

# CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

## December 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

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### MASSES THIS WEEK

### ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEKEND

### ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEKEND

Vigil: 10.30pm:

Last weekend Collection: € 1290. *Thank you.*

### On Line contributions

IBAN: IE34 AIBK 9321 4026 9364 22 (BIC: AIBKIE2D)

*A number of people have inquired about contributing to the weekly envelope and the dues collections on line. To do so you need the above details. The Parish of Clonguish A/C is with the A I B bank, Longford.*

#### Next Weekend

Readers – Vigil:	10.30 am
E.Ms. - Vigil:	10.30 am

### Feast Days

**Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents (Martyrs)**

*The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the Holy Innocents make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light “He came to his own and his own received him not”*

**Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> St Thomas Becket (1118-1170)**

He was killed in Canterbury cathedral on this date.

**There will be no First Friday home visits in January**

**Happy New Year  
To all**

## Christmas Message 2020

During the course of 2020 we have missed what we value most- people. We miss being with and among people, all the ordinary and everyday encounters, free from restriction and anxiety. Christmas brings thoughts of people who are no longer with us, especially those who have died during the year. We miss those we cannot visit as freely as usual, especially our family and friends who are in hospital or in nursing homes.

We cannot gather to worship the Lord as we normally do; we long to be back. Priests and parishioners carry out Trojan work to keep our churches welcoming and safe and we are grateful to them for their work and care. Although we have experienced lockdown and restrictions the Lord is with us in so many ways.

At Christmas we celebrate the arrival of God’s son among us. The story of the first Christmas in Bethlehem was full of hope and joy. What was expected for so long had come to pass. **The Christmas story always refreshes our joy and our hope. The joy that each human life is of vital importance to God because of the baby in Bethlehem. The hope that this baby will change the way we see ourselves, one another and our destiny.**

We hope that life will become safer and less restricted because, decisions taken by individuals, will, collectively, reduce the threat to health lives, and livelihoods. There is a hope that vaccines will assist in our great efforts to be safe. During 2020 there were times of sacrifice, when some of our normal freedoms were curtailed for the common good. There are many examples of great care and generosity throughout our parishes. We are grateful to all in leadership, essential services and in our communities whose work and sacrifices contribute to our safety.

I wish you and your friends at home and abroad a happy Christmas.

**Francis Duffy**

**Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise.**

### Covid 19 Support Line

ALONE is the name of a support line for older people who have concerns relating to the virus Covid 19. Professional staff are available to answer queries, and give advice and reassurance when necessary. This service is open 7 days a week, 8.00am to 8.00pm. Phone 0818222024.