

PARISH OF AGHALURCHER

Sunday 24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Canon Jimmy McPhillips, P.P. 028 677 21342 – email: jimmymcp1@gmail.com

Parish Mass Times – Holy Cross: Monday 10am – Lay Led Liturgy
Tuesday 7pm

Wednesday & Thursday 10am
Sunday 11am

St. Mary's: Friday 5.30–6.55pm (Adoration) 7pm

Saturday 6pm

Livestreaming: www.churchservices.tv/lisnaskea
www.churchservices.tv/maguiresbridge

Parish Website: www.lisnaskeamaguiresbridgeparish.com

Parish Instagram Account: aghalurcher_parish

Parish Twitter: @Aghalurcher **Parish Facebook Page:** Parish of Aghalurcher

Parish Radio can now be accessed for Holy Cross at 90.1FM & St. Mary's on 90.6FM

Parish Office Tel. 028 677 21088 (Monday–Thursday: 2–6pm; Friday 10.30am–1pm)



– Lay Led Liturgy

Anniversary Mass Intentions

HOLY CROSS

Sunday 24th December

11.00am: • For the people of the parish

6.00pm: *Christmas Eve Vigil Mass*

Monday 25th December - The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

11.30am: *Christmas Day Mass*

Sunday 31st December

11.00am: • (First Anniversary): Margaret Smyth, Kilmore South

• Bridget & Benny Ingram, Sylvan Hill

• Michael & Margaret O'Brien and deceased family, Tullynevin Road; Vincent Smith, formerly Queen Street, Enniskillen.

ST. MARY'S

Saturday 23rd December

6.00pm: • (Month's Mind): Mary Thompson, Harryville

• Margaret & Patrick May

• Annie & Michael Montgomery and deceased family members

• Denis Maguire, Sacharory and deceased family members.

Monday 25th December - The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

9.30am: *Christmas Day Mass*

Saturday 30th December

6.00pm: • (Month's Mind): Paul McGeary, Doohorn, Lisnaskea

• Paddy & Angela Moane

• Agnes & James Carey and son John.

Please Note: there are no 10am weekday morning Masses, 7pm Mass on Tuesday or lay-led liturgies this week.

You are asked to pray for Paddy Higgins, Castle Lane and Philomena Baker, Newtownbutler, who died recently. **May Paddy and Philomena now rest in peace.**

Christmas Message from Canon Jimmy: It has been a difficult year for so many of you personally, and it has been a horrible year globally as our sitting rooms each evening were bombarded with so much hate and destruction of human life, but Christmas has arrived once again, and as in all previous years, we celebrate "Immanuel" (God with us). Without Christ's presence among us we would be lost. Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. I pray that your faith will enable you to feel all of this, have a fantastic Christmas.



Christmas Mass times:

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass: Holy Cross at 6pm.

Christmas morning: 9.30am in St. Mary's

11.30am in Holy Cross.

(Please Note change of Mass times)

Children's Santa toys will be blessed in St. Mary's on Christmas morning at 9.30am & in Holy Cross at 11.30am.

Parish Office reopens Tuesday, 2nd January at 2pm.

Congratulations and best wishes to Anne Curran and Ruairí Gribben, who were married last weekend in Holy Cross. **May they have many happy days together.**

PTAA: Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on Wednesday 27th December at 10am (Irish time) around the world via www.pioneerassociation.org to mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898.

Parish Contributions - 17th December
First Sunday: £312 Offertory: £1690.55 & €50
Many thanks for your continuous generosity.

JOINT CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2023 - Christmas Peace

A highlight for many people over the Christmas season is attending a Carol Service. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve is a favourite enjoyed by millions of television viewers. A favourite Christmas hymn often used at a Carol service is *'It came upon a midnight clear'*.

*'It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth good will to all
from heaven's all-gracious King!';
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing'.*

It is a poetic rendering of the message of the angels to the shepherds from St Luke's Gospel on that first Christmas. It is particularly moving when sung at night as it captures the awe of the heavenly host proclaiming the message of peace brought to world by the birth of Jesus.

It was written in 1849 by Edmund Sears, a pastor of the Unitarian Church in Massachusetts, USA. It seems it was composed during a period of personal sadness, and with news of revolution in Europe and the United States' war with Mexico in mind. Sears portrayed a world full of woes not paying attention to the message of the angels - *'and warring humankind hears not, the words of peace they bring'*. It is remarkable for its focus not just on Bethlehem, but on his own time, and on the contemporary issue of war.

The hymn has a timely message for our us amidst the conflicts in Israel and Gaza and in the Ukraine. Also at a time of climate emergency, the song of *'angels bending near the earth'* calls us to live more harmoniously with creation. It finishes with the prayerful plea, which we could echo this Christmas – *'O hush the noise of human strife and hear the angels sing'*.

As we move into an unknown, uncertain, and unpredictable New Year, peace is the gift that we most need. Jesus spoke of this to his disciples *'my peace I give unto you, not as the world gives give unto you'*. The divine gift is quite different from anything the world can offer. In a time of insecurity, having a still centre to our lives can help us cope with the stresses and strains that will surely face us in the coming year.

Despite what we see happening in the world – war in the land of the Holy One, suffering of the innocent, cruelty, and abuse of creation, we believe that God offers afresh his gift of peace. The miracle persists - placing our hope in the Word made flesh reveals his gifts of wholeness, reconciliation, and real change. God's peace brings the hope of a renewed relationship with him, restored relationships with others and a transformed relationship with the created world.

May we this Christmas as individuals and as communities of faith, in heart and mind *'hear the angels sing'* the message of Christ's peace and pray for peace in his world.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year,

Yours in Christ,

+ Ian Ellis

Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher

+ Larry Duffy

Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher

Maguiresbridge GAC: Like to thank all our players, committee members, volunteers, sponsors and supporters for all their efforts throughout 2023 as we continued to provide as many opportunities as possible for everyone to be involved in our club activities, both sporting and socially. So much work goes on behind the scenes and this is greatly appreciated. We wish all a Merry & Peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

Lisnaskea Emmetts GAC: Sincere thanks to all who collected and donated on behalf of Concern. happy 100th Birthday. Panto tickets are on sale now online at <https://member.clubspot.app/.../lisnaskea-emmetts-gaa/events> & in GMH Sports & McBrien's Newsagents, £10 - Friday 5th Jan. at 7.45pm & Sunday 7th Jan. at 3pm in Parish Hall. We would like to wish all our players, coaches, members & supporters a very happy Christmas & a happy new year.

This week's bulletin has been sponsored in memory of Kathleen Martin.