

Kincasslagh Parish Newsletter, 30th December 2018

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Schedule of Masses

St. Mary's Church, Kincasslagh

[Next Weekend](#)

Sunday @ 10.00 a.m.

[Next Week](#)

Tuesday @ 11.00 a.m. New Year's Day

Friday @ 7.00 p.m.

St. Columba's Church, Acres

[Next Weekend](#)

Saturday @ 6.30 p.m.

Sunday @ 11.30 a.m.

[Next Week](#)

Monday @ 1.00 p.m. Wedding

Tuesday @ 11.00 a.m. New Year's Day

Thursday @ 10.00 a.m.

Friday @ 10.00 a.m.

The Vigil Mass reverts to St. Columba's Church next weekend

Anniversaries and Masses

Seamus Doherty, Cruit, Sat 29th, StM

Maureen Sharkey, Belcruit, funeral Mass, Sun 30th, StM.

Nellie & Josie O'Donnell, Meenmore, Sun 30th, StC

Cathal & Agnes Murray, Acres, Tues, StC

John Annie Ann Boyle, Burtonport, Tues, StM

Fanny Forker & Annie Boyle, Thurs, StC

Joe O'Donnell and the Crew of the Evelyn

Marie, Friday, StC

Charlie Ward, the Glen, Friday, StM

Eugene Ward, Kerrytown, Sat 5th, StC

Noreen Crossan, Cruit, Sun 6th, StM

Mary Coyle, Meenmore, Sun 6th, StC

Recent Deaths

Lynne Ward, Spain

Anniversaries

Dominic Gallagher, Meendrain and Glasgow

Neil and Denis Ward, Keadue

James J. O'Donnell, Kincasslagh

Fundraising Events

Caislean Oir, Annagry Quiz on **Wednesday @ 10pm.** in aid of **Keith Shaw Ward**. €20, team of 4

St. Mary's Hall, Kincasslagh Bingo on **Friday night at 8.30 p.m.** in aid of **Keadue Rovers FC**.

Bishops Call

Bishop McGuckian has been having constructive talks with the priests of the Diocese since he took up office. He now wants to extend that conversation to include the laity from our parishes. To that end he wants two people from each Church area to take part in a listening meeting in January. The venue closest to us of the three planned diocesan meetings is at Ostan Loch Altan Gortahork on Tuesday 29th January. So I want people to consider who they would like to represent them at such a meeting and let me know as soon as possible after Christmas. Thank you.

A New Beginning for Women in Donegal!

WISE is a FREE programme open to women of all ages throughout Donegal, funded by the Department of Justice & Equality and the European Social Fund. If you have a dream career and need to upskill/uptrain, need a CV, cover letter or assistance to access employment / self-employment and/ or education in your area? We can help. Call Michelle today on 086-1452249 and let's move forward together.

Anam Cara Donegal, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Thursday 10th of January at 7:20pm in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. For more information see anamcara.ie or call our Information Line on 085 2888 888.

Knowing who Jesus really is flows through us

"Mum, look what Santa brought!" Christmas is a time of surprises, usually pleasant, and that's very fitting, because it's a feast that commemorates the greatest surprise in history,

although we often forget the great surprise amid all the little ones...

How often have you passed by cribs these last few weeks? Perhaps you've stopped to look at one, to admire the familiar scene. And perhaps the scene is too familiar. We see it without understanding it, we recognise it without appreciating it, we think it's cute but we're not surprised by it.

There's a beautiful modern Christmas song that touches on this. It's called 'Mary, Did you Know?', and the most popular version online is by the vocal group, Pentatonix.

Storm

The song addresses Mary, and references Jesus' birth: "Mary did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?/ Mary did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?/Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?/And when you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God."

We can leave aside the question of what exactly Our Lady knew of her son's nature and destiny, but what do we know about this child? If the readings we heard on Christmas morning is true, then we know that he is God, the Word through whom all things were created, the one who "sustains all things by his mighty word".

What an extraordinary claim this is! The child who rests in the manger, the child who sleeps in heavenly peace, is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the Creator and sustainer of

every star and planet, every mountain and tree and squirrel and fox and molecule and atom!

"Mary did you know that your baby boy is the Lord of all creation?/Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?/Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?/This sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM."

This knowledge changes everything, and makes the familiar story utterly surprising. What we see in the crib is a man and his wife and a child, a domestic scene. But we know that what is going on is not just domestic, but cosmic: the Creator of the entire universe is here in flesh and blood.

And this knowledge isn't just cosmic, it's also deeply personal: we see an event that took place long ago and far away, but we know that this event is for our salvation, we know that the child is born to us, we know the He is present to us today.

When we know the reality that is represented in the crib, we can't help being changed by the encounter, every time. The knowledge of who Jesus is, and who he is for us, is never just a set of cold facts that can stay stored away in our heads.

Far from it: it's a knowledge like wine that flows through our veins, warming our hearts and bringing us to our knees before this almighty, tiny child in sheer surprise and joy.

Fr. Conor McDonough, The Irish Catholic