



## NEWSLETTER FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

**DONORE PARISH** WITH DULEEK PARISH

PARISHES OF THE DULEEK DEANERY

Fr. Mark English Adm.

Fr. Declan Kelly C.C.

Fr. Francis Musoke A.P.

Parochial House

Duleek

Co. Meath



SCAN ME

Email: [duleekparish@gmail.com](mailto:duleekparish@gmail.com) [www.donorerossnareeparish.com](http://www.donorerossnareeparish.com)

24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

Caroline Doyle  
The Parish Office  
C/o Parochial House  
Duleek

Tel: 041-9823205

Tuesday – Thursday 10am-5pm



HAPPY Christmas!! Gathering to celebrate Our Saviour's Birthday let us give thanks to God and count our blessings!



Christmas - a time of faith, hope and love! For most of us it is a happy time but in prayer we support those who have to cope with illness or other tough concerns. Know that God is with you - Emmanuel; Christ the Lord. A sincere word of thanks to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society and to all volunteers who so generously contribute to making Christmas a little less stressed and a lot happier for those most in need in our community. We also want to thank the many parishioners who assist with the pastoral, spiritual and financial needs of our parish, especially with looking after the churches, helping at the Masses, sharing in the work at the parish office, the parish grounds, the cemeteries and in the parish schools throughout the year. Special greetings to those home for Christmas and to new parishioners spending their first Christmas with us in Duleek & Bellewstown; Donore & Rossnaree. It has been so terribly sad to witness on the news the awful violence and destruction in the Holy Land and the horrid loss of life. It is utterly unimaginable the plight of the children caught up in it all. So as we gaze into the crib, pray for the children and their families. Pray too for our own families and thank God for the blessings, love and peace we share with our children. Let us experience the true gift of Christmas and come to appreciate our identity with Jesus Our Saviour, born in the poverty of a stable and fleeing with Mary and Joseph as a refugees to Egypt before it was safe to return to Nazareth; this is how God gifted humanity and continues to be with us. On this Christmas Day may the Light of Christ light up our lives, illuminate the darkness which prevails in our world and shine the Light of Heaven brightly for all our dead, especially remembering those who have died since our last Christmas. Assuring you all of our prayers and wishing you and your families, peace and joy as you celebrate our Saviour's birthday. Fr. Mark, Fr. Declan & Fr Francis.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LADY, DONORE**

**Sunday 11am** Missa pro populo.

**Christmas Eve 8pm** Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)

**Christmas Day 11am** Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)

**St Stephen's Day** No Mass (10am in Duleek)

No Mass on Wednesday (10am Bellewstown)

**Thursday 10am** Patrick Lawlor.

No Mass on Friday (10am Duleek)

**Sunday 11am** Missa pro populo.

No Mass New Year's Day (10am Duleek)

**CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LADY, ROSSNAREE**

**Saturday 6:30pm** Margaret Holt; Joe & Agnes McWeeney; Joe Jnr, Bernard, Ann, Liam & Nancy McWeeney; Dec Murphy & Pentony families.

**Christmas Eve 6pm** Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)

**Saturday 6:30pm** Missa pro populo.

No Mass New Year's Day (10am Duleek)

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION (Basket Collection): € 475  
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND (Weekly Envelopes): € 472

**Donore Fund Account:**

**IBAN IE38 AIBK 9320 9446 7323 44**



If you have no cash you can just scan your phone over this QR code to contribute to the basket collection.

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Lotto: 5, 9, 14, 15** No Jackpot winner

Consolation prizes €20 Kirstie Coombes; Kate, Harry, Charlie Ryan; Pippa, Chloe, The Oldbridge 6 & Sean Loughran.

Next week's jackpot €3,740.

### SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

**Helpline 1800 677 777 or**

**Contact 087-0931068**

#### ACCORD

For Marriage Preparation Courses or for marriage and relationship counselling [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)

#### CHILD SAFEGUARDING

See the church notice boards and diocesan website

#### VOCATIONS

Ever think about becoming a priest for the Diocese of Meath? Contact Fr. Mark

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)**

**VESTMENTS FOR MASS** If anyone would like to make a donation for the purchase of new vestments, linen cloths, etc. it is always appreciated, as over time such items are purchased for the liturgical celebrations in our churches. Thanks to parishioners who assist our sacristans with the laundering and preparing things for our weekly liturgies.

### POPE FRANCIS SPEAKING TO PERFORMERS OF THE LIVE CRIB IN ST. MARY MAJOR'S ROME

The Basilica of Saint Mary Major preserves the relic of Jesus' crib, and therefore it has a very special connection to Bethlehem and the crib. In fact, it also houses the sculptural group by Arnolfo di Cambio, commissioned by Pope Nicholas IV, considered the first nativity scene in the history of art. That is why I want to share just two thoughts with you, to accompany you throughout the day. First of all, I think of Saint Francis. As we know, he invented the living Nativity, in Greccio, exactly eight hundred years ago. But it is important to remember *why* he invented it, to understand its meaning, so as not to reduce it to a mere folkloric fact. Francis wanted to represent *in life* the birth of Jesus to inspire, in friars and in the people, emotion and tenderness towards the mystery of God born of Mary in a stable and laid in a manger. He wanted to give substance to the representation: not a painting, not statues, but people in flesh and blood, in order to highlight the reality of the incarnation. So, the first thought I leave to you is this: the purpose of the living Nativity scene is to reawaken wonder in the heart, before the mystery of God who became a child. The second thought is for our brothers and sisters of Bethlehem, Bethlehem today. And naturally this extends to all the inhabitants of the land where Jesus was born, lived, died and rose again. We know the situation, caused by the war, the consequence of a conflict that has lasted for decades. So your performance must be lived in solidarity with these brothers and sisters who are suffering a great deal. For them, it promises to be a Christmas of suffering, of mourning, without pilgrims, without celebrations. We do not want to leave them alone. Let us be close to them with prayer, with concrete aid and also with your living Nativity, which reminds everyone of how the suffering of Bethlehem is an open wound for the Middle East and for the entire world. This Christmas let us think, let us think about the Holy Land. Dear brothers and sisters, I hope you will live this day with faith and joy; may it bear witness to the Gospel! I bless all of you and your loved ones from my heart. And do not forget to pray for me. Happy Christmas!

As a New Year resolution do consider committing an hour or even a half an hour to Adoration before Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament and praying for the needs of our local community and of the world at this time. *Adoration every Tuesday in Donore Church until 10am.*

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



If anyone has Christmas presents that they were given and have no great need for them and would like to give them to charity you may leave them at the crib in the churches. Can you mark the presents for men/women/children and age group.

