleen  
Friday: 10a.m. Michael Tevlin

Confessions after Mass Friday 10am and Saturday 6pm

FEAST DAYS...

St. John of the Cross

St. Flannan

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: Plate: €1,335. With thanks. Development Target €2,000 Received €2,325.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday after Mass until 7pm in the Parish Centre. Please consider giving an hour for quiet prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament with special Diocesan intention to pray for Vocations.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM FR. GERRY

Dear Friends,

Just a wee note to wish you well and let you know that I am still alive! I have just completed the first part of the sabbatical study period here at Hawkstone with wonderful guest presenters including Fr. Ciaran O'Callaghan, CSsR who led our Parish Mission earlier in the year during Lent. He asked to be fondly remembered to one and all in Kingscourt. The course has been excellent, summed up by one of my colleagues on the course whose catch phrase was "Just when you thought it could not get any better, it does". My fellow participants are literally from the four corners of the globe, thus giving a rich and universal Church flavour to the course. Their ministry of service and generosity of talent is second to none. All of them have heard much about Kingscourt, both the place and its wonderful people and promise to visit next year! I begin part two of the sabbatical study at the Biblical Institute in Jerusalem in January. I trust you are taking good care of Fr. Mark as he "minds the shop" until my return in the summer. I take the opportunity to wish you and your families both at home and across the seas the every blessing this Christmas. I fondly remember all those families who have lost a loved one this year and pray the light of heaven on them. I wish one and all a very happy and healthy New Year. With heartfelt good wishes, **Gerry**.



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY:

This will be a year in which we *grow ever more convinced of God's mercy*. How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy. We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event God's judgement will always be in the light of his mercy. In passing through the Holy Door, then, may we feel that *we ourselves are part of this mystery of love, of tenderness*. Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not befit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience *the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things*. **Pope Francis, St. Peter's Square, Mass and Opening of the Holy Door, Feast of the Immaculate Conception 2015**

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.  
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!" You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.  
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen. *(Please cut out and pray each day)*

**PARISH RECONCILIATION CEREMONY FOR CHRISTMAS:** As we begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy come and experience the loving mercy of God by celebrating the grace of this Sacrament of Mercy. No other gift for Christmas is as precious! It costs nothing but the giving of some time for personal reflection and prayer before seeking the absolution of your sins. Visiting priests will come to assist with the celebration. Invite other family or friends to come and join us as we prepare for Christmas and the whole reason for Christ's birthday – **Being reconciled to God and to one another! Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kingscourt at 8pm Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.**

**BABY JESUS IN THE CRIB:** Special invitation to all the children to bring the figure of the Baby Jesus from their family crib for a blessing at Masses next week, the 4th Sunday of Advent.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL:** Thank you for your support of the National Collection for St Vincent de Paul this weekend. Special thanks to the children and their families for being so generous this Giving Sunday.

**PARISH REPOSITORY:** many lovely gifts to choose from available at the Repository in Kingscourt Church.

**CASTLETOWN ACCORDIAN BAND:** We welcome the band to our Masses this weekend.

**CARRICLECK NS:** The Readathon was a great success and raised €979.50 for M.S. Ireland. Thanks to all who supported this cause.

**Please join in singing the Advent Hymn**

O Come O Come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.