



Dunhill & Fenor Parish Notes, 22nd December 2013

☒ Sunday, December 22nd <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	Mass in Fenor Church at 9.30 a.m. Mass in Dunhill Church at 11.00 a.m.
Monday, December 23rd – <i>St John of Kanty, Priest</i>	Mass in Dunhill Church at 10.00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 24th – <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Vigil Mass in Dunhill Church at 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 25th The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Dawn Mass in Fenor Church at 9.30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass in Dunhill Church at 11.00 a.m.
St Stephen's Day, Bank Holiday	Mass in Holy Cross Church, Tramore, at 10.00 a.m.
Friday, December 27th	Mass in Fenor Church at 10.00 a.m. (No formal adoration)
Saturday, December 28th	Mass in Fenor Church at 6.30 p.m.

- We extend a very special '**Céad Míle Fáilte**' to all visitors to our parish this weekend; especially those who have come home to be with family members and friends this Christmas. We pray that you will enjoy your stay among us and carry treasured memories with you when you leave.
- **Carols for our Times** will be sung at the Edmund Rice Chapel, Barrack Street, Waterford this (Sunday) evening, 22nd December, from 6.00 p.m. All are welcome.
- An evening of **Prayer & Reflection for Christmas** will also take place this (Sunday) evening, December 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. in St. John's Pastoral Centre, Waterford. Facilitated by Ann O'Farrell & Sr. Antoinette Dilworth it will be an opportunity to slow down our hurried pace of life to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of Emmanuel.
- By very ancient tradition, a priest may celebrate Mass three times on Christmas Day: the Midnight Mass or "Mass of the Angels"; the Dawn Mass or "Shepherd's Mass"; and the Day Mass or "Mass of the Divine Word". He may also celebrate the Vigil Mass of Christmas which is still an anticipation of the birth of the Lord. Each of these Masses has its own readings and prayers. The **Vigil Mass** prepares us for what is about to happen – 'the Virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son and they shall call him Emmanuel'. The **Midnight Mass** celebrates the actual birth – 'I bring you news of great joy. This night a child is born for us, a son is given to us'. At **Dawn Mass** we hear how – 'the shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the baby: and glorified God'. And at the **Mass during the Day** St John reminds us that – 'the Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory'. Each Mass has its own message and meaning so come and join us for the Vigil, Dawn or Day Mass this year.
- The **Annual Christmas Collection** for the support of the Bishop and the Priests will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Day. Please give as generously as you can. We offer our sincere thanks to the volunteers who prepare and distribute envelopes to all the homes in the parish. We deeply appreciate your commitment and service.
- **Trócaire** would like to thank parishioners for their support this year particularly during the recent emergency appeals for Syria and the Philippines. Trócaire hopes everyone has a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.
- **The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** has acknowledged all the donations made to their annual collection recently and thanks all who contributed. The demands on the Society are increasing and they depend on the support they get from parishioners to deal with the needs of families and individuals. "What is given locally, stays local", says the Society. Donations to its Annual Appeal are down on average between 20 and 25 per cent compared with last year and so the Society has made a renewed plea to the Irish public for support in the last week before Christmas. Donations to the SVP can be made locally or online at www.svp.ie.
- **Dunhill Hall Committee** would like to wish all the Friends of the Hall and everyone who has supported their activities over 2013 a happy and peaceful Christmas. Thanks to your kind generosity the Hall Renovation Fund now stands at €60,300. The Funding Barometer will be updated on Friday, 27th December, at 2.00 p.m. so please join us to celebrate this huge achievement.
- **Home Alone This Christmas?** Don't be home alone this Christmas if you would like some company. Senior Help Line is a national confidential telephone listening service for older people provided by trained older volunteers. They are open every day over Christmas from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. All calls are treated as strictly confidential. They are there to listen. Lo-Call 1850 440 444 for the price of a local call.
- It has long been a tradition to place a lighted **Candle in the Window** of Christian homes on Christmas Eve night. That light is a sign that your home is a place of welcome with open doors and open hearts, especially for Christ. Please be careful with candles. Follow the maker's instructions and never leave burning candles unattended.
- Last week's **Parish Collection**: Masses €429.84 & Envelopes €573.49. Thank you for your continued support.